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Christian Services
 of Oklahoma



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Visit us online!
 www.christian-adoption.org

Why Adoption Matters

Fall 2011

Occasionally I am asked by someone to explain the purpose of our ministry. The easy answer is that we exist to find families for children in need — whether through adoption or through foster care.

Almost 50% of pregnancies in the United States are unintended. Of those, over 40% end in abortion. The purpose of adoption is to give a parent facing an unplanned pregnancy an opportunity to give their child life and plan for their future by placing them into a loving, Christian home.

Adoption ministers to everyone involved. For a birth parent, it provides the chance to make a loving, responsible, and painful choice. It allows them to put the needs of their child before their own wants or desires. They are able to choose a family to raise their child, entrusting them to love and nurture the child as much as the birth parent does.

Adoption allows adoptive parents to grow or create their family. It also allows families to be obedient to the call of the Lord in James 1:27 to care for the orphans. Adoption lets adoptive parents be a part of the Lord's plan to "set the lonely in families" (Psalm 68:6). Adoption is the framework through which the Lord ensures that family-less children find families.

For children, adoption provides a Christian family. Families are God's perfect design. Through a family, children find love, nurture, and healing. Families provide the foundation of faith. Children are able to grow up in the optimal environment for success when they have a Christian family.

Adoption matters to us because it matters to God. What a blessing it is to be part of God's plan for all children to have families. At Christian Services of Oklahoma, we have the opportunity to help create families through domestic adoption, international adoption support services, and foster care. I invite you to join us in this special ministry.

We are currently in need of monthly partners. Your financial gift of any amount monthly makes a difference in the lives of children. Additionally, those making a monthly pledge of at least \$13 will receive a special monthly email keeping you up to date on our latest activities. You can use the enclosed envelope to make your pledge. Please make sure to include your email address.

*Holly Towers, LCSW
 Executive Director*



Congratulations to Brad Hanna, Wayne Gorman and Mitch Reida, winners of the 13th Annual Roofer's Golf Classic, which benefited Christian Services of Oklahoma. Over the past 13 years, the Oklahoma Roofing Industry has raised over \$100,000 for Christian Services of Oklahoma through the annual tournament!

Our Annual Auction raised over \$30,000 which met our goal and will help us continue our work through the rest of this year. Thanks to all who sponsored, donated and attended!



Christian Services of Oklahoma continues to partner with other agencies through the 111 Project. Through this unique initiative, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, the Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives, Christian Services, The Spero Project, and others are working to recruit 111 new foster families in 2011 from churches in the Oklahoma City area. Of the 79 families pledged through this project, 6 are working with Christian Services!

We recently launched a 2 hour orientation to prepare Christian families for the journey of foster care. For more information, visit our website at www.christian-adoption.org or visit www.111project.org.



Juan, Summer and big brother Romeo welcomed Aveyah into their family recently. Congratulations to this sweet family!





Foster Babies Find Forever Families

When our loving foster families welcome a new child into their home, they never know what the outcome of that placement will be. Often the children we place are reunified with family members or go onto another placement. There are those special times when our foster families are able to adopt the children placed in their home. This summer 3 of our families adopted their foster babies. We celebrate with these children and families and praise God for the families He has created.



Josh, Aubrey and big sister Mariah officially welcomed Jayden and Miles just a few weeks ago. Jayden was placed with his family when he was 6 months old and Miles when he was just 7 days.



Sweet Audrey joins three big brothers. Her parents Brian and Haley were thrilled with the addition of their baby girl who was placed with them at 3 weeks old.



Foster care coordinator Ashley Ousley is pictured with Elizabeth and her daughter Anna. Anna was placed with Elizabeth at 3 months old and her adoption was finalized in June.

Christian Services is excited to be participating in the United Way's Combined Federal Campaign this fall. Through this campaign, federal employees can designate charities and contribute directly through a payroll deduction each month.

Our United Way CFC code this year is 97545. We are always honored when you think of us in your giving!

Foster Parent Spotlight

Meet CSO's dedicated foster parents

Name: Derik and Leah, Jasmyn and Caroline

Occupations: Derik-Director of Sales
Leah-Administrator

What motivated you to become a foster parent? We hurt so much for the families that have their children taken into state custody. I can't imagine the child's pain & despair of being taken away from the only family they know. We know that if we could have some tiny part in the life of a child maybe Christ will use us to minister to the family. We want God's perfect will for these children and their families.

What is the most rewarding part of being a foster parent? Seeing families changed. We love the success that comes with families reunited. We also rejoice with foster families who are adopting the child they have been caring for. The reward of loving a baby who needs a safe home is more than enough!

What is the hardest part? Letting go and giving it all to God. As humans, we always like to believe we have some sort of "control" over situations. I have learned through many trials, that OUR wants



are not always GOD's wants. I give it all to him. He knows the situation. He loves the child. I trust his plan fully. Although difficult, it is also freeing.

What would you say to someone thinking of becoming a foster parent? Don't hold back. Even in all the ways I doubted, God took care of us. Instead of thinking of the "now" think of eternity. What could Christ do through you to impact His Kingdom. I will never regret this journey.

Tributes

Memorials

Donated by:

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