



FAMILY TIMES

Volume XXXV Issue 1

March 2013

*Christian
Family
Services*

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FORGOTTEN PARTNER:

We talk a lot about mothers who **you** help us to work with. All too often, very little is said, or attention given to the "fathers." Sometimes they can't be found or choose not to be involved in birth mom's dilemma.

It seems that lately, that trend has changed. We suddenly find ourselves working with a number of birth fathers, most in a good way. We recently worked with an older couple (40's) that both work and have grown children. While the birth mom chose to detach & distance herself as much as possible from the situation, the birth father chose to be very involved and intentional. This was a very honorable man who struggled with what "other people" and especially the child might think of him later on. He needed to be assured that he was not forsaking his manly responsibilities, but rather making a sacrificial, loving choice for his child's best welfare. **You** helped provide the counseling and encouragement he needed to choose to support the birth mother's plan and do what he was convinced was best for the child in the long run. The Christian family that **your** prayers helped provide has agreed to maintain contact with him through the years.

Your support is making it possible for us to work with a young couple right now who is due soon. They have a 2 yr old daughter and after we started working with them, they got married. Again, it is the father who is the primary communicator.

(Continued on page 8)

Donate online @
ChristianFamilyServices.com/donation.htm


CELEBRATE WITH US!

May 29, 2014

Christian Family Services
will be turning 35!

*More information to come
this coming year!*

Honor the Mother in Your Life!



Honor your special someone for Mother's Day, Father's Day or any special occasion with a honorarium to CFS. By doing so you minister to other moms and their children.

One Family's Decision Changes Many Families Lives!

David and Ronda Galloway could feel that God was calling them. They just did not realize how much He would change their lives once they took that step to follow His call.

In April of 1991, the Galloway family became officially licensed in the state of Florida to be foster parents for Christian Family Services. They received their first foster child shortly after that and have been making a difference in the lives of countless adoptive families and birth parents ever since! Their daughters, Kara and Kristen, jumped right in from the start and helped with whatever was needed. Kara jokes that she knew how to change a diaper by the age of 6 and could efficiently multitask like any other adult!



CFS board president and staff with David, Ronda, and Gabriel Galloway

The Galloways have a wall of pictures in their home of all the children who have been a part of their home throughout the years. They can tell you their names and all the “remember when...” stories as if it were yesterday. And in many cases, they still keep in touch with the families.

CFS recently wanted to recognize them, along with their church, the Sanford church of Christ, for their ministry work as foster parents. They officially “retired” last year, although they are always wanting to be kept up to date on everything that is going on! We knew that it would have to be a surprise for them to let us honor them. Thank you to everyone who helped us keep it a secret!



Ronda, David and their son Gabriel with the Peppers, a forever family who surprised them from Alabama!

CFS tried to get in contact with as many of the families as possible that the Galloways have touched over the years. A special thank you goes out to every family who responded to our request for pictures and letters! It was wonderful to see how each child (and family!) has grown. Several families made the effort and were able to come to the banquet as well- another special surprise!

Christian Family Services is grateful for the work that David and Ronda have done in God's name for CFS. They have spent countless hours over the years: waiting in hospitals, changing diapers, sleepless nights, encouraging birthparents, and coaching new adoptive families along the way. They have provided assurance to those who were anxious or uncertain. They gave love to everyone they met. Thank you David, Rhonda, Kara and Kristen for letting God's light shine through your family!

Dear David and Ronda,
There are times when the words "thank you," seem inadequate; this is one of them. The mere words "thank you" could in no way convey the debt of gratitude we have towards you for caring for Brency from the time she left the hospital until we were able to pick her up when she was 15 days old...
Had you not been there Brency could have potentially not ended up with us. We cannot imagine our lives without her sweet, precious soul in them.
Thank you for keeping her safe, fed, clothed, bathed, loved and cherished until we could be united with her. Your character and commitment to children has been consistent and unwavering and the beautiful love of Christ has and continues to shine through you.
With our deepest gratitude & love,
Keith, Nicole & Brency

Recent Finalizations



DECEMBER 17, 2012

Mike, Barbara, and proud big brother Cameron are excited Judge Davis said *Chase Owen* is forever theirs!



DECEMBER 17, 2012

Jeremy and Nikki feel blessed to have *Ryland Cypress* officially a part of their family.



DECEMBER 17, 2012

Justin and Kim with their precious daughter *Lydia Joy*.

FEBRUARY 15, 2013

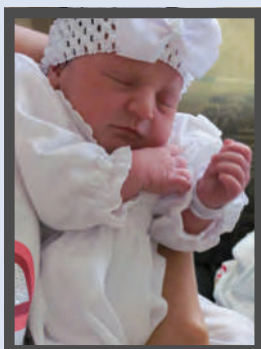
Matt and Hillery along with big sisters Halle, Ella, and Ava feel so blessed to have "Max" (Matthew Alex) as their newest addition to the family!



2012 Placements



Joshua Connor
Placed 01/09/2012



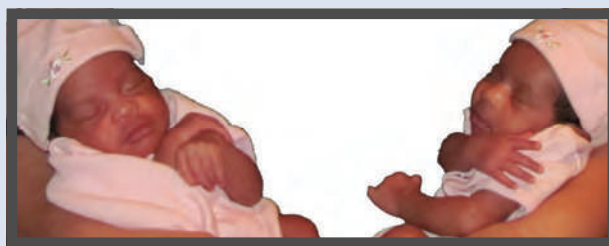
Gabrielle Grace
Placed 01/20/2012



Lydia Kathryn Eileen
Placed 4/21/2012



Madison Lynn
Placed 05/25/2012

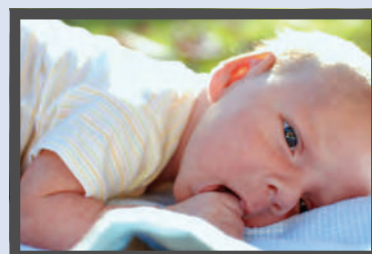


Carys Isabella & Lanay Irene
Placed 06/25/2012



Leon Flint
Placed 07/02/2012

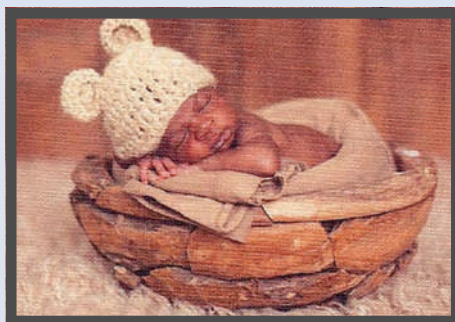
*"For every good and
perfect gift comes
from above."
James 1:17*



Ryland Cypress
Placed 09/06/2012



Lydia Joy
Placed 09/14/2012



Matthew Alex "Max"
Placed 10/17/2012



Chase Owen
Placed 11/05/2012

Recent Placements



FEBRUARY 3, 2013

Gabriel Lyn was CFS's first placement of the year and also the first temporary placement for our foster family the JeBailey's! "Baby Gabe" is waiting for his forever family to finish their home study.



MARCH 6, 2013

Adam and Jennifer with their precious new daughter *Kadence Rayne*.



The JeBailey family with sweet baby boy Gabriel. They are CFS's newest cradle care family. They feel so blessed to be able to provide love and care for Gabriel until he is placed with his forever family. After waiting for almost a year, God blessed them with their first temporary placement!

Right to Left-

Julia, Charlotte, Gabriel, Zayna, John and Jack.

Prayer Corner

Please join us in praying for the following:

For the *birth moms* we are working with who are facing difficult situations– unemployment and/or lack of family support

Praise for the birthfathers that we have been working with– that God will help us to give them what they need and that they are there for their partner/spouse

For those out there who are *facing an unplanned pregnancy*- that they might find us or someone else who is able to help them

For God's guidance for our *board members*

For *God's wisdom and guidance* for our case workers as they work with our birth moms and with our adoptive families

Thanking God for Our donors who make things possible

Check out our website progress!

Give us your feedback!

www.ChristianFamilyServices.com

Donors Make a Double Impact!

Christian Family Services is blessed to have donors who care about them! We have many who give on a regular basis- some weekly, monthly, quarterly or however works best for them. Some of you have also teamed up with your employers to double your gift. There are many companies that offer a matching gift program where an employee selects an organization to donate to and then their company will match (and in some cases triple) their gift. We have already seen an increase so far this year in matching gift donations. Because of you and your company, more women are able to find hope and we thank you!

From the President of the Board:

I hope this Newsletter finds each of you doing well.

The Spring season is here and it brings new life and growth to God's creation. Trees, flowers, etc., that were dormant are now coming to life. Seasons are mentioned in several places in the scriptures:

Genesis 8:22— "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

Psalms 104:19— "He made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting."

Daniel 2:21— "He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding."

In God's creation of the earth, we may prefer one season over the other, but there is a purpose for the different seasons.

In Ecclesiastes 3:2-8, the scriptures mention the seasons that we as people go through.

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing."

CFS has experienced many "seasons" in its 35 years of ministry and has come to have faith that some of the seasons, although not pleasant, will lead to many blessings. We believe that the season is upon us to do greater things in God's kingdom and seek your continued partnership (or maybe new!) through your prayers and support.

May God bless you,

Jesse T. Wilson

The staff at CFS have noticed an increase recently in birth fathers who are involved in the adoption process. Though the pregnancy was unplanned or unexpected, they are intentional in their response to their situation. These men have a different way of looking at things as well as different concerns than our birth moms. A *Women's Pregnancy Center* in Tallahassee, Florida is striving to meet that need. Jerry traveled in February to a training workshop where he was able to share his insight, wisdom, and experience from his 10 years of working with CFS. We were excited because they needed a male perspective for their group of volunteers who were being trained and we were told they were all men! We praise God for His answer to the need that is growing in our communities and we are thankful that CFS is able to help other centers such as *A Women's* because of you!

God Uses One Woman's Heart

CFS is constantly reminded who is in control. We see fluctuations in the number of birth moms we are ministering to go up and down while our adoptive families numbers seem to do the opposite. But as we get concerned, we realize that God has once again provided what we need. This past December was no different as we were getting ready for the end of the year which included closing out our books and looking ahead to preparing the budget for the coming year. Once again, we were concerned and even wondered how long we could continue how we were functioning. We have seen an increased need with the birth moms we work with for their necessities of life. Was there going to be more of an increase this next year? Could we continue to help them as they truly needed? While we never thought the doors would shut, it was still difficult. Then God reminded us who was in control as He blessed us through one generous donor who decided that it was time to bless those she had on her heart. We were reminded yet again who is in control and it is He who can use one person to make a difference!

Baby Bottles Are Coming!

It is that time of year again! We have several churches that are already starting their Baby Bottle Campaigns and others that will be starting them soon. Last year, the campaign raised \$12,406.05. This is our second largest fundraiser of the year after Gator Game Parking and it is a great way to make a difference for CFS!



Like to get involved, but your church doesn't have a Baby Bottle Campaign? Ask us how you can get one started! You can do it anytime of the year and we give you all the materials you need- from posters to help get the word out, announcement ideas, and of course, baby bottles!

(Continued from page 1)

He is extremely conscientious and carries the heavy burden of supporting his wife's wishes and doing what he truly believes in his heart is best for everyone in the family (including this baby). He is working tirelessly to provide for his family since she can no longer work because of the pregnancy. Please be praying for this couple, their baby, and the soon to be new forever family.

These are but two examples of the lives that **YOU** are touching and changing through **your** involvement with CFS. Please, don't stop praying for this ministry! **Your** financial support is critical to our efforts. Check out our new website and "Like" us on Facebook. Get family and friends to visit and "Like" us as well.

 <https://www.facebook/ChristianFamilyServices.Inc>

-Jerry

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MEMORIAL OR HONOR GIFT

The enclosed gift of \$ _____ is given in Memorial Honor

Of _____

PLEASE NOTIFY:

Name: _____

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For Honor Gifts — Occasion: _____