



FAMILY TIMES

Volume XXXIV Issue 1

February 2012

Christian Family Services

Inside this issue:

Jerry's Article	1
The End of an Era	1
Placements	2
Finalizations	2
Memorial to Jenny	3
Walk for Life	3
2011 Year in Review	4
Ministry Mindfulness	5
From the President of the Board	5
A Gift for Anyone	6

A New Year

WOW! God has seen us through another year. Were you caught off-guard by all the unexpected events of 2011 (globally, nationally, in ministry, or personally)? Here at CFS it was unlike any year that anyone can remember.

We had: an unexplained decrease in calls from birth moms; more of our moms (rightly) chose to parent; more ultimately chose to work with a different agency so they could get more financial assistance; an unexpected loss in support from a major contributor; a marked decrease from our major Fundraiser – “Gator Game Parking” (UF didn’t have a good year); and members of our staff who faced serious trials.

The beauty is that **God has been right here all the time!** He simply wanted us to *look* to Him, to *trust* Him, and to *lean* on Him.

On the positive side we started off the year with a Safe Haven baby and then followed that up with the placement of a precious 11-month old little boy. Then we had three babies in 23 days all in Tallahassee. Later we had a third year college

student conceal her pregnancy, delivered the baby by herself in the bathroom with the help of Google, and then drove the baby & herself to the hospital for ultimate placement. We closed out the year by sending a beautiful baby girl home from the hospital with her forever family on Christmas Eve.

Because of the fervent prayers of so many of you, CFS was able to continue reaching out to young women in a time of great need. Seemingly more than before, we were able to work with not just single women, but “couples” and help them to find peace in the trials that they faced regarding an unplanned pregnancy. Many already had other children.

What does God have in store for 2012? I don’t have the answer, but I know in Whose hands this ministry lies and relies. Until our culture changes and we stop having unplanned pregnancies/babies, **your** continued prayers and involvement with CFS are coveted and greatly appreciated. Let’s all do our part and then *watch and see* what God chooses to do through our efforts.

- Jerry

The End of an Era

We are so thankful for our foster families! Graciously, Jimmie and Barbara Brunson have served CFS for 32 of the 33 years of our existence. Throughout their service they not only gave refuge to children awaiting their forever homes, but also to expectant mothers and adoptive families waiting to be united with their precious babies.

The children they cared for became, among other things, bankers, fishermen, scholars, graduates, teachers, and disciples of Christ. The Brunson family prayed continuously over the children as they cared for their physical needs. Their daughter, Becky, says,



“They made it all seem so easy and effortless.” There is no doubt they sacrificed by caring for newborns. Sleepless nights, diaper changes, and bottles gave way to finally letting go and presenting these precious gifts to their forever families.

Jimmie and Barbara graciously opened their home to parents, sometimes teaching new parents to care for these precious gifts. They helped parents feel welcomed during their transition. The Brunsons filled in awaiting parents

(Continued on page 6)

Recent Placements



November 10th, 2011

Terry & Ginger are delighted to start an early Thanksgiving by bringing home baby **Aubrey**.

Little **Sadie** was the best Christmas present for Steve, Erin, and Lucy.



December 23rd, 2011



January 9th, 2012

Rob & Robyn celebrate the New Year by welcoming baby **Joshua** into their family.

Recent Finalization

January 23rd, 2012



Larry & Stacy gratefully make **Ryder** a permanent part of their forever family.



January 22nd, 2012

Jason & Andrea are delighted to bring little **Gabrielle** home.

Dearest Jenny - A Life Remembered

Dearest Jenny, a life so well loved. “A woman who knew how to love and go beyond challenges, be strong, and full of hope.”

Jenny was born on November 4, 1989 in Gainesville, Florida. Her birth mother wanted her to go to a loving Christian family that already had a child. In one miracle after another Jenny was united with her forever family. Hospital staff was able to reach CFS only because of a 24 hour hotline activated on November 3rd, one day before Jenny was born!

Kirk and Sherry longed to adopt even before their struggle to conceive, and began the adoption process soon after giving birth to their daughter. Along with their daughter, Amber, they rushed to Gainesville from Atlanta upon hearing



the news of Jenny’s birth. Their time in Gainesville was welcoming and filled with acceptance. They lodged with the Brunsons, *[yet another example of the Brunson family’s Godly hospitality extended to families in the midst of the adoption process].*

Throughout her time in school, her teachers would say, “Jenny doesn’t walk through life, she dances.” She encountered many obstacles and overcame these things to the glory of God. This faithful woman continuously loved and reached out to others. She was wonderfully gifted with animals and children.

“Her spirit and joy and fearlessness proved to be her salvation throughout her life.”

On Saturday, July 9th Jenny was driving to see her parents on a four lane highway. Witnesses testified

that a man in a white BMW was “taunting her” as she drove along the highway. The driver continuously came up behind her, then quickly dashed in front of her, and slammed on his brakes. After several repetitions of this dangerous behavior, he hit Jenny’s car as he went around it. She lost control of the car and went into the woods. Jenny died on impact, and her agitator dashed off

the highway. Praise God that caring bystanders stopped and recorded the information of the offender.

As we remember Jenny, let us continuously pray for her family and the perpetrator of this violent act. We also remember that in Christ we have a hope that reaches beyond this life. Jenny’s mom said, “I have NO DOUBT where my Jenny is, safe in the arms of Jesus.”

“She was a beautiful girl with her winning smile and uplifting air filled with unbridled love and joy that came from within.”

~ John Sherrer

Walk for Life

On January 22, 1973, two historic court cases changed the idea of motherhood in this country. The first well-known case was *Roe v. Wade* and the second case was *Doe v. Bolton*. Together these cases upheld the option of abortion for mothers in any state, at any point in their pregnancy.

In 1984 President Ronald Reagan instituted the first National Sanctity of Human Life Day, a day dedicated to praying for an end to abortion. Since that time, this annual event has been commemorated on the third Sunday of January by hundreds of thousands of Americans. The “March of Life” is a



Walk For Life West Coast

rally held every January on Capitol Hill and is dedicated to protecting the pre-born. This year saw the largest march ever; over 200,000 participated with joy in spite of the cold winter rain.

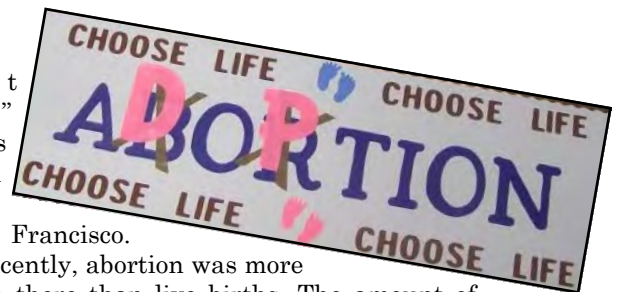
The “Walk for Life

West Coast” was founded in 2005 in San Francisco.

Until recently, abortion was more common there than live births. The amount of support there has grown from approximately 8,000 to 50,000 participants this year.

Sanctity of Life is about defending the defenseless, innocent, *unborn* child. The goal is also to champion the rights of a woman to *choose* – having been **fully** informed regarding **every** option.

The National Sanctity of Human Life Day is just one day, but the hope is that the *choice for life* will resonate throughout the year and impact the choices that are made.



Celebrate
the
Human Life



Cullen



Jacob



Marilynn

2011

A Year in Review

In 2011, we served nearly 100 women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. Many of these women did not have any type of support system during one of the most difficult times in their lives. Seven of the women we worked with ultimately decided that adoption was the best option for their circumstances. On average we worked with these women for approximately 2 months prior to placement.

The women who chose adoption were:

- 24 years of age on average
- 57% had other children
- 29% were attending college
- Birthfathers were on avg 28 years old
- 43% had birthfathers who were actively involved in the process



Sadie



Bayani



Aubrey



Marcus



Ministry Mindfulness:

Can you imagine what it might feel like to carry a child knowing that you can not care for it, but at the same time not sacrificing that child's life for the sake of your own well-being? Every one of the women we serve faces the reality of putting her child's needs above her own, sacrificing her own heart for the sake of her child.

Recently we worked with a single birth-mom who kept her entire pregnancy a secret from her family and all her friends. She knew that she could not care for the child on her own, but she could not bring herself to end that precious life that God had blessed her with. She followed her pregnancy through an online website, and ultimately delivered her baby girl in her home on her own! She then drove herself and her newborn baby to the hospital to ensure that they both were physically ok, and they miraculously were. Knowing that she could not care for this sweet angel on her own, she wanted to ensure that she was cared for and loved by a mom and a dad. A family who would truly value the gift of life. She wanted her sweet little girl to be treasured and well taken care of, and she is!

This woman demonstrated courage beyond what many of us will ever use in our lifetimes. She loved her baby girl so much that she willingly chose for another family to provide for her newborn when she could not. This little girl will always be blessed with the unconditional love and sacrifice of "two" mothers.

Stories like this one are the heart of our ministry. So many women are never even presented with the option of adoption. Many do not understand what adoption looks like today, and how it has changed. Please pray for this ministry as we try to reach out to pregnancy centers and encourage them to effectively present adoption to women in need. It is not just ProLife or ProChoice, there is a third choice, it is ProChild.

~Monique

From the President of the Board:

I hope this Newsletter finds each of you doing well.

It is hard to believe another year has come and gone. There is a lot going on this year with the presidential election and, at times, it gets very negative. Why is there so much negativity in the elections and for that matter in our everyday lives? Even on the evening news there is so much more reporting on negative issues than positive issues. It seems it is easier to be negative than positive.

One thing I appreciate about CFS is the positive attitude of the staff and all those involved in the ministry. CFS ministers to many people that are faced with difficult and painful situations. In those difficult situa-

tions people need to know the hope that is available through God's love and His boundless grace. CFS provides Christian counseling, a listening ear, a loving relationship, and when needed, food, medical care, and shelter to those who are facing a crisis.

Please pray for those who CFS ministers to and that CFS can meet their spiritual needs and lead them to accept God's grace.

Your support helps CFS provide hope to many people and we are thankful for your support, prayers, and words of encouragement,

May God bless you in 2012!

Jesse T. Wilson

Baby Bottle Boomerang

Every year from Mother's Day to Father's Day several churches take the time to run their annual Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraiser. This is a unique opportunity for a congregation to share in the ministry of CFS.

Your church can play an active role in this ministry by setting aside any 3 to 4 week period during the year for this event. While sharing the mission of CFS, members are filling up bottles with change, checks and bills. It is a small commitment that can have an everlasting impact.



Will you consider hosting a BBB Fundraiser at your church?

MEMORIAL OR HONOR GIFT

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

PLEASE NOTIFY:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

For Memorials — Relationship to Deceased: _____

For Honor Gifts — Occasion: _____

Christian Family Services

A Christian Alternative

2720 SW 2nd Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32607

Phone: 352-378-6202
Toll Free: 800-226-2367
Fax: 352-378-6205
Email: info@cfsfl.org

www.ChristianFamilyServices.com

Giving Hope ♥ Empowering Women ♥ Restoring Lives

Staff

Executive Director
Jerry D. Callens

Office Manager
Monique Lord

Office Assistant
Marilou Heckman

Case Worker
Debbie Callens

Foster Parents

David & Ronda Galloway
John & Charlotte JeBailey

Board of Directors

Tim Berry
Jimmie Brunson
Jackie Collins
Don Dasher
Leroy Frison
Fran Poppell
Don Price
Jesse Wilson
Rick Worley

**You can now make
donations
electronically on
our website!**

ChristianFamilyServices.com/
donation.htm

PayPal



A gift for anyone...

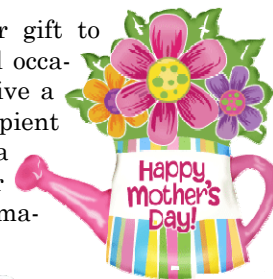
Do you ever try and try to think of something to get for the person who has everything? You search and search your favorite department stores hoping that *something* will just jump out and tell you that **this** is just the right gift for that special person. Have you ever considered giving a financial gift to CFS in their honor?



Your gift would be a unique way to honor someone while making a difference in the lives of the women we serve and their unborn children



You can utilize an honor gift to commemorate any holiday, special occasion, or significant milestone. Your honoree will receive a special card personalized with the name of the recipient and the giver. You can make your donation online via the Paypal link on our website or by mailing us your donation with the honoree's information and occasion.



The End of an Era continued

(Continued from page 1)

with pictures, stories, and love allowing parents to connect with their infants and never miss a beat. They not only provided an example of parenting, but also an example of Jesus. As one adoptive parent said, "Your love for Christ and generosity of spirit are with me."

The commitment to fostering children was something that defined this family. Throughout their service they remained dedicated to children, caring for them in their first few weeks of life until uniting these lovely babies with their expectant forever families.

But, how could it have been easy to care for and connect with these children and ease them into the arms of their forever families? The Brunsons'

love and compassion. Their children described it as such:

"We knew it was such a beautiful thing for the babies to be able to be placed with a forever family, with Christian parents who loved them and longed for them," said Kim Brunson Stobbies.

"We are so very thankful for the Brunsons and their many years of service and look forward to the plans God has for them in retirement. They are 'true servants of God.'"

Becky Brunson Settimio said, "Knowing they were blessed with a Christian family that prayed for them and adored them made it a little easier."

The Brunsons are not through making a difference. They are now actively involved in the Guardian Ad Litem program here in Gainesville, providing guidance to hurting families, and protecting God's precious children who are unable to protect themselves.