

CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICES FAMILY TIMES

VOLUME XLVII ISSUE: I



SPRING 2025

From the desk of
Mandy Harrell
Executive Director

Greetings,

As we end the first quarter of 2025, I want to update all of you on our work at Christian Family Services. We spent time in January preparing for our annual licensing review, which went smoothly and ended with a successful license renewal in February. Our review specialist was very complimentary and encouraging, which was a relief since it was my first review.

We hosted a training in January for prospective adoptive families and trained volunteers on adoption in February at Sira, a local pregnancy center. In addition, we met with the University of Florida's new Perinatal Mobile Clinic, and were able to help a mother with a newborn in the NICU with some parenting and transportation needs.

Sadly, one of the mothers we had been working with experienced a stillbirth in February. CFS supported this mother in her time of need and assisted with burial costs. Please pray for comfort and healing for this mother. We are currently working with several other expectant mothers who have made adoption plans. We have prioritized working with the fathers as well, and a few of them have chosen to support the expectant mothers' decisions and signed the necessary legal paperwork to allow the adoption plans to proceed uncontested.

We also welcomed intern Taylor Stiff, who is a member of CampusView Church. She is a senior at the University of Central Florida, and has jumped right in to help with many things. We continue to spend time meeting with pregnancy centers, hospitals, and other potential referral sources. Please pray that CFS will be considered when these places have parents who would benefit from our services.

On April 12, we are cohosting a training on open adoption with Caring Choices, another local agency. We look forward to continuing to serve women with unplanned pregnancies as they decide what is best for their children. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Sincerely,

Mandy



SPRING 2025

Taylor Stiff is interning with Christian Family Services this Spring. She's from Gainesville, and a member of CampusView Church. This May she will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. She hopes to use her degree to enhance the mental health field, counsel the community and be a safe space for God's people. She shared: "I am very excited to be working with CFS and continue to learn from them. As far as plans after I graduate, I don't have any. I want to enjoy the life God has blessed me with through volunteering at the Orlando youth camp this summer and working a new art job. I know whatever God has planned for me this next year is according to His will. Jeremiah 29:11 reads "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."



BRIDGING THE GAP

On March 7, I had the privilege of hosting the Christian Family Services booth at a special event to benefit the Pregnancy Care Center in Lake City. The event, titled Bridging the Gap: From Brokenness to Healing, was organized by my talented friend, Afton Brown. It was an evening of truth, beauty and hope. The guest speaker of the night, Dr. Patti Giebink, MD, traveled from Sioux Falls, SD to share her journey from abortion doctor to passionate advocate for life. After her moving words came the premiere of the short documentary Beyond the Ultrasound, which offered a behind-the-scenes look at the Pregnancy Care Center and highlighted the incredible work done by pregnancy centers every day. The evening also featured the debut of Afton Brown's music video "I Didn't Know (Luna's Story)," which portrayed her personal journey of healing after abortion. The program included beautiful dance performances, accompanied by women sharing cardboard testimonials about their experiences with placing a child for adoption, miscarriage, infant loss, and abortion. Afterward, attendees enjoyed a meet-and-greet market featuring local vendors and resources for women facing unplanned pregnancies.

My favorite part of the evening was seeing the involvement of so many young people. Sebastian Talley, a talented high school entrepreneur, served as both Director and Director of Photography for the documentary "Beyond the Ultrasound" and the "I Didn't Know" music video. Just days after the event, "I Didn't Know" won the Best Young Filmmaker award at the Christian Worldview Film Festival 2025



Angie, with older daughter, Hannah, at Bridging the Gap in Lake City, Florida.

in Albany, GA. Young local dancers also showcased their talents throughout the show. The vendor market featured five young entrepreneurs selling items like floral arrangements, baked goods, doll clothing, and woodworking pieces. These young individuals generously contributed their time and talents to this special event, offering hope that the future of the pro-life movement is in capable hands.

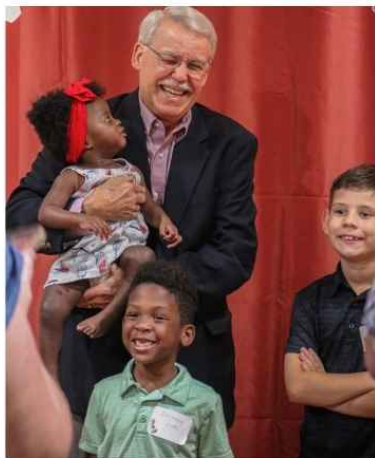
NOVEMBER-MARCH MEMORIALS

- John & Ester Bryant**
James & June Garrett
- Kenny Coleman**
Bill & Mary Freeman
- Millie Couch**
Linda Case
- Junior Daniels**
Linda Case
- Wallace Evans**
David & LuAnn Evans
- JoAnn Gottschall**
Wes & Melissa Mallory
- Henry Hatcher**
Linda Case
- Lucille Higgins**
Linda Case
- Juanita Jackson**
Linda Case
- Carl & Annie Ruth Jacobsen**
Linda Jacobsen
- Joe Jacobsen**
Linda Jacobsen
- Robert Johnson**
Linda Case
- Mindy Knuckles**
Bob & Carolyn Harrell
- Sam Laing**
Jimmie & Barbara Brunson
- Gail Long**
Jimmie & Barbara Brunson
- Don Price**
*Max Blanks
Dorothy Coar*
- Joe Vincent Roberts**
Linda Case
- Rebecca Thompson**
Jason & Michelle Strickland
- Heather Turney**
Linda Jacobsen
- Ray Wells**
Linda Case
- Heavenly Placement**
CFS Baby Boy

CELEBRATING *Jerry*

Family and friends gathered on October 12, 2024, to congratulate **Jerry Callens** on his retirement. The first baby Jerry placed for adoption, now a young woman, and the last baby he placed, a two-month-old girl, were in attendance. Hugs, smiles, and a few tears were shed as memories were shared.

Thank you for celebrating Jerry's commitment to mothers, babies, and families with your cards and well wishes.





**IN HONOR OF
JERRY CALLENS**
 Fred & Susan Chelf
 Erma Izard
 Madie Mosley
 Michael Thornton

*Donations to CFS in honor
of Jerry were also noted in
the Fall Newsletter.*



Recent FINALIZATIONS



Wren Robert celebrated his finalization by visiting Disney World with parents **Josh & Rachel**.
October 29, 2024



Chandler Atlas received the last name of his parents, **Taylor & Cherith**, after his day in court.
December 19, 2024



Carter Lewis' finalization was held in the courthouse with parents **Matthew & Lauren**, and his older brother, **Braden** in attendance. CFS Executive Director **Mandy Harrell** was also able to attend.
October 29, 2024



Rowan Levi is the youngest of three children of **Austin & Morgan**. They celebrated his finalization with a photo in the snow.
December 19, 2024



Faith Lashey officially became the daughter of **Jesse & Jenna** and little sister of **Malachi**.
December 19, 2024

NOVEMBER-MARCH

HONOR TO:

Hilary

"Our beautiful daughter is a successful, talented and beautiful person. Forever grateful to God and to CFS for allowing us the privilege of being her parents."

Rick & Karen Hobler

Barbara Brunson

Kay Martin

Jeannie Shaw

In Honor of my sisters.

Carolyn Harrell

Mandy Harrell

Bob & Carolyn Harrell

Roy & Kathy Merrit

Bob & Carolyn Harrell



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Angie Smallwood, Caseworker
Becky Barclift, Bookkeeper
Katy Horton, Social Media & Graphic Design



NETWORK 1:27
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