

CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICES FAMILY TIMES



VOLUME XLIV ISSUE III

FALL 2021

Prayer Lifts Others



When an expectant mother reaches out to a CFS caseworker for guidance during an unplanned pregnancy, we recognize

she needs spiritual support in addition to financial and emotional support. A woman in such a situation may be living a life of poverty, addiction, unemployment or underemployment. The way she lives may seem unusual to us. Why would a woman live a life of poverty if she can apply for assistance? Or live a life on drugs when she can go to rehab? Why is she unemployed with businesses needing to hire?

Your prayers and financial support allow CFS to reach some women who live as the marginalized of society. Some of our clients make it through their week wondering how they will feed the children they already have. CFS caseworkers come along side such clients and guide them as they make applications for government assistance for themselves and family members. It may take several attempts before she will be accepted to receive food stamps or health care for herself or her children. CFS can meet with her in her own home to make such applications thanks to technology.

Other clients reach out to CFS pregnant, suffering from the stigma of a past addiction. Women in Florida will be screened for drugs following the delivery of her child. The baby will also be screened. We must minister to such clients where they are; if drugs are found in either a Birth Mother or her baby, she may face the consequences of the law. CFS Caseworkers choose to guide her to receive the help she needs. If a client has other children, a residential rehab program may not work for her. An outpatient program may be difficult for her to complete if she does not have her own transportation.

*I pray you all made it safely. Thank you so much for all you have done for my family!
God Bless you & the whole CFS Family*

A CFS Birth Mother

Once CFS clients have delivered and placed a baby with an adoptive family, the poverty they were living in will not instantly be relieved. She will not immediately receive financial or further medical help, nor be employed. Laws of the state of Florida limit CFS' financial assistance to our clients. After the time limit passes, CFS continues to discuss solutions to the specific problems a client is living with, and follow through with applications for community resources. CFS clients may try to apply for government assistance but be missing a document for the process and be denied. She may have some relief from drugs but still have friends engaged in that lifestyle. She may be able to get a job but not able to get child care.

YOUR PRAYERS for CFS Birth Mothers make a difference. We believe many women are led to meet with CFS due to your faithful prayers on behalf of the unborn. After placing her child with an adoptive family, your prayers continue to assist her! Who else to give her the courage to follow through with online financial assistance—but God! Who else to provide her the strength she needs to leave drugs behind—Our Father! Who else to remind her of her talents, than the One who gave them to her? Not only is God confirming to women with unplanned pregnancies that they should choose LIFE for the child they are carrying, He is guiding them to consider adoption when they cannot parent.

Your prayers for these women have led 106 women to reach out to CFS so far this year! Your funds made it possible for CFS caseworkers to make a difference in the lives of these women and their unborn child. Your prayers will cover them as they continue to live, help those they care for, and make decisions for their future.



Jerry and Jasmine working with the Birth Family



FALL 2021

RECENT PLACEMENTS



JUNE 24, 2021

Briella Sol relaxes in the arms of her parents, Jonathan and Anastasia



JULY 30, 2021

They only have eyes for Mylah Joy - Ethan and Lauren seem pleased!



AUGUST 19, 2021

Waylon Michael brought tears of joy to parents Michael and Brittney

GAME DAY PARKING

A fundraiser for Christian Family Services

The shut down of the 2020 football season and the subsequent closure of the Game Day Parking fundraiser shows that CFS cannot rely on one type of fundraiser. Last football season, it was donors, not Game Day Parking receipts that supplied the needs of CFS!

After the collapse of the 2020 football season, we approached the 2021 season with caution. None of us were able to predict the future, but in May, when the University of Florida announced the stadium would be at full capacity for football games, we decided to begin season pass sales.

We chose to move forward with an earlier idea of numbering our lot so the spaces would be more valuable. The first step for this project was mapping the lot. Bids were reviewed and accepted, and the lot was finished in time for the first home football game. In the meantime, those purchasing season passes were asked to choose their top 3 choices for their space. Long time parkers flooded to purchase and choose their "typical" parking space! We were reminded that football has a following and the fans are ready to attend the game, they are ready to tail gate, and they are ready to support Christian Family Services!

With 137 season pass holders (up from 94 in 2019), we will brag about how the lot was sold out BEFORE the day of the game (3 times to date!), we can boast that CampusView supplied all the volunteers for the events, but most of all, we thank the One from Whom all blessings flow.

We have been overwhelmed. We have been blessed. We are thankful.



HAPPY RETIREMENT!



Leavy Howard retired from the University of Florida after 35 years of full-time service and an additional 5 years of part-time service at the very beginning of his career. He is a special brother who spends a significant amount of time on his knees pulling weeds and helping to make the grounds at the CampusView church beautiful.

With a heart for children, Leavy is a huge supporter of the CFS Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraiser on a continual basis, and collects change throughout the year to donate to the CFS ministry. He also assists people to keep their homes and yards looking great in exchange for them making a donation to the CFS ministry. His immediate plans after retirement are to keep doing...helping the Church by keeping the landscape looking good and helping others who need their weeds pulled at home.

Leavy loves his wife. He loves the Church. He loves his brothers and sisters in the Lord, and he enjoys the fellowship of the Saints. Leavy wants to spend his time serving others during his retirement. CFS, and all the babies, moms and families we serve, are blessed by Leavy's commitment to the ministry.



"Debbie was gifted with several cards from past adoptive families after the celebratory meal"

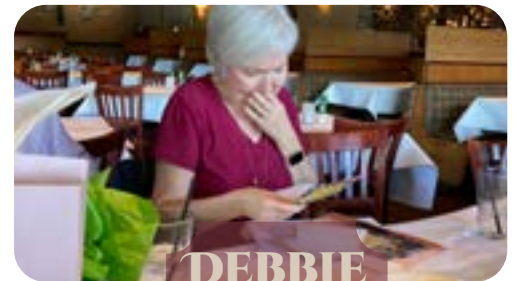
CFS staff and Board members recently gathered for a surprise luncheon for Debbie Callens. Debbie began working for Christian Family Services as a contract caseworker in February of 2000 and transitioned to work as a CFS caseworker in 2003, retiring in December 2020. Debbie was gifted with several cards from past adoptive families.

"Social Workers change the lives of many in just one day, imagine the impact made in a lifetime career?"

Author Unknown

Debbie's role in the ministry was working with expectant mothers and adoptive families. In this manner, she witnessed the entwining of families for the life of a child. Past Birth Mothers contacting CFS ask for updates on Debbie and have shared their pleasure of working with her. Also Adoptive Families, thankful for Debbie's role in their life, have commended her work.

Debbie Callens has been a blessing to Christian Family Services' clients and staff. We miss her and know she will continue to bless others as she continues to serve the Lord.



DEBBIE



GOD'S HANDS

Written by Travis - A selection from Travis & Sarah's adoption story

Each bit of our story shows how God works without our knowledge.

One Monday, my wife and I began looking for a new car. After a long afternoon of test driving a dozen small SUV's, we decided we liked one and would return on Friday with our decision.

The next morning, just before 10:00, our adoption agency, CFS gave Sarah a call. "We have a little girl available for adoption." Sarah came rushing into my office and told me, "Stop working, we need to pray." CFS gave us an hour to make our decision; we prayed together, we prayed separately, we called Sarah's parents and gave them 10 minutes to pray.

We all heard the same thing in different ways, "She is yours." We called CFS and said "YES!, we will take her!"

Back to the car. They had already sold the car we liked, and we couldn't wait for them to get another one in. I found another one locally, so Sarah dropped me at the dealership while she began baby shopping! When the sales rep at the car dealership asked if I wanted to test-drive the car, I responded, "I need to get it home and packed; we are headed to Florida to adopt our little girl!"

In the midst of all of this, we informed our family, friends, neighbors and co-workers that we were headed out on an adventure. Joyful tears, arrangements to care for our animals while we were out of town, and driving advice that was given, but not heeded, we finally set

off to pick up our daughter. On our way to Florida, we decided on a name, Tirzah Lily, it means delightful (Tirzah) innocence, rebirth or abundance (Lily).

As we parked the car at the agency, we looked at each other in disbelief that this was really happening. Emotions flowing in a tizzy we walked to the door and were let in. We met Jasmine, and soon after, Donna. Jasmine left the room to get Tirzah. After what felt like an eternity, she came back with our little girl; and that was the moment that our lives changed forever!

After going through mountains of paperwork to make this baby our daughter, Jasmine confessed something to us. She didn't tell us beforehand, as she didn't want to sway our decision. She had prayed

over this little girl as she looked through the family profiles as she would typically do. She grabbed our profile, even though we stated we were most drawn to little boys. She couldn't get us out of her mind, and knew it was God that placed us there. One more confirmation that it was God.

Before we left Florida, we returned to CFS to meet up with Jerry. He gave us "permission" to take his little baby with us, but that we needed to remember he will always be "Papa Jerry." We told Jerry this story, saying we saw God's fingerprints in our adoption. Jerry said, "Those aren't God's Fingerprints, they're His Handprints!" The gravity, perfection, and completion of all of these events and how perfectly they fit together - there is no mistaking that God's Hands are all around Tirzah and our family!

Prayer unlocks the power of Heaven, and shakes the gates of Hell
Author Unknown

FALL CORNER



CFS STATS

JANUARY-SEPTEMBER

Number of Expectant Women Contacting CFS
 Number of Expectant Women CFS Worked With
 Number of Contacts From Expectant Moms
 Number of Contacts From Past Birth Mothers
 Number of Contacts With Adoptive Families
 Number of Contacts With Past Adoptive Families

Total

106
 116
 389
 145
 297
 102

Hours

Time Spent With Current Expectant Moms
 Time spent With Past Birth Mothers
 Time Spent With Adoptive Families
 Time Spent With Past Adoptive Families

287
 44.4
 277
 22.4

Total Traveled miles 18,914
 Total Traveled Time 187 Hours

RECENT FINALIZATIONS

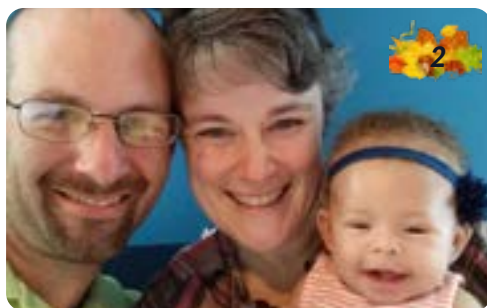


1. July 27, 2021

Georgia Elyzabeth became the little sister of Gabriel, the younger child of Kate and Ryan. Gabe was able to discuss Pokemon with Her Honor, Judge Ferrero during the court proceedings

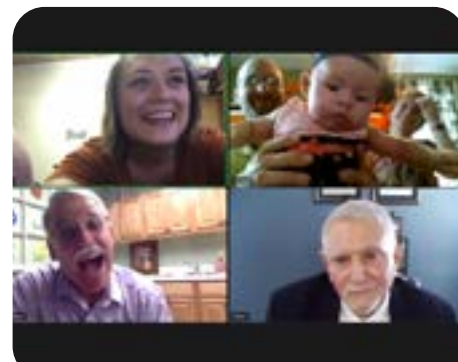
2. August 10, 2021

Tirzah Lily shares the last name of her parents after the court proceeding that officially made her their daughter. Find the Tirzah she was named after in Number 26:33; 27:1-11!



3. August 24, 2021

Mason James is welcomed by big brother Colin, and parents Joshua and Rachael. All three of these guys share a middle and a last name!!



Funny Finalization Photo:

The excitement of the finalization of Tirzah caught on the zoom meeting.



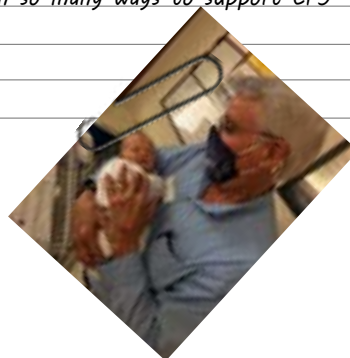
Jerry,

[we are] Praising God, and very thankful that he has put us in each other's lives. Thankful for you and the love you have for Christian Family Services and the ministry for babies, birth mothers and fathers, and adoptive families.

Just finished reading (word for word) the recent CFS Family Times Newsletter. Excellent article about Jasmine carrying on during your well - deserved vacation, and the impact she has on everyone. Thankful for Jasmine, for answered prayers on her behalf, and for her continuing devotion and service to so many. Also grateful for your acknowledgment of the many volunteers who serve in so many ways to support CFS. Have a wonderful and blessed day.

Jimmie & Barbara

(Letter from the CFS Board President)



"I so vividly remember seeing him for the first time in the hospital...it's just such a privilege to be his mom and hold his hand through this new "big kid" time of his life. He is such a gift and we love him so much."

Monica- CFS Adoptive mother



Before Ashley signed the Adoption Consents, Jerry asked if there was anything he or anyone else could say to make her change her mind. Ashley responded, "No. Adoption is the best option for me and my child."



CFS Babies Grow Up

Celebrate! The CFS office has heard reports of several recent baptisms of past "CFS Babies."

"Abby Mc" committed her life to Christ during a camp she and her family were attending.



dad Wesley and "Nadia"

2016

"Nadia" & papa Jerry



2021

"Nadia" recently decided to commit her life to the Lord and was baptized by her father, Wesley, at their home congregation in Starkville, MS.



Baptism



Raised to new life

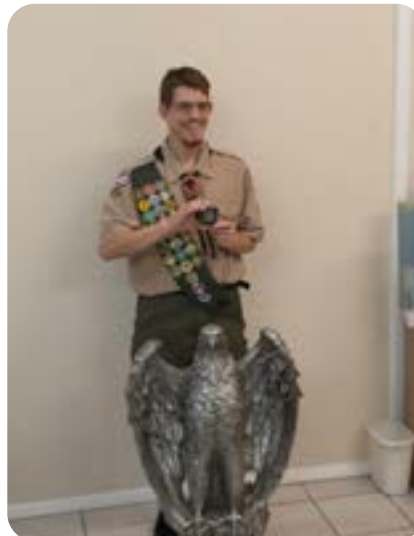
This is "Abby M", who was baptized the same day as Nadia.



"See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" Acts 8:36

A milestone achieved:

The 21st merit badge has been earned! "Zachary" achieved Eagle Scout rank this past summer.



JUNE-SEPTEMBER

IN MEMORY OF

John Adams

Deana Brannan

Kathy Barnett

Deana Brannan

Kyle Butts

Deana Brannan

Shirley Barfield

John & Nyoka Anthony

Francis Booth

Ken & Cathy Harvey

Gene Catterton

Genie White

Mickey Cawthorn

Paul & Frances Ann Beane

Sherry Cooper

Carl & Melissa Vinson

Susan Dannelley

Steve Alexander

Jacquelyn Bailey

Marcus Bailey

Sharon Bailey

Billie DeView

Charles Dannelley

Vickie Dannelley

Christa Denson

Paul Grimes

Lisa Hamilton

Lisa D. Nash

Danielle Peters

Olivia Pope

Robert Roubion

Southern Scarlett

Joe Davis

Deana Brannan

Erik Heeres

Linda Case

Jim Hollingsworth

Ton & Jo Brown

Don & Donna Brooker

John & Gloria Cowart

Joel & Laurie Smyly

Carl & Annie Ruth Jacobsen

Linda Jacobsen

Leo Jamieson

Carl & Melissa Vinson

Deana Brannan

Lorraine Kaczor

Linda Case

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



IN LOVING MEMORY

Don Price passed to an eternal life on September 18, 2021. He served as an elder in the church, raised a family of four with his wife, and served 24 years on the Board of Christian Family Services. Originally from Indiana, he settled in Gainesville and had a fulfilling career at the University of Florida.

God's gifts to Don of wisdom, discernment, faithfulness, and steadfastness gave him the ability to serve the Lord and His church throughout his life. Don said that nothing he achieved in life would have been possible without his reliance on the Lord and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Of all his endeavors, what mattered most to Don was his family. Don and Joyce were married for 58 years, and were a Godly example of love and marriage to all that were blessed to spend time with them.

CFS will miss Don during board meetings and his impact on decision making. Don enjoyed hearing of the success of Game Day Parking, a fundraiser for CFS! Once during UF Homecoming, Don thought opening the lot for an evening event could bring in more income. After hours of attending an empty lot, he and one



*"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
John 13:34-35*

other volunteer declared, "well that was a bust!" When called on to pray at board meetings, Don always asked God to send women to work with CFS. When the board president called for a motion, Don was there and ready to "so move" and urge the meeting on. Along with other board members, Don offered insight into setting the fee structure for an adoptive placement. Using the benefit of the Income Tax Credit for Adoptive Families, Don once stated, "a family who qualifies for the credit can *recoup* their (adoption) fees in the time allotted (by the US tax law)."

JUNE-SEPTEMBER
IN MEMORY OF
CONTINUED

Carlos Miller

Janice Miller

Roberta Means

Deana Brannan

Kathryn McKenzie

Deana Brannan

Edna Reavis

Deana Brannan

Don Price

Don & Donna Brooker

Kelly Cofer

Brodie Foster

Steven Edwards

Gerald Isaacs

Mark Leichner

Melissa Marek

Jon Moultrie

Allen Palmer

Mark Pipkin

Ryan Tucker

Newberry Quarterback Club

The Highlands Church of

Christ Praise Team

Sharon D. Shanton

Raymond Shanton

Heather Lea Turney

Linda Jacobsen

Ronnie Weisenbach

Linda Case

Michael Winkler

Don & Donna Brooker



Staff

Jerry D. Callens, Exec. Director & Caseworker
Donna L. Brooker, Ministry Assistant
Jasmine Pierce, Caseworker
Becky Barclift, Bookkeeper
John & Charlotte JeBailey, Cradle Care
Katy Horton, Social Media & Graphic Design

Board of Directors

Jimmie Brunson
Jackie Collins
Fran Poppell
Rick Worley

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