

# CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICES FAMILY TIMES



VOLUME XLV ISSUE III

FALL 2023

## A MOM'S CHOICE

*"Carrie wants a family with pets!"* Kim shared this important detail with CFS staff when she returned to the office.

Kim had been meeting with Carrie for several weeks. She was an expectant mom, working and raising a daughter. After Kim got to know Carrie and understood her reasons for wanting to place her baby for adoption, it was time to show Carrie profiles of adoptive families. While reviewing profiles, Carrie asked Kim if any of the families had pets. Usually a family shares such information in their book and one did have pets. We needed to know if the others had added a pet to their family since we received their book. Giving an expectant mom her choice of families is one way CFS Caseworkers meet the needs of expectant moms.

Once a woman makes an adoption plan for her baby, CFS caseworkers provide support to her in several ways. CFS Caseworkers meet regularly with clients to discuss options for their pregnancy. Some women make adoption plans and discover they have the ability to raise the child on their own, others discover family support during the pregnancy, and some recognize either they cannot raise the child on their own or believe their child would be better raised by an adoptive couple. Discussing parenting, or an alternative parenting plan, such as adoption, gives insight to the client and the CFS Caseworker. A client who wants to parent, even though she has made an adoption plan, can always change her mind. CFS Caseworkers can help her explore available community resources. Clients who have thoroughly explored their options and determined that adoption is the best choice for their baby are more likely to follow through with placement.

Food, transportation, a place to live and a phone that works are several other ways the needs of a CFS expectant mom are met. CFS Caseworkers discuss such needs with clients who have made an adoption plan for their baby. What are reasonable expectations to

meet such needs in north Florida? Prices have increased across the board. Rent for expectant women who are looking for housing have skyrocketed this past year!! You have probably experienced food and fuel increases for your own needs, imagine what it is like facing these expenses without guaranteed employment? This is what CFS expectant moms face. Assisting moms with these fundamental needs during and shortly after their pregnancy help them to get back on their feet financially after placement. It also shows them the love of Christ, who met the basic needs of many who followed Him during His ministry.

And so we return to Carrie following her meeting with Kim. Was there a CFS waiting family with pets? As you probably already guessed, there were several! Carrie chose a couple with a variety of pets. Kim arranged a meeting between Carrie and the prospective adoptive family. This mom and adoptive couple shared their mutual enjoyment of animals. Then, they discussed their hopes and dreams for the child Carrie would place for adoption.

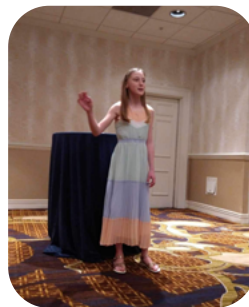
Will you give \$50 to help educate and train adoptive families for moms like Carrie? Will you give to provide an expectant mom a Christian Caseworker, one who will give her hope, give her options for her baby, give her emotional and physical support? Any and all donations make a difference and are appreciated. At this time we are greatly in need of monthly support to help with marketing. This is how we reach abortion minded women so that they can be given options for their pregnancy.



## UPDATES: OUR CFS ALUMNI



**Canaan** is 14 and earned a spot on the varsity football team his Freshman year!!



In addition to sports and good grades, eleven year old **Aubrey** is active in church. She was a finalist in song leading at Lads to Leaders!!



**Raleigh** is 10, plays flute, loves to read, and loves being outside with the family's goats!

FALL 2023

# A SAFE HAVEN FOR NEWBORNS:

The Safe Haven Law is a safety net that allows parents to leave their unharmed newborns, not more than a week old, at any Safe Haven facility recognized by state law, anonymously and without fear of prosecution.

It is dedicated to saving the precious lives of newborns from the dangers of abandonment and assisting pregnant girls and women in crisis. It has a 24/7 confidential and multilingual helpline. They have assisted more than 6000 mothers in need at no cost, and 371 Safe Haven babies and their new forever families. Christian Family Services has placed several Safe Haven babies for adoption into loving Christian homes.

Gloria Hope was the very first A Safe Haven for Newborns baby. Today, she is a college sophomore, and serves as an ambassador for the organization that saved her life. She shares an excerpt of a letter her birth mother wrote at her birth:

*"My Dearest, The first thing I know you are wondering is Why? Why? Because I love you. It might sound strange at first, but this is true. Darling, I want to give you the World but I can't so I'm hoping by doing this - placing you in Safe Haven you will be given the world. You see I myself was adopted at birth. Ever since I was little, I've known I was adopted and dearly loved. The moment you were placed in my arms I fell in love with you. I am so thankful to the team at A Safe Haven for Newborns. I had called them for help and guidance. They were so kind and non-judgmental. I have loved you my little one since I found out you were in my tummy and I will love you forever."*

For more information, visit the website: [www.asafehavenfornewborns.com](http://www.asafehavenfornewborns.com). The A Safe Haven for Newborns national hotline: 844-767-2229, and for Florida: 877-767-2229.



## FINALIZATIONS:



Enslee Gracelynn officially became the daughter of Chase & Lauren, making Grayson her big brother. May 9, 2023



Marzell Malichi's parents, Jesse & Jenna, made it official when they gave him their last name. May 23, 2023



Noah James formally became part of the family, joining parents David & Stephanie and brother Jack. May 23, 2023

“We appreciate your work for babies.”  
donor of items from the local community



Emma Grace is all smiles following her finalization, as are her parents, Drew & Callie while Will seems a little concerned. May 23, 2023

“God Bless you and all of the services you provide to young mothers and families.”  
Game Day Parking Patron





# A Summer Visit

The 541st baby was placed by CFS with an adoptive family in July! We are thankful to have been available for this Expectant Mom when she contacted CFS for help. We rejoice that this mom chose life for her baby, even though she knew placing her for adoption would be difficult.

While we enjoy being part of such special times with moms and families, we also enjoy receiving updates! We appreciate it when women who worked with CFS let us know what they are up to now. We rejoice with them on accomplishments and comfort them when disappointments are shared. Likewise, we are blessed to hear from adoptive families and see how the children have grown!

Brent and Courtney (a past CFS adoptive family) were traveling to Florida to show their daughter where she was born! Six year old Amelia was happy to pose in some of the more popular areas in the town where she was born.



Debbie & Jerry caught up with Courtney & Brent (and their daughters Caroline and Amelia) when they stopped in Gainesville!



This is one of Amelia in a "popular" location near where she was born (FSU stadium).

# PLACEMENT



Annabelle Grace became the first child of Keith & Elizabeth. March, 2023



Melody Hope was placed with parents Jason & Melissa on July 31, 2023

Courtney is good to text CFS encouraging messages, like: Think about y'all every day!

**C** Courtney  
2 reviews

★★★★★ 4 hours ago

When we were beginning our adoption journey almost 7 years ago, I was struck by how CFS truly cares about their moms whether they decide to parent or place. It truly sets this agency apart. These women are people and souls that are lovingly counseled and shown the love of Christ. The director, Mr. Jerry, is truly one of the most genuine humans I've ever met. I'm so thankful for the support we received from them when we adopted our daughter. But I am most especially thankful for the love and support her first mama was given during a very difficult time in her life.

MAY - AUGUST

## IN MEMORY OF

**Bill Bryant**

Tom & Jo Brown

**Robert Callens**

Bob & Sonna Mims

**Leroy Frison**

Janet Frison

**Betty Hicks**

Tom & Jo Brown

**Maroun "Mario" JeBailey**

Jerry & Debbie Callens

**Mary Kelly**

Tom & Jo Brown

Lou Kilgore

Jerry & Debbie Callens

**Don Price**

Max Blanks

**Bob Spainhower**

Joan Spainhower

**Shirley Tackett**

Jerry & Debbie Callens

**Melissa Vinson**

Deana Brannan

Teresa Hollingsworth

J. Rayburn

Bob & Fran Poppell

Charles & Elaine Reavis



## OTHER WAYS TO DONATE TO CFS...



### MAY - AUGUST HONOR TO:

**Jerry Callens - Happy Birthday!**

*Mary Ellen Callens*

**Jerry Callens-on his 20 year  
tenure at CFS**

*Mary Ellen Callens  
Don & Donna Brooker*

**Roy & Kathy Merritt-for their  
commitment to orphans  
in Africa**

*Bob & Carolyn Harrell*

**Bill & Lyuba Wharton-for  
their continual giving to the  
people of the Ukraine**

*Bob & Carolyn Harrell*

“

*We often read our adoption related children's books with both boys...We pray continuously that they will both understand the love and sacrifice of their birth families that has given us the opportunity to pour out our love and support into their lives.-*

”



**Rachael**

“

*“Thank you all so much for all of the great work that you do! What an incredible accomplishment to be saving babies and placing them in Christian homes (all while ministering to a mother in need) for 45 years! We feel honored to be a part of this ministry in this small way. Prayers for continued success and blessing on this program!”*

”

**A CFS donor**

### Staff

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**Donna L. Brooker**, Ministry Assistant  
**Kim Tang**, Caseworker  
**Becky Barclift**, Bookkeeper  
**Katy Horton**, Social Media & Graphic Design  
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