

Love Notes



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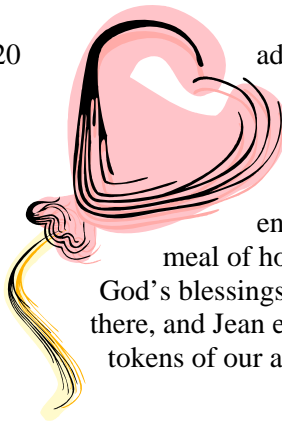
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Sharon Cole
Executive Director

CFS Twenty-Years “Forever Family Reunion”

On May 15, 2010, over 120 family members, staff gathered at the beautiful Hill, SC to celebrate our anniversary. Inflatables, music, and child-focused fun for our families. A shared as we celebrated Ray Veckruise were copies of her book as



adoptive parents, children, members, and volunteers Westminster Park in Rock ministry’s twentieth bounce houses, hay rides, entertainment made a day of meal of hot dogs and hamburgers were God’s blessings. Our founders, Jean and there, and Jean enjoyed autographing free tokens of our appreciation.

“INTO THE ARMS OF LOVE”

Jean Veckruise would like to give you a copy of her book, [Into the Arms of Love](#), which is full of heartwarming stories of our families. Contact us if you would like a copy. We only ask for \$ 5.00 to cover shipping costs.

A Way You Can Minister



Here is your opportunity to make a difference with the members of the SC Association of Pregnancy Care Centers (of which Christian Family Services is a member.) Proceeds from the sale of the vehicle license plates go to the association, to be distributed to member agencies, like CFS! If you would like to order a tag, go to your



Joe & Ann Ippolito
Foster Parents for Christian Family Services
on their 50th Wedding Anniversary
over
100 babies in 25 years

Welcome **Melanie Mosberg**, our social media coordinator. Melanie is alive with ideas for bringing CFS into the digital age, technology and reaching out to our birthmothers. Melanie comes to us with a wealth of experience and a heart for service. We are so excited to have her here!

What makes CFS so successful is that God is gifting to bring about His purposes. We are not receptionists, or administrators. Instead, we are a ministry of joy and hope.

local SCDMV and ask for your SC Citizens for Life "Choose Life" car tag.

Julie's Story

One afternoon in August, I picked Julie up from the mobile home she lived in, and took her and her 5 year old daughter to McDonalds. As we sat at the table in the play area, she was trembling. Her eyes were downcast, partially hidden by long bangs. There was a large gash from a knife on her lower leg that was trying to heal without the help of stitches, and an angry burn was healing on her other leg. She told me that she slept with a knife under her pillow; she was afraid, but he locked the gate at night, and she and her daughter were unable to climb the fence.

She had been separated from her husband for several years; he was presently in prison, and his mother was caring for her two oldest sons. Another son lived with his father's family. Her daughter, a ray of sunshine in her dark life, never knew her father. Julie was pregnant by a man who had also abandoned her. She told me that the man she was currently living with was a family friend; he was asking for "rent" in forms she did not want to give. She could barely talk when she told me that she wanted to leave.

We contacted Bill and Mary, a couple whose family has been touched by adoption. They once ran a bed and breakfast, and offered themselves as a "shepherding home." I picked Julie and her daughter up for another appointment, but this time she did not return to the mobile home. Hidden away in her daughter's tote bag of toys were Julie's toiletries and a change of clothes. She went to her new home that afternoon. A week later we returned with a law enforcement officer to retrieve the rest of her belongings.

At Bill and Mary's home, Julie and her daughter found a retreat, a place to heal. Her daughter was enrolled in Kindergarten and Julie began working on her high school diploma. She received free psychotherapy from a Christian counselor who helped her deal with the trauma of her abusive past. She received excellent prenatal care and obtained a long-needed pair of glasses.

Just before Christmas, Julie gave birth to a beautiful son, and placed him for adoption with a family that she selected for him. His adoptive parents told Julie that he would know Jesus, and he would also know her. As they were saying their final goodbyes, understanding adoption as only a 5 year old can, Julie's daughter patted the hand of infant brother, and told his adoptive mother that, "he knows you are his mama."

Julie returned to her shepherding family who agreed to let her live with them as long as she needed to. She grieved the loss of her son, but was comforted in knowing that she made a plan for him to have a future and a hope.

Julie found a job, and her shepherding family helped her purchase a vehicle, a van, because she needed room for four children; her sons were reunited with her! They helped her locate a house near theirs, and their church family helped refurbish and furnish the home. She has made high scores toward her diploma, and hopes to one day go to college to become a social worker or labor and delivery nurse.

I met with Julie recently, and we recalled where she was a year ago. Gone was the fear, replaced with a vibrant faith that is being nurtured by her shepherding family and the new friends she has met at their church. Gone is the trembling woman whose eyes would not meet mine. Her bangs were brushed back, revealing bright eyes and glowing skin that was complimented by makeup! Gone was the woman who could barely talk; her hands flew to express thankfulness to God for the changes in her life and quoted Scriptures that had sustained her during this time. She said, "Sharon, I am a butterfly!" Julie is a miracle of new life in a woman

A Note from Sharon:

If you have ever taken a look at this newsletter, you know the type of person gives to Christian Family. Here are some characteristics:

The generous: Some of our donors are wealthy, but one who gives to another is generous, and that is the key.

The committed: Our donors believe in the ministry as a way to put "feet to our faith" by making a decision regarding an unplanned pregnancy.

The loving: Our ministry desires to share the love of Jesus with those who give want to see hearts touched by Jesus.

The selfless: Our donors give to people they don't know, and the ultimate in selflessness; and we see that character in their lives.

If you haven't yet had the chance to join our ministry, please do so this time. An envelope is provided for your gift or check. We would love to have you on board. Every gift makes a difference!

Fill the stocking of Christians with love and change lives in the process!



yielded to the healing goodness of God.
