

CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICES FAMILY TIMES



VOLUME XLV ISSUE III

FALL 2022

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS...

Most people don't realize how truly difficult and heart breaking it is for a mom to choose adoption for her baby. She might get a "that was so good of her to give her baby to a family that could raise him," or "I'm glad she didn't abort her!" But that's it. The attention, focus and kindness isn't directed towards mom. It's all for the adoptive family. It's all for the baby being raised in a two-parent, Christian home. Yet, without the birth mom, there would be no adoption to begin with. The **birth mom** becomes an afterthought, an assumption of "she didn't want her baby, she's fine living her life now."

My prayer is that Deana's* (*not her real name*) story changes that for you. Deana and her boyfriend, Evan, had been together for 9 years. They had a daughter that her mom and stepdad were raising due in large part to financial strains. Deana had a steady job, but couldn't save enough money for first/last month's rent plus security deposit, so they were living in a hotel paying week-to-week. She still had custody of her daughter, but this wasn't the environment or life she wanted for her. When she found out she was pregnant again, she went to her mom. Unfortunately, Deana's mom wasn't able to help. Deana kept searching, asking, praying and hoping someone in their life could help. Finally,

when she was 38 weeks pregnant and scheduled for a C-Section the following week, Deana called Christian Family Services to learn about adoption.

Jasmine and Kim met with her and Evan the following day. It was evident Evan didn't want to do this. He only stayed inside for part of the meeting before going back to their car, putting the full weight of this decision on Deana. Deana didn't want to choose adoption either, but knew they weren't in a place to raise another baby. They had no family or friends willing to help, and Deana refused to bring a baby back to their hotel. Evan wasn't working, and Deana would have to miss 6 weeks of work after her C-Section. There was a chance they'd end up homeless, and she didn't want that for her baby. So, after talking for several hours and filling out some basic family medical information, Jasmine showed her several adoptive family profile books, and she found the perfect family.

The P Family was called the following day. They were ecstatic and started making plans to travel to Florida in 5 days. Everyone got to meet in the hospital, and the adoptive family even got to meet Deana's mom. The most special moment though, was that the adoptive mom was able to be with Deana during

the C-Section. The P Family was able to have a room in the hospital, and baby girl went back and forth between them and Deana.

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Jasmine holds Baby Girl



Deana Peeks in at Baby Girl after signing consents

PUBLICATIONS

Two major publications in the brotherhood reached out to Jerry this year for interviews.

In January, **Pat Brush** interviewed Jerry about the ministry of Christian Family Services. Her article was published in *Disciples Today*, January 31, 2022, "*Christian Family Services Walks the Second Mile, Finds Forever Families.*"

In June, **Audrey Jackson** of *The Christian Chronicle* interviewed Jerry and several other Directors of Christian adoption agencies. The article "*Roe v. Wade overturned: What's next*" was e-published in June, and printed in Vol 79/#8, August 2022.



Holding a newborn following an adoption, Jerry's photo was featured in The Christian Chronicle. (Details on the left) Click Photo to read story

FALL 2022



Kim Feeding Baby Girl

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS... CONT.

Then, the day of discharge and the day Deana was supposed to do paperwork, her sister-in-law stepped up and said she could help them out and give them all a place to live. This was what Deana spent 37 weeks trying to arrange, it was what she needed to parent. She could no longer go through with the adoption.

Understandably, the P family was devastated. They had to return home empty handed. Jasmine saw Deana a couple weeks later, and the love and relief she had to have baby girl with her was overwhelmingly evident. She asked about the P Family, and felt horrible, but she couldn't go through with the adoption when things were looking up. Jasmine wished her well and reminded her to call and stay in touch.

When baby girl was about 2 months old, Deana called Jasmine again. She explained that nothing was working out how she'd hoped. Evan was in jail, Deana was in a Domestic Violence shelter, and baby girl was with Evan's sister. This wasn't the life she envisioned for her daughter, and not what she wanted. She said she tried to make it work, but it wasn't and she wanted baby girl safe. The only way she could go through with the adoption was if the P Family still wanted to raise her. They of course said yes.

Deana signed paperwork the following day, and the P Family once again made their way down to Florida. They called, texted and FaceTimed with Deana during their long drive, assuring her that they were on their way and couldn't wait. Deana made sure they knew her favorite blanket, her likes and dislikes, and her routine. She also gave the P Family an entire trunk load of baby supplies, clothes and gifts she had gotten for baby girl.

While the P Family questioned "Why? Why did it have to happen this way?" CFS was able to see it objectively, hear the intimate details, and see the love, pain and heartache in Deana's eyes. We understood the "Why?" In order to not regret her choice of adoption, Deana had to try to parent. She had to try to make it work. She had to be able to say she did everything she could to raise and parent her daughter. However, she also had to know who to call and where to turn to when it didn't go according to her plan. She had to have met the P Family. She had to have seen the love and care they showed to baby girl. She had to know who her parents would be. When baby girl grows up, the P Family will be able to tell her that adoptive mom saw her be born. They'll be able to tell her that her birth mother loved her and tried as hard as she could to raise her, but just wasn't able to.

Two months Earlier at the hospital, Deana, the P Family, nor CFS knew how everything would play out. Yet God knew. He had a plan none of us could see. I can't help but think of my favorite verse, Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you..." God knew exactly what Deana needed. He knew the exact plans for her, for baby girl and for the P Family. And hopefully, more people now know just how hard the choice of adoption is for birth moms.

Jasmine Pierce

WAYS TO DONATE TO CFS...



GAME DAY PARKING

A FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING CFS

The 39th year of the Parking fundraiser is in session-or should we say "season?" Fall of 1993 is the first record of providing parking during UF home football games. Past volunteers recall the time when it was important to get as many vehicles onto the lot as it could hold, for \$10 per vehicle. Eventually, Season Passes were offered, tailgating became popular, and the fundraiser dealt with changes as they occurred. In 2021, the lot was numbered, providing 184 asphalt spaces to be sold in advance. The first 3 games of this season were sold out before the day of the game!

Before, during, and after the event. Volunteers are a must to make it a success. Volunteers prepared the passes for mail out in the middle of the summer. Sweat Equity by volunteers and staff prepared the lot for football fans. Young and young at heart, volunteers from CampusView Church helped direct vehicles on the lot the day of the events.

While the fundraiser provides monetary support to the ministry, it also serves to spread the news of what Christian Family Services is about. Each vehicle receives a "CFS Baby of the Day" card, sharing how a selfless mom chose adoption for her child.

Interested volunteers may reach out to CFS at 352-378-6202 or ChristianFamilyServicesFlorida@gmail.com.



Jasmine and Jerry working hard to get the parking lot ready for Game Day Parking



50 MAGICAL YEARS TOGETHER

Jerry and wife Debbie take a break for their 50th Anniversary photo. How appropriate that their honeymoon location was also celebrating 50 years!



HOW TO DONATE TO CFS USING YOUR IRA:

For many people the “Required Minimum Distribution” (RMD) from their IRA’s increases their taxable income. If you are 70 1/2 or older, you are permitted to “direct” distributions from your traditional IRA’s to a registered charitable organization, such as CFS. The amount that you have transferred to charity will qualify toward your required minimum distribution for the year and distributions are excluded from taxable income.

This method of “giving” could also have other side benefits, such as:

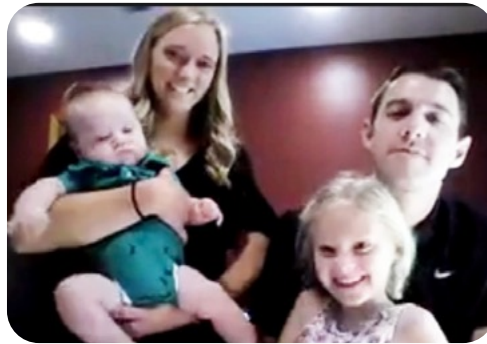
- Allowing you to give more
- Lowering your marginal tax bracket
- Reducing your taxable income
- It might even reduce the amount of taxation on your Social Security benefits.

Check with your financial advisor or someone knowledgeable for help submitting your request.

FINALIZATIONS



Sebastian Lee McBride officially became the son of Danny & Virginia. 05/24/2022



Daniel & Tess were pleased to Zoom into their court appearance to add James Daniel to their family, making Winnie a big sister! 05/15/2022



Reid Lawrence waited several months before he joined his parents in court for his finalization. When 06/15/2022 finally arrived, first time parents Alex & Kacy were pleased to share their last name with their firstborn.

APRIL-SEPTEMBER IN MEMORY OF

John Richard Allen
Linda Allen

Leta Bigham
Linda Case

Herschel Bass
Anonymous

Randy Beam
Carl & Melissa Vinson

David Blich
Anonymous

Merriam Brooker
Inez Brooker
Sue Rowand

Jimmy Cobb
Mary Ellen Callens

Kenny Coleman
Bill & Mary Freeman

Harold Doddington
Leo & Beatrice Hines
Elizabeth Parker
Joanne Pohlman
Thomas Pohlman
Richard & Elizabeth Wright

Viola Dyce
Joyce Price

Thelma Edenfield
Anonymous

Ron Gastin
Carl & Melissa Vinson

Ruth Barnett Garret
Linda Case

Sparky Michael Garrison
Linda Case

Jimmy Givens
Anonymous

Nettie Hadley
Bob & Fran Poppell

Carl & Annie Ruth Jacobsen
Linda Jacobsen

Joe Jacobsen
Jack & Margie Givens
Linda Jacobsen
Carl & Melissa Vinson

Dale Lasseter
Carol & Melissa Vinson

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THE CFS BOARD GROWS

The Board of Directors prayed for new members, and early in 2022, two qualified candidates were added to the board.

One of the new members is Sherri Daume of Tallahassee, FL. Born in San Diego, California, she was raised in a "Navy family," in three states and two foreign countries. Sherri and her husband have two grown children and 2 grandchildren.

Sherri shared that Jesus saved her when she was 31, when she visited a church where they "taught what the Bible teaches." God has gifted her with years of experience with women and men facing an unplanned pregnancy. She hopes to share what God has taught her about caring for those "living in the margins," as she serves on the CFS Board.

As she works as the Director of Client Services at A Women's Pregnancy Center (AWPC) in Tallahassee, Sherri

stated "I LOVE my job and am blessed beyond measure that God allows me to do this work. To Him be all the Glory!" She stewards client care for 3 facilities of that ministry (AWPC, Mosaic Clinic and the Belly Boutique).

Like the CFS Board members she joins, Sherri wants people to know that Jesus is the Hope in their circumstances.



"So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory"
Psalms 63:2 ESV

PLACEMENT

Kennedy Nathaniel was placed with his forever parents, Travis & Morgan. 05/19/2022



APRIL-SEPTEMBER

HONOR TO:

Don Brooker

Inez Brooker

Jerry & Debbie Callens:
50th Anniversary

Joshua & Rachael Dannelley

Jimmie & Barbara Brunson
Guardian Ad Litem

Baptist Health Systems

The New Mothers to be!

Ed & Jo Murphy

APRIL-SEPTEMBER

IN MEMORY OF

Continued

Bennilene Pennisi

*Don & Donna Brooker
Jimmie & Barbara Brunson
Steve Edwards
Carolyn Jackson
Gerald Langford
Constance Niblock
Joyce Price
Polly Smith
The Tennessee Vaughn Family
Usher Family
Quinn Waters*

Libbie Richardson

Quinn Waters

Era Ross

Leo & Beatrice Hines

Nancy Smith

Bob & Fran Poppell

Robert D. Spainhower

Joan Spainhower

George Summer

Edward & Karen Oliver

Jack & Dorothy Waters

Suzanne Adams

Mary Watts

Bob & Fran Poppell

Vaulda Whiddon

Anonymous



Staff

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

Board of Directors

Jimmie Brunson
Jackie Collins
Sherri Daume
Ramon Osejo
Fran Poppell
Rick Worley

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CHRISTIANFAMILYSERVICES.COM

YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE

Save a baby's life & bless them with a Christian Family through the Ministry of *Christian Family Services.*

MY INVOLVEMENT

My Monthly Pledge: to sustain the ministry throughout the year:

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

My One Time Gift Today: to meet immediate needs.

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other _____

This donation is sent in memory or honor of: _____

Please notify: Name _____ Relationship to Honoree _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Check Included

Automatic Monthly Giving: Check Credit Card Debit Card

Signature _____ Date _____

Credit Card: MasterCard/Visa

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____

Signature _____



