## CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICES FAMILY TIME SERVICES VOLUME XL ISSUE II

#### **A MOTHER,** is a Mommy, is a Momma, is a *Mama*, is a Mom!

We are blessed to have two biological children and one through adoption. The adoption of our son has completely changed our perspective on life and adoption. After we adopted our son, the unconditional love we knew as parents changed because it wasn't unconditional love for a biological child, it was unconditional love for a child that had grown in our hearts and who became an integral part of our lives.

It really is hard to describe the blessings since we adopted our son because they are at a heart level. The biggest blessing is that we have another child to love.

Every child is a gift from God and brings new and exciting things into your family. Though our son is the most mischievous little guy, he is also full of pure joy. He sees everything with bright, happy, shining eyes. It is amazing to see how God chose our son for us.

Our son started having seizures when he was five months old. Because of my husband's profession and the state we live in, our son was to get the care and medication he needed in order to live a full and normal life. He is almost two years seizure free now. God knew he would need us.

Our son has also blessed us because we became a bi-racial family. This may seem

like a funny blessing, but I see our son and how our other two children respond to him and I love that they don't see color. They are growing up seeing a person. He is their brother and they love him with all their hearts. He might be just a bit spoiled!

My son's birth mom is also a blessing. Who knew that you could have such a love and respect for someone you've never

met? Without her and her sacrifice, I wouldn't have my son. Not only did she make the decision to give him life, but she also made the hardest choice a mother can so that he could have a good life. I can't express the love and gratitude I have for my son's amazing birth mom.

Our family is beautiful and I've had the joy of watching it impact other people's lives. It has opened up doors for discussion about the wonderful world of adoption. Several families we know have started their own path to adoption.

The biggest joy and blessing of adoption is the love our son has for us. What could be more of a blessing than to have your son wrap his arms around you and in his sweet toddler voice say,

"I love you momma!"



MAY 2018

Jessica, author, shown with husband Derek and their three children

## Honoring Mothers



The Lord knows us all & loves us all. He has bound us together with this sweet child we both love & cherish & we are blessed because of this. I love you & I always will.

-CFS Mom to her child's Birth Mother



#### WHERE HAVE ALL THE CABINETS GONE?

The forty years of Adoption Files have been scanned and returned to the CFS office.

Jennifer Van Hart of Micrographics, Inc. (Gainesville, Florida) recently delivered the result of the scans of our documents.



Two sets of backup disks, and an electronic download later, we are pleased with the final result of this project.

The CFS budget would not allow for the expense to secure the adoption records. Therefore, when the need to secure the documents surfaced, CFS Adoptive Families responded to the need and funded the project.

Below: 47 boxes of CFS files set in a secure facility in preparation for scanning and eventual scredding.



"I know how bad (my friends) want children-- being adopted myself-there's nothing better than knowing your mom & dad WANTED you more than anything!! (My Friends) will be great parents and I hope they get that opportunity very soon. Family Reference for a CFS Family

#### **OFFICE VISIT!**





heather-schwartz-512773-unsplash.jpg

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Birth Mother's Day event
- Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraiser
- Volunteer Appreciation Meal
- Game Day Parking Fundraiser (fall)

# *You* are giving women options for their baby!

I'm 18 soon to be 19, and I'm pregnant. *This pregnancy is an unplanned pregnancy,* due to that I'm not financially and spiritually ready for a child. I figured that open adoption is the best option for me and my child. I'm in college and still trying to

understand my life, talking to God and myself, I want my child to be in a family that's financially ready to have a baby and give them all their love they have to give. I love this child and doing this shows it. Putting my child in a Christian based home and fun home will make me really happy knowing I cant' provide all those things and not readythis is the safest option.

--Birth Mother Inquiry sent to CFS



#### Each woman receives the unconditional love of Christ because of your partnership with CFS.

Durning her pregnancy, Michellique (above) worked with Jasmine and chose to parent her daughter, Michellina' (at right) Aftercare to new moms is also a time to give counsel and guide them into a better place, whether it be spiritual or physical. Each woman you provide counseling to is given more knowledge about adoption and if it is the right choice for her. Caseworkers spend time with each woman, sometimes with their extended family or friends, giving CFS insight into the life of this woman God has sent our way. She may need assistance sharing her unplanned pregnancy with those closest to her and support when she shares her news. She may have other children she needs to care for.



#### Help CFS get the Word out to those in need via social media:







@cfs1978 cfs.1978 cfs.1978 www.ChristianFamilyServices.com

Share the ministry of CFS in your place of worship & community organizations





Partner with Christian Family Services as we reach out to birth mothers dealing with an unplanned pregnancy. Christian Family Services, Inc is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION (SC -04221) AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE. 1-800-435-7352. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. 100% of the contributions received by Christian Family Services, Inc. are retained by the agency.

Lives you have touched through your support of Christian Family Services

|   | February | March | April |
|---|----------|-------|-------|
| Number of New Expectant Moms Contacting CFS | 5        | 4     | 14    |
| Number of Expectant Moms Worked With        | 7        | 7     | 18    |
| Number of Contacts With Expectant Moms      | 39       | 52    | 60    |
| Number of Past Birth Moms contacting CFS    | 3        | 3     | 4     |
| Number of Contacts With Adoptive Families   | 44       | 44    | 60    |

Total Time Spent with Expectant Moms: 122 Hours Total Time spent with Adoptive Families: 95 Hours Total Travel for CFS: 10,996 miles



Nicole Honeywell

#### More ways to give to the ministry of CFS:

As a 501 (c) (3) organization, giving to Christian Family Services is tax deductible. Did you know donors have several other options to donate to the ministry? Check with your Financial Advisor or Tax Preparer and consider if the following options would benefit you and your gifting practices:

If you are 70½ or older and have an IRA, you can transfer up to \$100,000 per year to qualified charties.

If you hold stocks, evaluate them to determine if giving it to charity may be a greater tax benefit than giving cash.

Corporate gift matching through your work place.

Become a monthly donor: Set up bill pay at your bank, use PayPal, or use the enclosed reminder card and envelope.



Staff

Jerry D.Callens, Exec. Director & Case Worker Debbie Callens, Case Worker Jasmine Pierce, Case Worker



Donna L. Brooker, Ministry Assistant Becky Barclift, Bookkeeper

John & Charlotte JeBailey and their children, Foster Family

NETWORK 1:27 GENESIS-1 SAMUEL-JAMES

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"Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed." *£salm 82:3* 

| Memorial or Honor Gifts The enclosed gift of is given: in Memory of  | Monthly Gift: □ \$250  □\$100  □\$75  □\$50   |
|--|---|
| <ul> <li>in Honor of</li> <li>Please Notify:</li> <li>Name:</li> </ul>                                     | Pray for Birth Mothers to be led to CFS for hope, help, and guidance.   |
| Address:<br>City/State/Zip<br>For Memorials, Relationship to the decease<br><br>For Honor Gifts, Occasion: | d: CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICES<br>A Christian Alternative<br>2720 S.W. 2nd Ave<br>Gainesville, FL 32607<br>352.378.6202<br>A 501 (c) 3 non-profit |





Season passes available, priced at \$150 until June 30th. Priced \$175 through the first game.

\$20 per game, first come, first served Tail Gate, indoor restrooms until kick off, 8 blocks from the stadium.

More Ways to give ORGANIŹATIŎNS United Way Amazon Smile eBay for Charity

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