

CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICES

FAMILY TIMES



VOLUME XLIII ISSUE II

SPRING~SUMMER 2021

When a child is expected, we may feel that

*"A grand **adventure** is about to begin."*
Winnie the Pooh

The same can be said of a vacation! A few weeks ago, CFS experienced both – the birth of 2 babies and 1 vacation – the same week!

Jasmine met with Jerica, an expectant mother with an adoption plan, on a regular basis. *The day after Jerry left for his vacation, Jerica went into labor.* When Jasmine headed to the hospital to be with Jerica, she did not know that labor would extend into late the next day! Jerica spent time with her newborn at the hospital for three days following delivery. The adoptive family was allowed to be in the hospital

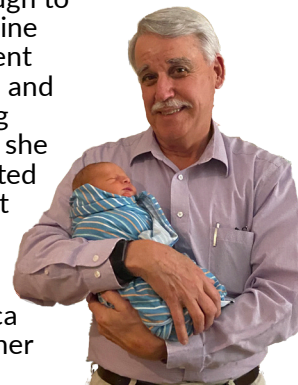


and spend time with the baby, too. Jerica knew what she wanted for her baby, but it was still difficult. After she signed the consents to place the baby for adoption, she and her extended family were able to be with the adoptive family for photos before leaving the hospital.

However, during Jerica's labor, Jasmine was receiving calls and texts from other birth parents wanting to consider adoption.

Meanwhile Jerry, *on vacation*, had been contacted by a hospital about a Safe Haven infant. Jerry continued to coordinate with them in regard to this mom and baby. He was also texting Jasmine about the Safe Haven infant, while Jasmine was still fielding questions with another possible Birth Mother. This *"adventure" could have turned into*

"mission impossible," but calmed down enough to allow Jasmine to be present with Jerica and come along side her as she contemplated life without her newborn.



Just as Jerica completed her paperwork, *"vacationing Jerry"* texted Jasmine that the Safe Haven baby had been surrendered to CFS.

As Jasmine and Donna left Jerica and the adoptive family, the drive back to the office included calls to Jerry about the new baby, thoughts about the adoptive families who were waiting, and getting some rest for the *"adventure"* the follow

Adventure... continued following page

VOUNTEERS - WE'RE GLAD TO HAVE YOU!



Penny witnesses Finalization paperwork



Alicia witnessed placement paperwork for Tirzah Lily with her Forever Parents.



Renee witnesses Finalization paperwork

CFS is blessed by volunteers in our office, at fundraisers and at the signing of consent and adoption paperwork. The ladies shown here are teachers at MySchool Preschool, which is located in the same building as CFS. Many times we ask them to assist with signing paperwork to finalize a family, and sometimes to witness a placement. Turn the page and learn other ways people volunteer at CFS.

SPRING ~ SUMMER 2021

RECENT PLACEMENTS



4/26/21
Ryan & Kate add a daughter to their family, **Georgia Elyzabeth!**



4/30/21
Travis & Sarah welcome daughter **Tirzah Lily** to their family.



05/21/21
Rachael & Josh add son **Mason James** to their family.

MORE VOLUNTEERS!



Sandra shreds documents that cannot be disposed of in the trash.

Jasmine shows supplies donated by Kai, a young mom passing on baby items!



Workplace Giving!

pwc

Adventure... continued from page one

ing day with another baby!

When the office opened the next day, Jasmine, called one of the CFS waiting families about the Safe Haven infant. The couple prayed then joyfully said “Yes” to parenting the child! Jasmine and Donna headed to pick up the newborn from the hospital. Due to the timing of the discharge and the arrival of the family, the CFS Cradle Care family was contacted to keep the baby a few days. By the end of the week Jasmine and Donna headed to pick up the infant to meet her forever family.

At the end of the week, Jasmine had put 739 miles on her car traveling to be with Jerica, travel to the Safe Haven infant, and travel to the Cradle Care Family. Yes, we were tired and thankful for such meaningful work.

Do you wonder what became of the woman reaching out to Jasmine during Jerica’s labor? She continued to text the CFS case-worker on call.

Jasmine and Jerry agreed to meet in person with her and discuss

what adoption would look like for her child.

In the end, Jerry and Jasmine facilitated consents for a birth mother and dad within 10 days of the last placement! The Birth Parents were able to choose the adoptive family for their child. This baby was also placed with the CFS Cradle Care Family for a time. The adoptive family first met their baby at their home. Not long thereafter, this adoptive family completed their placement paperwork and took their child home.

In this recount of placements and vacation –

WHO had the adventure?

Jerry on vacation? Jasmine traveling around the state? The Cradle Care Family caring for two different babies? The adoptive families?

Or is the adventure one we only view from the outside, one we don’t want to even contemplate? The gut-wrenching adventure of a birth parent as they consider what is truly best for their child?



"Listen and Make Room" was written in response to Network 1:27's invitation to Harold Shank to compile his keynote messages from the childcare conferences. CFS is a member of Network 1:27 and Jerry has been privileged to hear many of Harold Shank's speeches at the conference.

Nathan Samuel, President of Network 1:27, said: *"let me say you will be inspired and engaged by reading Harold Shank's book."*

Shank's own testimony of being an "unchurched child" will show Christians the difference we can make in the life of a child when we teach children's Bible classes or VBS. His vast experience in ministry also opens Christian's eyes to how the Kingdom may be grown by expressing the love of Christ to the marginalized in our society. Shank shares memories of interactions with well-known brethren as well as details from ministries and the individuals served.

This book is easy to read, as each section stands on its own. I found it to be a great way to end my day! Add it to your devotional time. Shanks reminded me that my time in the classroom was a valued work for Christ, and I feel the book would be an ideal gift for your child's teacher. Christians will be inspired to look out for opportunities to **Listen and Make Room for those God puts in our way.**

Listen and Make Room by Harold Shank at ACUPressBooks.com

Reviewed by Donna L. Brooker, CFS Ministry Assistant

February - May 2021

In Memory of

Earl Anderson
Jason & Andrea Meadows

Frances Booth
Jane Black
Jason & Andrea Meadows
Joan Spainhower
Spanish Fort Church of Christ
Carl & Melissa Vinson

Willis Booth
Jason & Andrea Meadows

Robert & Jan Chaffin
Linda Case

Kenny Coleman
Bill & Mary Foreman

Veneda Dillard
Linda Case

Leroy Frison
Jannette Frison

Carl & Annie Ruth Jacobsen
Linda Jacobsen

Nancy Lowe
Gail Tribble

Ron Major
Linda Case

Nancy Putnal
EMC Structural Engineers, P.C.
David Johnson
Judy Diann Julian
Mary Prosser
Ron Putnal
Lollie Simmons
Emily Tarrant
Carl & Melissa Vinson

Cindy Rogers
Linda Case

June Springfield
Linda Case

Sharon Sutton
Valorie Sierens

Heather Turney
Linda Jacobsen

Lanelle Waters
Patricia Quinn



February - May 2021

In Honor of

Nellie Anderson
Jason & Andrea Meadows

Duane Jessup
Robert & Kim Kimberly

Heather Harrell
Bob & Carolyn Harrell

Wes & Peggy Kimberly
Robert & Kim Kimberly

Ella Jean Rispress
Zimmie Harris



Many have asked: "So how is
Jasmine
doing? That girl who had cancer."

Did you read the first article in this newsletter? Jasmine has been super busy with clients considering and choosing adoption.



"The Birth Mother comes first" at CFS and Jasmine is back full time in this role.

When Jasmine was recovering from her surgery, she prepared social media posts to reach Birth Mothers. On her return to serving clients in person, CFS looked to others to fulfill this need. Please read about Katy, who has taken over the CFS Social Media accounts.



At this time, Jasmine is cancer is free! She has been in remission for over a year!!! We are thankful she has recovered and look forward to sharing more photos of Jasmine with CFS moms, babies and families!



SPRING ~ SUMMER 2021

"I don't have murderers and rapists in my family. I have successful drug dealers in my family. They have a fun looking life style. And that's attractive to kids. I don't want that for this baby. I don't want her to even see it. If she doesn't see it, she can't be attracted to it.... that's why I'm considering adoption. I see me. I'm talking it. I'm walking it. But I'm failing. I don't even want this baby to see that or be attracted to that."



- Kacy

A CFS Client

(Named changed to protect identity)

Welcome Katy

As staff navigated several placements (see front article) it was difficult to also work on Social Media.

Katy Horton, who designed a CFS t-shirt a few years ago, joins the CFS team to create Social Media content and work on marketing development.



A Freelance Graphic Designer based in Gainesville, Florida, Katy received her AS/AA in Graphic Design from Santa Fe College.

Katy worships at CampusView Church and is in the Young Pro's ministry.

A native of Gainesville, Katy has a unique perspective on Christian Family Services since she has known about the ministry her entire life!

Katy believes CFS provides "hope to women during a difficult time" and will strive to demonstrate this hope through social media.

Workplace Giving Options CFS is registered with NPO Connect



Merck Gives Back
Volunteer • Contribute • Connect



But Jesus said,
"Let the little children come to Me,
and do not forbid them;
for of such is the kingdom of heaven."



Terry volunteered with the Game Day Parking fundraiser for years. Now she helps in the office in a variety of ways.

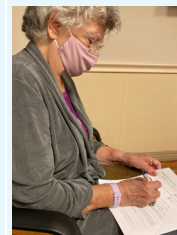
Alexis of CampusView church witnessed the placement for an adoptive family during her work day!



Fran of Timberlane Church of Christ, served as a witness for an adoptive placement.

Inez of University City Church of Christ, witnessed a Birth Mother signing consents. When asked to describe what she observed, she stated,

"I wanted to cry with her (the Birth Mother). She was heartbroken, but determined in her decision" (to place the child for adoption).



Inez also witnessed the placement of the child with her forever family.



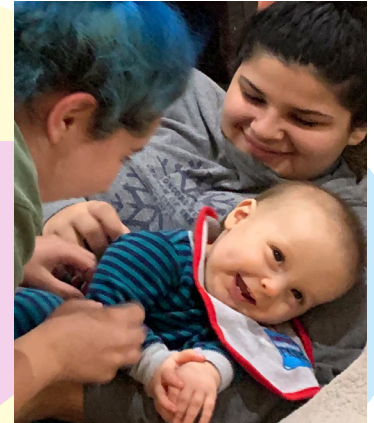
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CFS Cradle Care Family

Sometimes we are asked why couples want to adopt. Some state they have

Room for 1 more!

CFS receives requests to adopt from couples that already have biological children. They want to add "one more" to their family! While we cannot offer an application to each couple that makes an inquiry to adopt, we regularly have a large family who is ready to adopt on our waiting list. We caution them the wait may be longer for them. Undeterred, such families feel called to adopt and wait in hope for a child to become part of their family.



John and Charlotte and their children (Zayna, Julia and Jack), have served as Cradle Care providers for CFS since 2012. Each year they must complete training, background screens, and a home inspection to be re-licensed. The last time they kept a CFS baby was 2015. However, in 2021 they have already had two babies in care! CFS is thankful for their flexibility to transport and care for these little ones.



Toby stands guard while "his" baby sleeps

Mother's Day and Father's Day - and childless

What about a couple who long for children but are unable to become pregnant? Or hopeful grandparents, who long for grandchildren, but their married daughter/son discovers that they and their spouse have fertility issues?

Couples may have grieved the loss of "what was hoped for" in a family. Quite possibly, they have had a number of medical treatments, which have exhausted funds, and had them on an emotional roller coaster. Once such a couple decides to consider adoption, they may still not be prepared for raising a non-biological child.

CFS requires adoptive families to complete adoption training. Adoptive couples should prepare to discuss adoption with their child, and how to discuss the role of the Birth Family with them.

It is notable to mention that many women who consider placing their child for adoption seek a couple who cannot biologically have their own children. She may seek to "bless" a family with a baby.

As we look at the entire adoption triade, we recognize it is not luck that causes a woman with an unplanned pregnancy to contact CFS, but the Lord who has already provided a family for her child.



Becky of University City Church of Christ serves as the CFS Bookkeeper. While she serves in a volunteer role, she is a valued team member!



While she is camera shy, Becky is productive during her time in the CFS office. Most times her head is down as she concentrates on keeping the accounts in order.



More ways to assist the ministry of CFS

SPRING ~ SUMMER 2021

RECENT FINALIZATIONS



Hazel Frances is now officially the daughter of **Chelsea & Arthur** and sister of **Samuel!**



Brayden Micah and big brother **Charlie** wear matching shirts & now have the same last name! **Sarah & Samuel** are pleased to add a son to the family.

".. please thank Judge Ferrero again for us - her decisions in the court room have changed our lives for the better, and we are so grateful."

Bethany
Evan's Mother



William Ryan seems unphased on the day he became the "legal" son of **Callie & Drew**.



Evan Matthew's finalization day finally arrived! **Matthew & Bethany** are pleased that he is their son.

Staff

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

Donna L. Brooker, Ministry Assistant
Becky Barclift, Bookkeeper
John & Charlotte JeBailey, Cradle Care

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Canva and Unsplash were used to create portions of this publication.

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A CFS Caseworker was ready to meet with A'Shari (left) and Jamie (right) because of donors like YOU!

"Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer.."

Psalm 61:1

Thank you for giving CFS clients **HOPE**



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I will help a baby have **life** and a **Christian Family** to raise him/her through the Ministry of Christian Family Services.

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

\$250 \$100 \$75 \$50 Other \$ _____ **Memorial option below.**

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This donation is sent in Memory or Honor of: _____

Please notify: NAME : _____ Their relationship to the honoree? _____

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