



FAMILY TIMES

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August 2012

*Christian
Family
Services*

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Labor Day

Interesting idea. Labor Day was originally established to celebrate the economic and social contribution of workers. It has come to symbolize the *end* of summer for many and the *beginning* of school and football season or other sporting events. It is often celebrated with parties, parades & athletic events.

For those fortunate enough to have a job in today's economy, "Labor Day" is often looked forward to as a reward for all of their hard "labor" (contributing to the good of others) day in and day out.

For a woman who finds herself in the pains of "child birth", it takes on a whole new meaning. After nine months of pregnancy, she looks forward, not to "labor day" as much as the joy that comes the day *after*. It too is a time of celebration, honor, parties and best wishes. But that is not true for all who are pregnant.

Most of our moms "labor" and struggle with the choice as to what is best for their

baby. They "labor" looking over profiles of potential adoptive families, trying to pick the right one. They "labor" during the actual childbirth process. They "labor" over the nagging fear that the adoptive family won't stay in contact and she will not be able to know how her child is growing and developing. And she "labors" with the ever present fear that the child will grow up not understanding her choice to place him/her for adoption, and maybe even hating her for it.

Your prayers and assistance in ministering God's comfort to these moms (& dads) is invaluable. We at CFS could not be a blessing to these birth parents, babies and adoptive families without YOUR "labor" of love alongside us.

"Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (I Cor. 15:58).

-Jerry

Bitter Sweet Blessings

For over three years, Christian Family Services has been blessed to have Monique Lord serve as the office manager. The traditional role of the office manager, working closely with the executive director, is to keep CFS functioning effectively.

Monique never settled for merely functioning as the office manager, but also worked to invest the future of CFS. Though limited, she made the



most of her opportunities to interact with birth moms, adoptive families, donors, volunteers, and staff. She had a distinct way of making each individual feel deeply cared for. It was her detailed nature and passion for the mission of CFS that set the tone for these interactions. Monique acted out the mission of **Giving Hope, Empowering Women, Restoring Lives**. Whether talking on the

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Recent Placements



April 21st, 2012

Steve & Jenny bring home little **Madison** with joy.



May 25th, 2012

Mike & Marilie were overwhelmed with joy receiving twins **Carys & Lanay**.



PJ & Meredith are excited to bring little **Leon** home to their growing family.



June 25th, 2012

Ways to Sow

Matching Gifts –

Double Your Donation to Christian Family Services!

Many of you work for (or have retired from) companies that have matching gift programs and may not even be aware of it!

Companies like Bank of America, Florida Power & Light, Geico, UPS, Verizon and thousands of other companies have a matching gift program. These companies understand the value of non-profit service agencies like CFS and they encourage their employees to donate to worthy causes through a matching gift program.

What is a matching gift program? Companies will match your monetary gift dollar for dollar, or in some cases they may even double or triple match your gift!



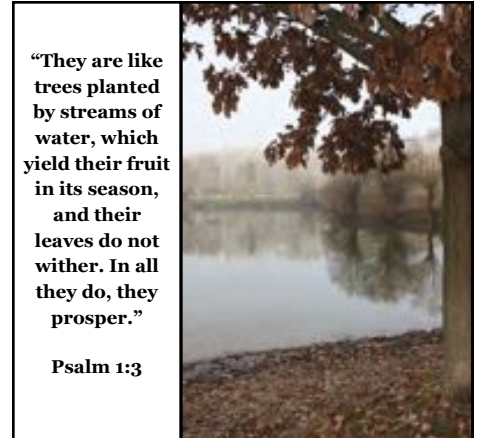
spouse or a retiree) if they sponsor a non-profit 501 (c)(3) matching gift program. If your gift is eligible, fill out the company form (usually offered through your HR department), follow the directions and send it to us with your gift. We will do the rest and let you know when they match it.

Whether you give to CFS on a monthly, yearly, or a one time basis, this is a great way to maximize your charitable dollar. You can double your giving with just a little extra effort. It really is easy and a great stewardship of your resources.

Will you help Christian Family Services in this mission?

Ask if your company has a matching gifts program today!

Ask your company (some companies even let you donate and receive matching funds as an employee's



Remember CFS in the United Way Campaign!



Many companies participate in workplace giving through United Way campaigns. These giving campaigns enable their employees to make a difference in local and national charities. Some of you may not know that Christian Family Services is one of the non-profit organizations participating in this campaign through the United Way of North Central Florida. Please be sure to use our number (94649) in order to designate your donation to CFS.

Also, tell your friends and associates about CFS and how we use their donations to help make a difference in women's lives by providing them with support and most importantly God's love!

Hello Julie

Those calling the office will be greeted by a new cheery voice. **Julie Dillon** has joined the staff at CFS this summer. She resides in Gainesville with her husband, Donny, who is the College Minister at University City Church of Christ.

After an exciting summer of traveling abroad on missions trips to Honduras and Costa Rica, she is excited to settle in with CFS as the new office manager.

Here is Julie along with Debbie accepting a gift of support from Patresse representing the Women's Ministry at the Englewood Christian Church in Jacksonville. These bags are filled with personal toiletry items and small gifts for the moms we work with.



Look for an article in our next newsletter about their ministry!

Recent Finalizations



February 20th, 2012

Terry & Ginger couldn't be happier to make **Aubrey** a permanent part of their family.



April 26th, 2012

Jason, Andrea and two very excited big brothers are thrilled to finalize **Gabrielle's** adoption.



May 10th, 2012

Rob, Robyn and the rest of their family are overjoyed to officially make **Joshua** the newest member.



May 10th, 2012

Steve, Erin & Lucy are elated to make little **Sadie** a part of their forever family.

Prayer Corner

Please join us in praying for the following:

Our birth moms and the recent trend of homelessness among pregnant mothers

Support Groups for birth moms- Pray that God would pave the way for CFS to start a local birth mom support group.

Our adoptive families as they begin a new school year

Our donors

Our board

Our website, after changing web designers several times we are still working to get it launched

Gator Game Parking, our biggest fundraiser of the year. Pray for our volunteers and those who donate. Pray that the stories we share with those who park will have an impact.

From the President of the Board:

I hope this Newsletter finds each of you doing well.

Summer is over and I hope that each of you were able to take time off to spend with your families. Thank you to all the families that attended Spiritual Growth Workshop in Orlando, Florida and stopped by our booth. We love getting to visit with you in person and are always excited to hear what is going on in your lives!

Just recently CFS placed a "safe-haven" baby (in some states the safe-haven laws are also known as "Baby Moses" laws). We know the story about why Moses was placed in a basket. However, we do not know the reasons why the birth mom

decided to leave her baby in a safe-haven location. When Jerry sent me an email about the safe-haven baby being placed, I was immediately thankful the baby was safe and healthy and that CFS was there to place the baby in a Christian home. Your support helps make this possible!

Please pray that CFS can continue to provide spiritual guidance to those in need in a way that they can accept God's love and grace.

As always we appreciate your continued support.

May God bless you.

Jesse T. Wilson

USC Intern

This summer and fall CFS is growing! Sara Paradis, a student pursuing her Master's in Social Work from the University of Southern California, is interning part-time with CFS.

For Sara, this is an opportunity for her to experience a different type of Social Work. Throughout the summer she has participated and been able to observe almost every aspect of the adoptive process: from meeting and working with new birth moms to observing homestudies being conducted with prospective adoptive families. She

has also been involved with various administrative projects. For the staff, it has been a refreshing opportunity to share the true stories of our birth moms and adoptive families.



Upon graduation from USC with her MSW, Sara plans to work at the macro level in community organization. Through planning and administration functions she hopes to make a difference by further developing public policy and grant writing.

Sara has been a delight to have on board!



SPIRITUAL GROWTH WORKSHOP

Thank you to everyone who stopped by the Christian Family Services booth at Spiritual Growth Workshop 2012 in Orlando, Florida! We always love the opportunity to meet new faces as well as see those who are already a part of the CFS family.

This year we focused on educating about the reasons why women choose abortion. It is important to know the facts and not the myths that many have heard. This year was a great success!

**A choice made in the dark...
is no choice at all.**

- 84% of abortions not adequately informed
- 64% of women felt pressured
- 52% felt rushed, 54% unsure, yet ...
- 67% not counseled, 79% not told of options.

Shed light on the injustice. Share new facts and hope.
TheUnChoice.com

MEMORIAL OR HONOR GIFT

The enclosed gift of \$_____ is given in Memorial Honor
Of _____

PLEASE NOTIFY:

Name: _____

Address: _____

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For Memorials — Relationship to Deceased: _____

For Honor Gifts — Occasion: _____

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Sharing Hope ♥ Empowering Women ♥ Restoring Lives

**You can now make
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[ChristianFamilyServices.com/
donation.htm](http://ChristianFamilyServices.com/donation.htm)



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Baby Bottle Boomerang

This is a unique opportunity for your congregation to share in the unique services CFS provides. You can do it any time of the year. Some churches participate from “Mother’s Day” to “Father’s Day.” Some use the months of November (“National Adoption” month) or January (National “Right to Life” month). Others simply find a month that best fits their church calendar.

Some of the churches that have already participated this year:

Campus Church of Christ (Gainesville, FL)	\$6,387.43
Central & Greenville Churches of Christ (Monticello, FL & Greenville, FL)	\$125.00
Gateway Church of Christ (Homestead, FL)	\$ 417.00
Springhill Church of Christ (Tallahassee, FL)	\$ 412.90
Timberlane Church of Christ (Tallahassee, FL)	\$1,348.11
University City Church of Christ (Gainesville, FL)	\$2,237.47
West President Church of Christ (Greenwood, MS)	\$ 869.75

Northside Church of Christ in St. Petersburg and Gainesville Christian Church will be conducting their campaigns later this year.

We express our heartfelt thanks to these churches who participated this year and those who are continuing to give. This year we are still attempting to raise funds to hire an additional full-time caseworker. This will allow CFS to reach more women in need; to come alongside them and help them through one of the hardest decision of their lives.

Will you consider hosting a BBB Fundraiser at your church?



Bitter Sweet Blessings continued

(Continued from page 1)

phone with birth moms or adoptive families, Monique expressed empathy and compassion. She was always available and responded with grace. With adoptive families, she shared in their impatience and expectancy as they journeyed through the adoption process. She often shared insights and ideas on how families could fund their adoption and creative ways they could pass the time while waiting for placement.

Monique challenged CFS to do more. She was always looking for new ways to be even more effective in reaching moms with unplanned pregnancies and ministering to them. Limited by ever present office functions, many of

the dreams that Monique had for what this ministry could do for birth moms, such as fully utilizing social media, are still under consideration & implementation. Her vision and encouragement will not be forgotten.

Monique’s husband, Beau, graduated from the University of Florida this past May with his Bachelor’s and was blessed with a job in Texas. After over a month alone, she and the kids joined him in July. She will forever be a treasured part of Christian Family Services. Please pray for Monique and her family as they settle in Texas.

Monique will continue to be involved with CFS and for the foreseeable future function as our Media Outreach Specialist.