



Accessible, Effective, Local Philanthropy

For Immediate Release

Oct. 12, 2009

Contact: *Paul David, Director of Communications*

Phone: (612) 518-9119

E-mail: pdavid@carvercountyfoundation.org

Web site: www.carvercountyfoundation.org

The Community Foundation for Carver County supports New Beginnings

When Paul and Sheila Steiner of Waconia developed The Steiner Fund for Single Mothers, they undoubtedly had in mind young women like Alyssa. She got pregnant at age 15 and, after giving birth to her child, she had a very difficult time trying to go back to her high school.

“I was so uncomfortable there, and, when I came here I felt so much more comfortable with myself because I’m not being judged by my story about how I got pregnant. This just gives me so much more confidence and I feel so much better about myself,” Alyssa said with a sense of pride and accomplishment in her voice.

Each year, pregnant and parenting teens like Alyssa turn to New Beginnings in Chaska. It’s a program designed to help pregnant and parenting teens be successful who are at risk of academic failure and economic dependency. Many of them are also dealing with additional psychological, medical and social challenges. New Beginnings helps these vulnerable teens receive a high school diploma and the necessary life skills to prepare them for continuing their education, finding good jobs and, ultimately, becoming responsible citizens.

“I feel for these young girls starting out. They’re too young to start life like that,” stated Sheila Steiner.

“There are all sorts of needs and young people who do need some help. Through the Community Foundation for Carver County, this is a way of stepping up and letting people know that somebody else cares about them,” added Paul Steiner.

Through their fund at The Community Foundation for Carver County, the Steiner’s were able to support the life-changing work being done at New Beginnings. They recently made a \$1,000.00 grant towards the summer program at New Beginnings. The funds were used to help the girls by: teaching them about conflict resolution; taking them on field trips; teaching them about healthy social development in a chemical free setting.

“We really focus on and give the girls that hope and dream that this is a small detour. You can get through this journey and continue to flourish and be successful. And that’s what New Beginnings is about. It’s just a new start. The support from the Community Foundation is critical for us to be able to continue helping these wonderful girls

throughout the summer months,” said Sue Schmidt who is the Lead Teacher at New Beginnings.

The Community Foundation is designed to empower individuals, families and businesses by providing them with the platform to have a direct and lasting impact on Carver County – focusing on connecting donors such as Paul and Shelia Steiner with their passion, which, in this case, is supporting young mothers.

To learn more about The Community Foundation for Carver County, please check out their website at www.carvercountyfoundation.org or contact Paul David (612) 518-9119 or pdavid@carvercountyfoundation.org.