



If that isn't love...



Maverick sits in his Bible class, ready to learn about Jesus!

If you peek into the Nursery Class of your place of worship, you will see little ones learning about Jesus. Their teacher guides them to hold a Bible, sing songs about God's creation and pray. Some of these little ones are able to be part of a Bible Class because their Birth Mother chose an adoption plan, and their forever family wants them to know God.

Yet, we have come to realize that it is God who does the planning and creates the path for this child. It is as if God plucked this child out of their life course to bring them into this knowledge of God, His Son and His Word.

Not long ago, one such child was placed into the arms of his forever parents. The Birth Mother knew her earlier choices put her in conflict with the law. She would not be able to parent this child. She had kept her pregnancy a secret from her own family, and many of the caseworkers she worked with. How alone, yet how determined this woman was, to keep the child a secret.



Ariel and her class mates listen as their teacher gives the Bible lesson of the day.

After delivery, this Birth Mother told the hospital caseworker she wanted to place her son for adoption. When Christian Family Services was contacted, we were able to find a couple which met her requests for a family. Before discharge from the hospital, she was able to meet them.

Through this Birth Mother's choice to place her child into a Christian home, she allowed him to have a different life. Her child would be further removed from the place his mother had found herself in and the choices she made. The Birth Mother's choice to put her son's future first is a true example of Love. ♡ *Donna*

"...giving you up for adoption was the hardest thing I've ever done. It was so painful for me, but I had to think of what was best for you. I wanted the best possible life for you."

CFS Birth Mother

Fundraising Season Begins

Support CFS through a **Baby Bottle Boomerang campaign** in your area
 Foundation Christian Academy & High School, Valrico, FL, Jr & Sr. Honor Society
 Maricamp Road Church of Christ, Ocala, FL
 West President Church of Christ, Greenwood, MS.

Game Day Parking

If you enjoy Florida football, or any team they will play on the home field in 2017, please consider parking at Campus Church of Christ. All sales support the ministry of Christian Family Services. Season passes are available. Daily passes are sold the day of the game. Tail gating is allowed and facilities are open until kickoff. Contact CFS for more details.



RECENT PLACEMENTS



MARCH 11, 2017

Julio and Amber were excited to become parents with the arrival of *Aislyn Violet*.



APRIL 8, 2017

Andy and Jennifer became parents a second time in April. *Addison Lynn* is held by her excited big brother, *Andrew!*

RECENT FINALIZATION

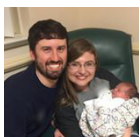


APRIL 11, 2017

Amelia Parker officially received her last name April 11, 2017. Her mom and dad, *Courtney & Brent*, appeared in the Alachua County Court via phone for the proceeding.

facebook

Courtney's reply to a comment on her Facebook photo on April 12:



Couldn't have done it without you (Jerry) and Mrs Debbie and Mrs Donna. Your crowns in Heaven are huge. ♥

AROUND THE OFFICE



Display Updated

The display of child placements through Christian Family Services is on exhibit in the hallway outside our Gainesville, FL, office. Victoria Allbritton, a Public Relations Intern for the Spring semester, recently brought the photo collages current through 2016. Jerry and Victoria framed the 20" x 18" posters and placed them on the wall in March.

From the CFS office... in Tallahassee

The CFS office in Tallahassee has been busy this year! Jerry keeps office hours one day a week. Located at 1710 South Gadsden Street in the Pregnancy Health and Information Center, CFS is thankful for this location. The Center graciously offered basic furniture for the room.



VOLUNTEERS BLESS CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICES



Becky



Fernanda

In 2016, 52 volunteers donated a total of 985.75 hours to the ministry of Christian Family Services. Volunteers filed, folded, created, made phone calls, stuffed, yelled, made change, counted change, and parked cars, all to help someone dealing with an unplanned pregnancy. YOU make a difference in the lives of others! "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." Proverbs 11:25



Ben, Chandler, Bill



Catherine



Carol



Inez, Emily, Barbara



Gi, Jannett

Not Shown here are Jimmie, Don, Gail, Matthew, Rodney, Rich, Nanci, Mark, Sue, Joyce, Susan, Fred, Jessica, Brent, Susan, Mike, Gary, Courtney, Jackie, Jeff, Shelly, Alexis, Dora, Susan, Don, Lendon, Bill, Otis, Sharon, Andrea, Heather, Deni, Rocky, Jan, Cheryl, Leroy, Rick, Don, Marley, Margie, and last but not least, Fran. If we overlooked your time with us, please contact CFS



Terry, Fred, Ramon

"This is an experience we will never forget.

It has made us better people, and we are closer than ever to the Word."

CFS mom reflecting on the adoption process

INTERESTED IN SHARING THE MINISTRY OF CFS?

Birth Mother Events

Please remember Birth Mother's Day, celebrated the day before Mother's Day each year.

To honor them on this day, CFS would like to plan a small dinner for CFS Birth Mothers who are in the area. We are interested in planning a similar event early in November.

Please pray for guidance on the best way to develop these events, and for sponsors.

The 40th Year

In a little over a year, Christian Family Services will be celebrating our 40th year of ministry. We would like to celebrate this phenomenal anniversary, and the 489 babies (and counting!) placed in forever families.

If we are to celebrate, we need your help. We are in need of volunteers willing to plan an event. If you have a vision for a type of celebration or a venue that could be used, we would like to consider your ideas.

Please contact Christian Family Services during regular business hours to discuss options.

Adoption Awareness Month

Last November, CFS celebrated Adoption Awareness Month for the first time. We want to build on this foundation for November 2017.

We would like to add a small dinner for area CFS Birth Mothers at the beginning of the month. We would like to reach out into the local community to make everyone more aware of adoption.

Please pray for insight on the best way to share and raise Adoption Awareness in the community.

When a Birth Mother chooses a family to place her child with, CFS counselors assist all involved to meet, prior to the birth of the child. During the baby's hospital stay, the adoptive family may also be at the hospital to hold and feed the baby. Sometimes extended family of the birth and adoptive families are in the waiting areas to support their loved ones.



Birth Mothers may nurse her child until placement. At her discretion, the baby is allowed to spend time with the adoptive family, in their own hospital room. As the time draws near for the birth mother to sign the official documents relinquishing the rights of her child, she is encouraged to take more time with the baby.

Thanks to YOUR support of Christian Family Services, Birth Moms receive gift bags to pamper themselves during this stressful time. If a Birth Mother chooses to parent, items have been donated to send with her, for the child. Thank you for your care and providing for women dealing with an unplanned pregnancy through your gift items.

"She is in our prayers daily, continually. Before we talked on the phone and actually met, we were thinking that we wanted as 'closed' an adoption as possible.

Now we are so thankful that it is more 'open' and feel that we have a friend forever!"

CFS mom speaking of her child's Birth Mother

As you have seen in these pages, *three* adoptive families received children into their home. *Three* Birth Moms, unseen in this publication, received guidance throughout their pregnancy from a CFS Case Worker. Because we have photos to share, it is easy to show you the result of the work.

What is difficult to share with you are the Birth Mothers who a CFS Case Worker counseled, considered adoption, and then chose to parent.

Most recently, a baby boy was delivered to one mom; a baby girl to another. In both of these cases, a CFS Case Worker visited the Birth Mother at the hospital. CFS Case Workers are available 24/7, by phone, text, or email.



- Gift Bag Needs**
Small items to pamper Birth Mothers:
 face & body wash
 lotion
 4 x 6 generic photo frames
 scented spray
 shampoo/conditioner combo
 razors
 nail polish
 hand sanitizer
 chapstick
 deodorant
 kleenex
 razors
 toothpaste/toothbrushes
 plush Teddy Bears
- Items to prepare gift bags:**
 Tissue paper, notes cards,
 decorative bags,
 ribbon

**We are able to be available to Birth Mothers because of DONORS like YOU.
 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is**

Love

I Corinthians 13:13

Staff

Jerry D.Callens, Exec. Dir. & Case Worker
 Debbie Callens, Case Worker
 Victoria Allbritton, PR Intern

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

Board of Directors

Jimmie Brunson Jackie Collins
 Fran Popell Don Price Rick Worley



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Toll-free 800-226-2367 Fax: 352-378-6205 Email: info@cfsfl.org
 www.ChristianFamilyServices.com

My Involvement - *I Will Support The Ministry of Christian Family Services In The Following Ways.*

- Pray for Birth mothers to find this ministry and to be at peace as they place their child
- Pray for Christian families to grow their family through adoption
- Supply items for Birth Mom Baskets
- Host a fund-raisers at your congregation or organization
- Donate time during game day parking
- Plan or host a Birth mother event
- Sponsor Adoption Awareness Month in your community
- Follow, share, like CFS social media platforms
- Help plan a celebration of the ministry of CFS
- Donate funds through United way, Choose Life, Amazon Smile, matching donations in your workplace



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My Involvement

I Will Support The Ministry of Christian Family Services In The Following Ways.

My One Time Gift Today: \$_____

Monthly Gift (*Hearts for Hope* donors pledge \$84 month or \$1000 year)

\$250 \$100 \$75 \$50 Other \$_____

More Opportunities shown on reverse. Memorial option below.

Name_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

Phone: () _____ Email:_____

This donation is sent in Memory or Honor of:_____

My relationship to this individual:_____

Please notify: NAME _____

ADDRESS: _____ City/State/Zip _____



CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICES
A Christian Alternative
2720 S.W. 2nd Ave
Gainesville, FL 32607
352.378.6202

A 501 (c) 3 non-profit.
All gifts are tax deductible.

GAME DAY PARKING

SEASON PASSES \$150

will go up to \$175 after July 1

\$20 PER GAME

First-come, first-served

To reserve your season pass,
send your \$150 payment to

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Notate "Gator Parking" on the
memo line of your check.

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