

# Family Times

Christian Family Services



Volume XXXIX

February 2017

## Why We Trust in His Plan

I'm half way to a hospital in St Pete for a baby's discharge from the CVICU unit where she had been for two months. She was going home to her new forever family (photo at left). Yes, God was working, but in more ways than we knew.

*I got a call and a reminder that God works through CFS, even if we are unaware.*

The call was from the social worker at a hospital in Tallahassee. A woman delivered a baby that morning and wanted to leave the hospital that evening. This new mom tested positive for drugs. She made it clear to the social worker that she wanted to place the baby for adoption. The social worker asked if CFS could meet with the mom before 6pm.

*There was no way that I could be at both hospitals at the same time!*

Debbie and Donna quickly made plans and arrived in Tallahassee. Debbie was able to present God's hope to this mom, for herself, and for her newborn baby. Instead of leaving that day, she was able to heal in the hospital for two days (Debbie is shown with the baby, lower right).

*This hospital social worker contacted CFS from prior experience. She was confident that she could depend on CFS; that we would have potential families ready and waiting for this baby, even a baby who was born drug dependent.*

**YOU** are CFS. Through your prayers and financial support, you enable counselors to give God's hope to women and their newborn babies. Like this mom, we meet some for the first time at the hospital.

**YOU** made it possible for CFS to respond to her request for an adoption plan! **YOU** blessed this young woman, her beautiful daughter, and the thrilled new adoptive family.

*Jerry*



**"To CFS, its not about the number of placements, its about the number of birth mothers helped."**

## Adoption Awareness Month

Christian Family Services chose to celebrate Adoption Awareness Month in a prominent way. Open House was held on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. A display was placed at the entrance to Campus Church of Christ (where the CFS offices are), and social media was used to promote Adoption Awareness Month.

At left is "Tony Stork" making his debut. He was the centerpiece of the display, bringing attention to the almost 500 babies CFS has placed since 1978!



# Recent Placements



Joseph & Jennifer had a holiday adventure to Florida to meet daughter, Jayli Noel. Jayli's siblings, Jordon, Jenna and Jacob anxiously awaited her arrival home.



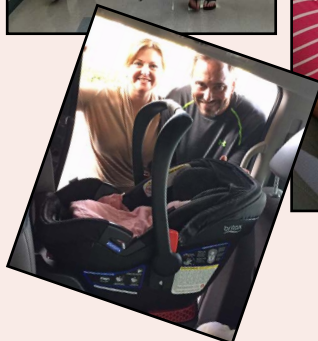
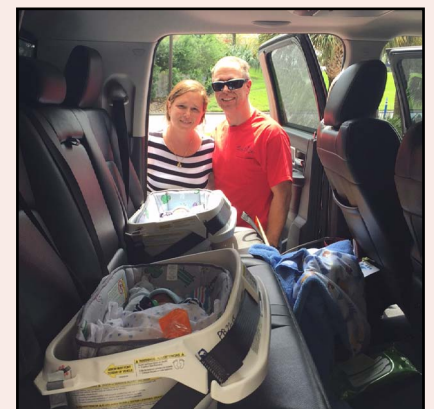
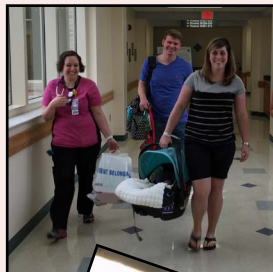
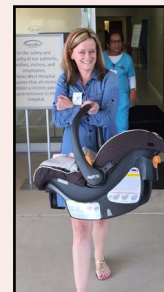
Brent & Courtney were excited to become parents with the arrival of their daughter, Amelia Parker. Their extended family traveled to visit during their stay in Florida.



Trish shows off newborn Baylynn at the hospital!

## Of Babies and Car Seats

Did you know that all states and territories of the United States require child safety seats for infants (GHSA11.08. 2016). After most CFS placements, hospital staff instruct and supervise new parents in the proper use of an infant car seat. Some hospitals require new parents to be escorted to their car by staff who then confirm the seat has been properly installed! It's no wonder that we have so many photos of families, their precious cargo, and a car seat!



@cfs1978



cfs.1978



cfs.1978





Abram



Emmeline



Maverick

## 2016 A Year in Review

- ♥ 7 Babies placed
- ♥ The average age of Birth Moms was almost 25 years

- ♥ 75% of CFS Birth Mothers had other children.
- ♥ 50% of Birth Mothers had significant financial need



Jayli



Kaamya



Gabriel



Baylynn

**Partner with Christian Family Services as we reach out to birth mothers dealing with an unplanned pregnancy.**

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 The enclosed gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is sent in Memory or Honor of:

**Please Notify:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name  
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 Address  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Relationship to the deceased or person being honored

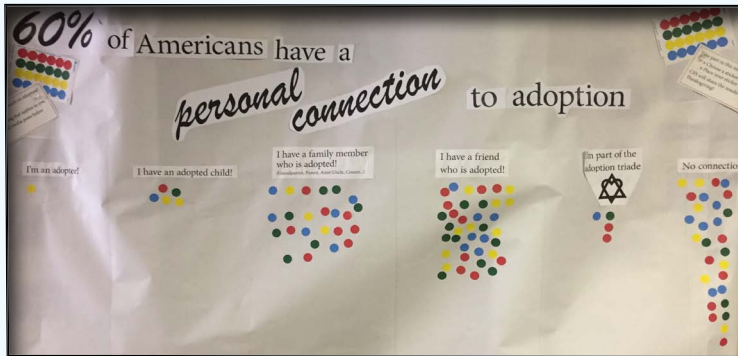
**Occasion  
 Given By:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address  
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 City, State, Zip  
 \*Hearts for Hope donors commit to giving \$84 each month for a year. Please consider monthly giving.

**Interactive Display**

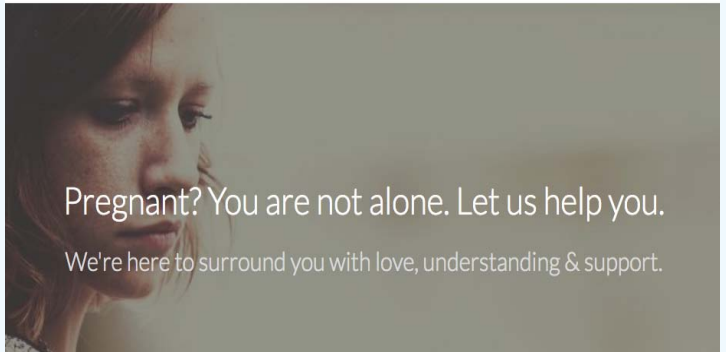
The following statement was displayed during CFS's Open House: "60% of Americans have a connection to Adoption." Visitors were asked if they know someone who is adopted, and if the person is a friend, a relative, or themselves. We compiled the results into the following table. CFS continues to ask the question,

*"Do you have a connection to adoption?"*



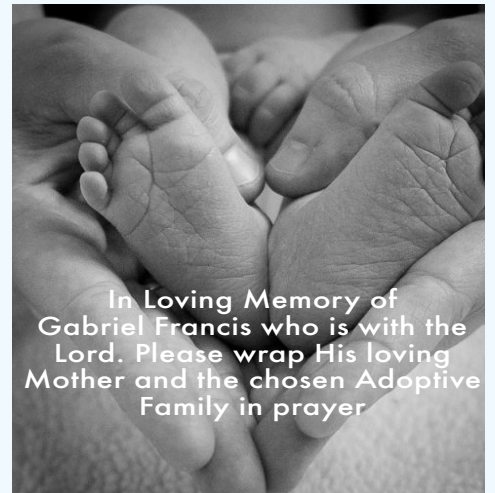
**New Website and Social Media**

To better reach Birth Mothers, a new web site design was implemented in November 2016. Making the site Mobile friendly, updating graphics and content were key to reaching the desired audience. Of the people using social media, people aged 18-29 are the highest percentage of users. (insights.newscred.com) CFS continues to implement Public Relations contacts with Pregnancy Centers and hospitals in addition to social media to reach Birth Moms.



**I'm tired of hearing from everyone that he is not my child, that he is not my blood. That I am a so called "Adoptive Mother". I am a Mother. I need no other label or prefix. I know I've adopted him and I am proud of it. He may not have my eyes, he may not have my smile, he may not have my skin tone, but he has all my heart. A mother is a person who raises, loves and provides for the child. It doesn't matter if you share the same blood or not."**

**-Shared by a CFS Adoptive Mother**



**Staff**

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Donna L. Brooker, Ministry Assistant  
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 John & Charlotte JeBailey and their children, Foster Family

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