



An Adoption Story Double Trouble

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It's been very busy at Beginnings and so far, 2022 seems to ironically be the year of twos! Starting it right off with our Spring Newsletter which highlighted twins born through the Embryo Donor/Recipient Program, here we are a few months later having not

one... not two... but three more sets of twins born and placed in their adoptive homes! We are very excited and honoured to have each of our twin families share their unique stories of adopting through Beginnings and how their family has now "doubled".

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A Message *from the* Executive Director Amanda Baigent

As I sit at my desk amidst the mounds of paperwork and long list of to-dos, I take a deep breath in and re-read the beautiful acrostic poem Blessings which is posted outside my office door. It serves as an ever-present reminder of the importance of slowing down, giving thanks, and being aware of the gift of this day.

Our work in social services places us in a position of supporting individuals and families who need resources and who often face many socioeconomic and environmental conditions different than our own including poverty, unsafe living conditions, limited support systems, and so much more. It is important in our work at Beginnings to recognize our privilege, listen and learn from our clients, grow in our understanding, and support positive change.

By listening with open hearts and open minds, we hope to create a space for our clients to safely explore their past, present and future direction. For the counsellors and staff at Beginnings, this involves building real relationships. It involves being a good example, helping people, and acknowledging the good in each other.

Compassion, connection, and belonging are guiding pillars for Beginnings Family Services and these beliefs will continue to inform and inspire our work ~

- To offer compassionate care, encourage self-determination and support an open and honest dialogue.
- To provide exceptional service, above all, treating one another with dignity and respect.

I encourage all of us to reflect on the blessings we are called to honour and nurture each day; within ourselves and with one another.

Amanda Baigent
Executive Director



Welcome Simona

Starting in August, Simona joined the Beginnings Team to cover for the Office Administrator position while Madeline is on maternity leave. Simona is a graduate from Mohawk College with a Diploma in Business Administration, and she has several years of experience in office administration, marketing, and event planning. Simona is excited to take on this new role, because of her personal connection to the adoption process. She looks forward to working with everyone and adapting to a new career challenge!

Be present.
Let the day flow with grace.
Expect joy.
Serve with compassion.
Speak only kindness.
Impart only love.
Never forget you're not alone.
Give thanks for everything.
See goodness in others.



(cont'd)... Double Trouble

Diego & Carlos



Yes, there are 2! Yes, they are twins! No, they are not identical! Yes, we have our hands full! We have always known that adoption was the primary way we wanted to grow our family. Initially, we focused on adopting through Family and Children's Services, but quickly found some challenges for us in that

kinship was their primary focus. Our local F&CS referred us to complete our home study privately in the event a private adoption opportunity might arise. After completing the home study and working with our private adoption practitioner, we quickly realized that private adoption was more in line with how we wanted to proceed in our journey. We started working with Beginnings in 2020 (right before COVID) and found the team to be an amazing support. The team provided clear resources about adoption, ensured our paperwork was up to date, and were knowledgeable in all the questions we had. We loved the idea of getting to know the birth family through an open adoption and knowing that Beginnings counsellors would support

the birth mom in her decision making. Diego always said that we would have twins, and wouldn't you know it he was right! The boys are an incredible blessing everyday, and we feel a sense of community from all the people we have come across through the process. We had the opportunity to meet with their birth mom and we hope that she will continue to be a part of the kids' lives. It is clear to us that she loves the boys, and it is because of this love that she decided to create an adoption plan for them. The process may seem long, and it can be difficult emotionally, but remember that you are not looking for a child, you are waiting for your child! And in our case, we were waiting for our children.

Stacy & Giorgio

Eleven years ago, Giorgio and I began our journey to start a family. After a long path of infertility, we decided that private adoption was the best way to grow our family. We could have never imagined the amazing miracle that would be waiting for us! After three and a half years being active with Beginnings and having been presented for many potential opportunities that were not meant to be, Friday the 13th was our lucky day! We finally got the call saying we were matched. When we were notified 4 days later that birth

mom had given birth, we had another surprise we could have never prepared for. Amanda called and asked us if we were sitting down - it was twin girls! A huge surprise to everyone involved. We can hardly hold back tears of joy retelling our story to this day. We were thrilled to welcome our girls into our home and into our lives! The last two months have been more wonderful than we could have ever imagined, and we are forever grateful that our girls found us through adoption.



Brian & Michelle

It was exactly 109 days from the time that we considered "a situation" and were presented to the birth mother, to the day we were finally able to bring our babies home. Our journey was a bit of a roller coaster. After being presented we were initially matched, but before the formal adoption process began, we were told that the birth mother needed more time to consider the option of parenting. Although this was difficult for us, we were happy that she was in a good place. We tried to keep our spirits

up by remaining open to the possibility of another opportunity in the future. To our surprise, a few months later we were asked if we were still open to raising the twins and overwhelmed with joy, we happily accepted. We have quickly learned that twins have their own personalities and special language varying from nonverbal looks and glances to grunts. We cherish every smile, tear, and diaper change, and look forward to continuing our relationship with the birth mother and including her in our family.

Thank You for Your Support!

Donor Highlights



Allie

For the last couple of years, adoptive parent Sara has been donating a portion of her Mother's Day sales from her local business. 'Lady Sara's Bounty' is a meal delivery service focusing on local products, whole foods and sustainability run right out of Sara's backyard. Sara and her husband Nathan adopted their daughter Allie in 2020 and enjoy the freedom they have, to spend quality time with her, helping in the gardens and caring for their six quirky hens!



Hannah

Happy 11th Birthday to Hannah! To celebrate this milestone, her parents, Christie and Eric, created an online fundraiser through Canada Helps to provide a platform where friends and family could easily make birthday donations on behalf of Hannah. This is not the first time they have raised funds for Beginnings to mark a special occasion in Hannah's life, since joining their family through adoption in 2011, 11 years ago.

We are so grateful for Sara and Christie's meaningful and creative contributions to Beginnings Family Services and staying connected with us in this way. We hope their examples can inspire you to perhaps see new ways of honouring someone you love.

If you would like more information on how to donate to Beginnings, please feel free to contact the office by phone or email anytime!



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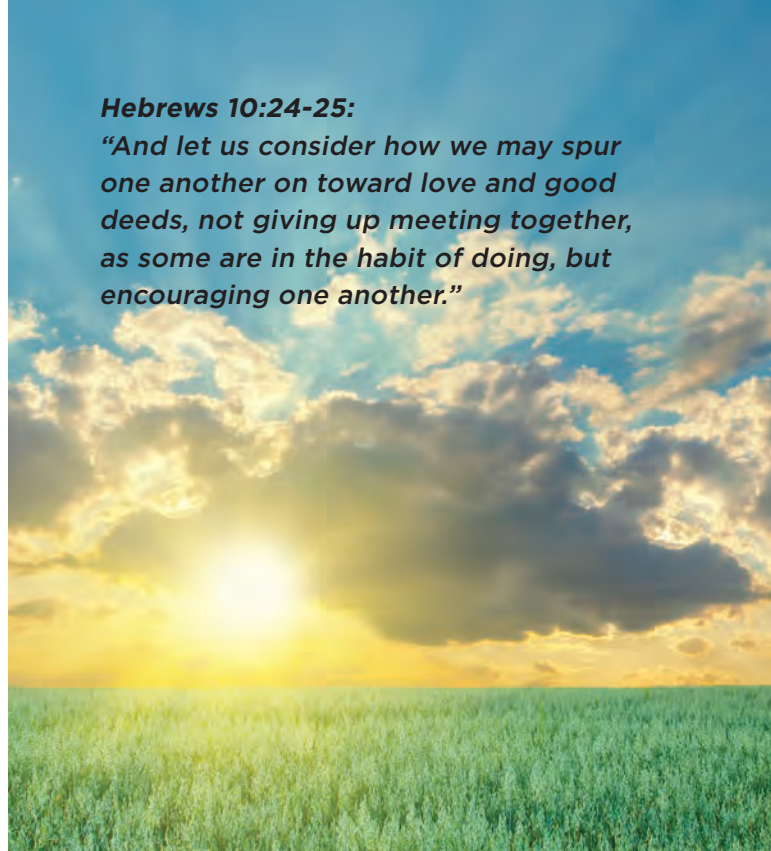
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Embracing Connections and Bringing Families Together

Hebrews 10:24-25:

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.”



Monthly Donor

Please consider becoming a monthly donor in providing pregnancy support and counselling for young moms via our website at www.beginnings.ca or by contacting us at **905-528-6665**.

Let's Keep in Touch!

Make sure to 'Like' **Beginnings Family Services** and **Beginnings Family Services Embryo Donation** on Facebook and to 'Follow' us on Twitter and Instagram!



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