



FAMILY TIMES

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*Christian
Family
Services*

“JOY” TO THE WORLD:

It’s the time of year when we find ourselves looking back and reflecting on the last 12 months. What did we accomplish? Did we really “make a difference”? Sometimes we all need to be reminded that the “little things” that we do on a daily basis can have a tremendous impact on others’ lives and even the world. Remember how God used a lowly innkeeper’s generosity to change the future for mankind? Here are just a few of the reminders that we have received this year ...

Inside this issue:

JOY to the World	1
Campus’ Children’s Class	1
Placements	2
Pure Religion	3
Finalizations	4
Prayer Corner	5
Have Food Will Travel	5
From the President	5
Baby Bottle Boomerang	5
Our Needs	6

“It was this day last year that I got my wonderful phone call telling me that I had a precious ... baby. Looking back at that day and days leading up to it, it amazes me how God was in control of the entire situation. I am so thankful that we were led to adoption, and not only to adoption itself, but to adoption through your agency. You guys are great and we are so thankful for all of you. You give hope, happiness, love, and FAITH to couples who are struggling. We are all so grateful for what you all do. I pray for ya’ll every single day, but I’m saying an extra prayer for ya’ll today. Words can never express how thankful we are!” (adoptive family)

“Last week I was able to be a part of seeing our first foster-baby (now 18 years old) touring Florida College [a Christian school] with his mom. He graduates in May and is such a great young man. CFS is such a needed work!! What might have happened to XXXXXX if CFS wasn’t around? (foster mom)

“For every adoption, there is a story behind it. There are the big media stories that everyone talks about, then there are the little stories that very few people know about. You don’t know me, or my life story, or what happened to me that I found myself pregnant. I prayed to God to help me, to tell me what to do, the answer came to me in a commercial, Adoption not Abortion. Christian Family Services came into my life with one phone call. And one phone call can change your life. I’m a woman who gave her

(Continued on page 6)

The Bible tells us in Psalm 127:3 that children are a gift from God. That is certainly the case! From the children we are blessed to place in loving, Christian homes to the children that love them! Look at the letter we received from s children in the K-4th Grade class at Campus church of Christ in Gainesville, FL !

Our memory verse for the month of October was I Timothy 4:12a “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young. Set an example for the believers in what you say and in what you do.” Our Life Application for the month was INDIVIDUALITY– discovering who you are meant to be so that you can make a difference. After much class discussion, we explored that even though they are young they could still make a difference in our church as taught in our scripture for the month. The one constant that the children could conceivably understand was they themselves were children, so helping other children was a unanimous decision. I shared with them Christian Family Services’ purpose because that is their primary mission. Each child agreed to bring in \$1.00 to be collected and given to CFS in front of the congregation on Sunday. By November 11th we collected a total of \$25.00! I would like to thank the Church and parents for allowing their children to participate in living out a spiritual principle.

Thank you,
Lauren S and Jackie C



Recent Placements



Nikki & Jeremy are thrilled to take little gator "Ryland Cypress" home to Alabama!



A dream come true when "Lydia Joy" went home to Virginia with proud new parents Justin and Kim.



Matt & Hillery can't wait for Matthew Alex, "Max," to meet his 3 excited big sisters!



Baby "Chase" can hardly believe that he is getting to leave the NICU to go home to be a member of Barbara and big brother Cameron's family!

Pure Religion

Christian Family Services is blessed to have many individuals and churches who support and stand behind the mission of James 1:27 "**Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.**"

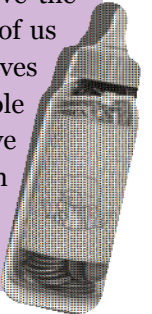
Englewood Women

The Christian Women's Fellowship at the Englewood Christian Church in Jacksonville makes it possible for Christian Family Services to share part of God's love by putting together gift bags for the women who are served through CFS. They make bags both for the women who have chosen to place their child for adoption as well as the women who decide to parent. Many of us take for granted the ability and resources to run to the store and buy deodorant, soap, toothpaste, etc. Many of the women we serve are lacking the very basic needs of life. Not only are these practical gifts, but it also lets them know that someone cares about them in a time of



crisis. They also include Bibles and something special like perfume, nail polish or candy to let them know they are loved. Because of the Englewood Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF), one woman who we just started counseling with was able to receive one of these bags. It included toiletries that she greatly needed as she is currently living in a homeless shelter with her child. CWF also continually prays for the work of CFS, for the specific women who are reached as well as God's guidance for the case workers and the rest of the staff. They have such a servant's heart and an earnest desire to serve both the church and the community. We thank God for their partnership with CFS and for the work that God does both through them and as a result of their constant prayer!

Thank you to the **Northside church of Christ** in St. Petersburg, Florida for holding their first Baby Bottle Boomerang Campaign! They raised **\$392.42!** This brings the total amount raised in 2012 to \$12,406.05! We are so thankful to Northside and every other church that participated this year. It is **because of you** that our doors stay open and **women are able to find help** when they find themselves with an unexpected pregnancy. Many of these women do not have the support systems that most of us have. They find themselves looking for help and are able to find the comfort and love of Christ shown through Christian Family Services.



Parking Volunteers



up at the church for every home University of Florida football game 3-4 hours prior to kick-off. Their willing hearts, along with the Gator fans and their opponents who choose to park in their lot, help to ensure that the work of Christian Family Services continues. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered, parked, or prayed for this work! This year they were able to raise \$34,131.00! **Thanks be to God!**

"D-O-W-N...SET...HUT, HUT!"

Many people love this time of year. Fall season brings a break from Florida's intense summer heat and an abundance of football. For several members at Campus Church of Christ in Gainesville, it means the chance to have fun and raise money for Christian Family Services. Every year, a group gets together to put on what has become CFS's biggest fundraiser of the year, "Gator Game Parking." Committed volunteers show



Recent Finalizations



Heather & Jason, Faith & the boys are delighted that **Lydia** is now a permanent part of their family.



Jenny, Steven & Wyatt are overjoyed that **Madison's** adoption is final!



Mike & Marlie couldn't be happier to double their family and make twins **Carys & Lanay** forever theirs!



PJ & Meredith are ecstatic about **Leon** officially joining his 3 big sisters.

Prayer Corner

Please join us in praying for the following:

For our *birth moms* we are working with or who we have worked with in the past

For those out there who are *facing an unplanned pregnancy*- that they might find us or someone else who is able to help them

For God's guidance for our *board members* as they prepare for the beginning of another year

For *God's wisdom and guidance* for our case workers as they work with our birthmoms and with our adoptive families

Our donors who make things possible

Praise for answered prayers for *Gator Game Parking* and for the stories that were shared!

For God's continual blessings and guidance

From the President of the Board:

I hope this Newsletter finds each of you doing well.

It has been about a month since the elections— from local political offices to the highest office in the land. There were a lot of advertisements in the mail (some every-day), a lot of slogans, a lot of negative TV campaign commercials, etc. It seemed at times that what some candidates said to one group changed when they spoke to another group thus making it hard to know what the candidates really stood for and what they would actually do if elected. Listening to the campaigning was getting boring and old and I'm glad that it's over and behind us (at least for a little while).

It's never boring or old to hear about a birth mom receiving needed counseling in order to get her life back together or about a child being placed in a forever home. CFS' mission is as clear today as it was when the ministry started thirty-four years ago:

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world" (James 1:27, NIV).

As you can read from Jerry's report, CFS was able to reach out to many people in 2012. What a joy to have placed 11 children in forever homes! The ability for CFS to continue meeting the many needs of people is through the grace of God and God's generous people.

Please pray that in 2013 CFS will be able to continue to reach out and provide, where needed, the physical necessities for those in need and to provide them with spiritual guidance.

For the CFS Board, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and as always we appreciate your continued support.

May God bless you,
Jesse T. Wilson

Did you know that 3 out of 5 people in the U.S. have been touched by adoption?

MEMORIAL OR HONOR GIFT

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

PLEASE NOTIFY:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

For Memorials — Relationship to Deceased: _____

For Honor Gifts — Occasion: _____



Have Food Will Travel!

Jerry was invited by David and Dana Carozza to attend the Florida College Leadership Dinner in Tampa Florida recently. The Carozzas are founders and members of the Board of Directors for SACRED SELECTIONS: a 501(c)3 foundation whose mission is to provide the financial means for Christian couples

who are members of a conservative, noninstitutional, noninstrumental, church of Christ and who need financial assistance with the cost of the adoption process. Dana (pictured with Jerry) has helped CFS with prospective families who are open to more difficult to place babies.

If you think you might qualify, check them out at: www.sacredselections.org.

Check out our new website!

It is still a work in process, but we are excited to share it with you and get your feedback!

www.ChristianFamilyServices.com



*"As we celebrate God's Gift to the world
this Christmas season, we also
celebrate the Gift of Life that you
pour out on the unborn.*



*From the staff of CFS,
thank you for your commitment to life and
the love of Christ you show to the
numerous families we serve."*

*Jerry Julie Debbie
Marilou*

Our Needs

Our 512 MB of RAM is running short! Our office is in great need of a gently used PC computer. Please think of us as you or your loved ones upgrade this holiday season!

We need individuals who have project or fundraising ideas for events!

Call us at (352)378-6202 or email us at info@cfsfl.org.



Contact us for more information on how YOU and/or your church can partner with CFS!

(Continued from page 1)

child up for adoption (21 years ago) and I've never regretted that decision. I disagreed with my own family members, and suffered a lot of heartache in hurting their feelings, but I did what was best for my child." (birth mom)

Over 100 women struggling with an unplanned pregnancy were touched, served, and loved on in 2012. Close to 200 families were further educated on adoption. Eleven babies were placed in their new, forever Christian homes. There were many more moms but we did not have the **resources** to work with them. Like many, CFS had a marked decrease in donations this year and if that doesn't change we will not be able to continue providing services even at the same level. And yet ... I am still optimistic that God has something awesome in store for this ministry. With your prayers, support, and willingness to tell and recruit others to partner with CFS, we will be available for Him to accomplish His will.

YOUR love, compassion, prayers, and financial support are "making a difference" in the lives of young women (& men), babies, families and ultimately our world for God, one life at a time. *May He bless you and your family as you continue to be a blessing to others!*

PLEASE REMEMBER CFS in 2013!

-Jerry

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Sharing Hope ♥ Empowering Women ♥ Restoring Lives

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