


CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICES *FAMILY TIMES*



VOLUME XXXIX ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2017



In our world of plenty
we can spread a smile of

Joy

YOU provide her HOPE in a difficult situation

SMILES OF JOY



Jerry Callens, LCSW
Executive Director

...Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers.

Philippians 4:6

You might ask how can there be *smiles of joy* when a birth mom is making the most difficult decision of her life? What is there for her to be smiling, or happy about? Wouldn't a mom have to be cold, uncaring and calloused to find joy in "giving her baby away?"

Look at the other side of the coin for a moment. You would expect the new adoptive mom to be filled with joy and excitement when this new baby is officially placed in her arms. But, would you also expect this new adoptive mom, who has just had her prayers and dreams fulfilled, to be *broken-hearted* and *sad*? Yet, that is often the case.

Most adoptive moms discover that this is one of the most "bitter-sweet" moments that they will ever experience. Her cup overflows with love and *joy* for her new baby, but it also is overflowing with love and *heartache* for this birth mom. She understands that at the very moment her dreams are being fulfilled, this birth mom's heart is being shattered. How can she reconcile the two? Her joy is coming at an enormous expense for the birth mom.

This is where God comes in! The birth mom has the inner peace of knowing that no matter how messed up her life might have been, or how many bad choices she had made previously, this is one that she can take pride in making. She knows that this time, with God's help, she has put her own desires and emotions aside and made a choice for the best interest of her child. Having met and spent time with the adoptive parents gives her the assurance and validation that this is the home and family where she wants her child raised. Thus it's not unusual to see that mom's *smile*, even if it is behind *tears* on her cheeks.

As the adoptive mom's heart aches for this birth mom's pain and loss, she is comforted and reassured by this birth mom that she and her husband are an answer to her prayers for her child. This Birth Mom can rest in the knowledge that her child will be well cared for in a loving Christian home.

So YES, at one of the most difficult times that one can imagine, or find oneself in, **God** can bring *smiles of joy*. He is there and actively working through CFS to touch the lives of the birth mom and adoptive parents.

*There's a world outside your window, and it's a world of dread and fear.
Won't you make their life a little easier with a donation to CFS?*

Your charitable gifts help:



A woman living with her unplanned pregnancy have options for her unborn baby and her future goals, through free counseling.



A Birth Mother purchase food



A Birth Mother with her housing and utility needs



A Birth Mother to have reliable transportation

Let them know its Christmas time all year by providing women with these basic needs.

RECENT PLACEMENTS

FAMILY In My Words



Baby Olivia was recently placed with extended family.



Robb & Robyn welcomed another son to their family. **Callen Samuel**.

"I don't need a tax form ...
I hope the contribution will
help make someone's dream
come true."
A CFS Donor

When we started the adoption process, we knew that the day we were chosen to parent any child, we would be blessed, but we never imagined to what degree.

Like Scripture tells us in 1 Corinthians 2:9 **"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him."** And let me tell you, I couldn't have ever imagined that it would be this wonderful. Although we had an idea what a blessing they would be because we are parents and love kids, they surpassed anything we dreamt of.

Having two biological kids, we often asked ourselves if we would love our adopted baby the same. That is still a question I get asked 15 months later by many. **Our response**

...the minute we brought them home, they were our babies and we loved them as much as our girls that very instant.

We find ourselves being more patient and doing things with them that we didn't do with our daughters. And I can tell you that they are both more attached to us than my daughters ever were at this age.

Even my daughters which were 14 at the time, took them in and treated them with as much love and kindness as we did. They would bathe, change and even voluntarily do the night feedings on the weekends so that we could rest.

These little guys have truly enriched all of our lives and are loved by many. They truly hold a special place in our hearts and anyone looking to adopt can rest assured that there is no difference in whether or not you conceived this child.

Once God sets him or her apart for you, how they come to you is irrelevant.

Thank You,
Rosy, Adoptive mom of the two most wonderful twin boys



Where is my donation *actually* going?



Ways to give



ONLINE

cfsfl.org/give

MAIL IN



2720 SW 2nd Ave
Gainesville, FL
32607

ORGANIZATIONS



United Way
Amazon Smile
eBay for Charity

\$25 A MONTH

At \$300 a year, a "Hearts for Love" donor can meet a mother's need as we use your donation for half a month's rent or a few phone bills.

\$84 A MONTH

At \$1,000 a year, a "Hearts for Hope" donor can provide for an expecting mother in a range of ways from food expenses to medical bills.

\$250 A MONTH

At \$3000 a year, a "Hearts for Life" donor can fully support one of our birth mothers as she makes this sacrificial choice for her baby.

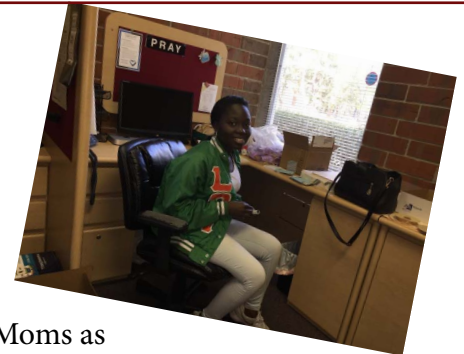
"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." *2 Corinthians 9:7*



"God has given me such a happy story...He blessed my socks off!"

A CFS Mom

(sharing raising her two children.)



Volunteers at Christian Family Services help Birth Moms as they prepare for and work during fundraisers. Memories are made, Birth Moms and their babies are helped!

That's a great combination!

CFS thanks those who give the gift of time to the ministry.



Birth Mother Dinner -- Gainesville, FL -- Thanks to BraveLove

Jerry has long wanted to provide a special event for CFS Birth Moms.

We reached out to BraveLove, a pro-adoption movement dedicated to changing the perception of adoption by acknowledging birth moms for their brave decision. Christian Family Services partnered with BraveLove to host a dinner in Gainesville, Florida.



As November is Adoption Awareness Month, the meal was held on the first of the month. Social Media was used to reach out to any Birth Mother in the area to join in the meal. CFS also reached out to women we have worked with. Birth Mothers spent two hours sharing together.

One Birth Mother placed a child 20 years ago, and one six weeks ago.

The ladies were given necklaces from BraveLove, and other small mementos from both organizations.

All who attended expressed tremendous gratitude for the event and stated how much it meant to them to be able to connect with other moms. One Birth Mom said she has waited for 20 years for something like this.



"Mr Jerry was always there for me. He picked me up and helped me. He helped get me to the doctor. He was a blessing. Back then, I was on the streets. I prayed and I think the people at the hospital heard me, that this baby not have any complications due to my drug additions. The baby came out with no withdrawals, and the way she was supposed to..."

He (Jerry) not only saved my daughter, but he also saved me (from the streets). I love that man, I love him so much. He didn't have to do that (for me).

He did it because he loves people, and children, and to help people who cannot provide the best for their children.

I love that man. I love him so much. He helped me through so much when I was pregnant!"

A CFS Mom



In Loving Memory of Veronica

WELCOME JASMINE

our newest caseworker, to Christian Family Services!

Jasmine, 24, has decided to dedicate her life to making a change in the foster care and adoption agency world. She has taken two trips to Ghana and worked in a domestic shelter. She said her background is what shaped her to become a woman of God who feels blessed for her education, shelter and food that she has every day.

"No matter what circumstances we are in, we should always find our joy in God," Jasmine said.

A small town in central Illinois is where Jasmine was born and raised, with her older brother Kyle, 26, and her parents Todd and Consuelo. Jasmine's favorite activity in Illinois was to visit St. Louis Cardinal games.

Jasmine moved to the Gainesville area in August for its warm weather. She said that her favorite place for a bite is Krispy Kreme and that she recommends getting her favorite doughnut, the original glaze.

Being away from home, this will be Jasmine's first thanksgiving without her family. She said that she will miss her Grandma's pies the most, but misses her Grandma's baking every day.

Her brother and his wife, Mallory, are also expecting a baby girl soon and Jasmine said that she is so excited to become a new Aunt!

Jasmine has been a light at CFS every day since she has worked here, bringing us laughter and showing birth moms unconditional love. But not only will Jasmine continue to show us her gratitude for life, but hopes to help birth mothers do the same.

She said, "I want to help them be a positive light in a tough situation."

Written by Olivia Sahnger



THE REAL GIFTS AREN'T UNDER THE TREE!

When the West President Ave Church of Christ (Greenwood, MS) had their Baby Bottle Campaign, Tommy Ainsworth took home three bottles. The bottles were on the counter when his granddaughter, Emma Kate, came in. She asked what the bottles were for.

Tommy explained they were to put change in to help babies.

Emma Kate put some of her grandfather's change in the bottles and took the empty one home with her.

Emma Kate took money out of her piggy bank to fill up the other baby bottle.

"...and a little child shall lead them all." Isaiah 11:6



Photo Credit Fabian Blank on Unsplash

RECENT FINALIZATIONS



SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

Isabella Quinn officially received her last name on September 18 at the Alachua County Courthouse. Shown in the court chambers of Judge Groeb (from left), Attorney Mitch Albaugh, Bella's mom **Kimberly**, big brother **Christopher**, and dad **Chris**.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

Jayli Noel's mom and dad, **Jennifer and Joseph**, appeared before Judge Groeb via telephone to officially make her their youngest child. Jayli was not feeling well on the day of her finalization. Therefore, she did not have a family photo available until her debut appearance with her "GHOST BUSTER" family in October! Shown at right is Jayli with her brothers Jordan and Jacob and sister Jenna, as well as her mom and dad!



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EASY WAYS TO BE PART OF THE MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICES:

YOUR FLORIDA TAG



CORPORATE GIFT MATCHING THROUGH YOUR WORK PLACE.

DIRECTED DONATIONS THROUGH THE



BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR



ONLINE SHOPPING



YOUR GIFT GIVES

YOUR continued support of the ministry of Christian Family Services gives staff the resources to reach women in need. **YOU** have helped give the gift of life to a child. **YOUR** generosity allows staff to work with couples that want to grow their family through adoption.

* Thank **YOU** for **YOUR** continued provision for Birth Mothers and the Ministry of Christian Family Services.

Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things. Psalms 107:8-9



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 Debbie Callens, Case Worker
 Jasmine Pierce, Case Worker
 John & Charlotte JeBailey and their children, Foster Family
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With an unexpected pregnancy,
does she know it's Christmas?

Memorial or Honor Gifts

The enclosed gift of _____ is given:

in Memory of _____

in Honor of _____

Please Notify:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

For Memorials, Relationship to the deceased: _____

For Honor Gifts, Occasion: _____

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

My One Time Gift Today: \$ _____

Monthly Gift: \$250 \$100 \$75 \$50

Other \$ _____

Pray for Birth Mothers to be led to CFS for hope, help,
and guidance.



CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICES

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

A 501 (c) 3 non-profit.



Where is my donation *actually* going?



Ways
to give

<p>\$25 A MONTH At \$300 a year, a "Hearts for Love" donor can meet a mother's need as we use your donation for half a month's rent or a few phone bills.</p>	<p>\$84 A MONTH At \$1,000 a year, a "Hearts for Hope" donor can provide for an expecting mother in a range of ways from food expenses to medical bills.</p>	<p>\$250 A MONTH At \$3000 a year, a "Hearts for Life" donor can fully support one of our birth mothers as she makes this sacrificial choice for her baby.</p>
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