

Dear Families, Friends, Supporters:

Blessings from CSSM during this year's Christmas season! First, let me thank you for your generous gifts that keep our services viable to families in need, women experiencing unplanned pregnancies and couples looking to grow their families through adoption! 2021 has been another challenging and rewarding year and we couldn't do it without you! We are so thankful to be here and excited to share this year's events with you...



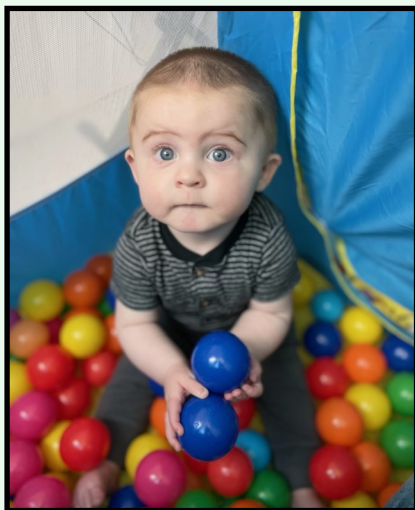
A Look Inside:

Our Placements, pages 2-3
Golf Tournament, 4-5
Dueling Pianos, pages 6-7
Other 2021 Events, page 8
Our Upcoming Move, page 9
Staff Updates, page 10
12 Days of Christmas, page 11





With pride and joy, we present the children of 2021; each one special in God's eyes.



Caleb and Ashlin knew that growing your family through adoption could be full of surprises, but that didn't quite prepare them for a call about a baby born on December 23! They opened their hearts, packed up their son Milo and headed to the hospital. They met with baby **Fisher's** birth Mom and birth Dad and not only welcomed their new son, but also offered support and connection to two very nervous people seeking to make an adoption plan. They settled their two boys into a hotel and spent Christmas day together as a family. Fisher was the perfect gift for their family, and they were the perfect gift for his birth parents.



In the midst of Covid, when pregnancies and birth were facing new challenges and fears, our social worker received a call from the hospital that a birth mother had just given birth and wanted to make an adoption plan for her baby. The arrival of **John** brought **Erin and Michael** much happiness! They had been waiting a long time to receive an addition to their family. Big brother Francis was also thrilled to have a little brother to help take care of. Michael and Erin are grateful for the chance to raise another child and are determined to provide John with the best life possible.





John and Elena longed for the opportunity to have a child together. That is exactly what they found when they were chosen by **Bella's** birth mother.

They were the loving couple full of intelligence, creativity and love that Bella's birth mother was looking for. They opened their arms in friendship and caring to Bella's Mom and a beautiful connection formed through mutual love for little Bella.

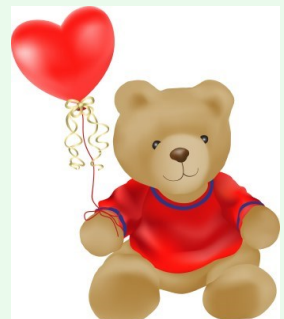


We often say that birth parents are selfless and loving, but it is especially true when parents choose to parent their child and then realize that they are in over their heads. Baby **James** was three months old when his parents reached out for help. Life had become too difficult in every way for the young family. They were met with friendship, caring and a beautiful home by **Adam and Sara**.

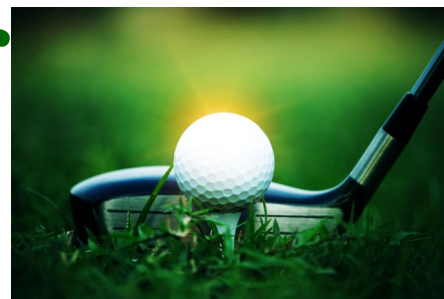
Although not an easy transition, it has been the best solution for them all. Baby James is thriving with his new family and his birth parents have been able to get their feet on the ground and stabilize while still knowing James is thriving and loved.



Paul and Sheri longed to have another child. They were excited but nervous when a young woman they knew reached out to them and asked them to adopt her baby. The process was often particularly nerve wracking as the match and process happened between Montana and Colorado. They relied on their strong faith and the professionals that were assisting them, and baby **James** joined their family! He has thrived under their care and his mother was able to more easily care for her other children. James has been blessed with his new family, but also has been able to see his birth Grandparents who live in Billings.



Our Annual Golf Tournament



It was a beautiful July day for our 22nd Annual Golf Tournament that was held on July 09, 2021, at Bill Roberts Golf Course in Helena. It was a grand success, and much fun was had by all, especially Ken Nettleton, who won the 7 Day Resort Trip with 3000 potential stays! A big **Thanks** to all who sponsored and/or participated, and to the Cathedral of St. Helena, Saint Mary Catholic Community, and St. Cyril and Methodius churches for their support. And as always to Our Lady of the Valley for their ongoing diaper and clothing boutique support!



Please plan on attending our golf tournament on July 8, 2022!



Major Sponsors

Cathedral of St Helena
Big Sky Retirement
Northwestern Energy
Sullivan Financial Group
National Body and Paint Specialists
Saint Mary Catholic Community
Tri-County Disposal
Catholic Mutual Group
Cloninger & Son Electric
Foundation for the Diocese of Helena
Helena Hardwoods
Ss Cyril & Methodus Catholic Church
Valley Bank
Last Chance Casino



Hole-In-One Sponsors

Placer Motors Subaru
Sullivan Financial Group
National Body and Paint Specialists
Northwestern Energy
Valley Bank
Tri-County Disposal



Prizes and Donations

Bert & Ernie's
Bill Roberts Golf Course
Birds & Beaseleys
Buffalo Wild Wings
Chubby's Bar & Grill
Dave's Exxon
Diamond Dream Jeweler
Ghost Art Gallery
Gold Island Liquor
Great Harvest Bread Company
Highway 55
Hokkaido Ramen & Izakaya
Lakeside on Hauser
Leslie's Hallmark
Lewis & Clark Brewery
Montana Glass Liquor
Pan Handler
Planet Gyros
Silver Star Steak Company
Woody's Car Wash
Valley Bank

Hole Sponsors

3 Brothers Plumbing & Heating
A-1 Party Rentals
All Season Heating & Air Conditioning, LLC
Allegra Marketing • Print • Mail
AMC PC Services
Ancient Order of Hibernians
Anderson Stevenson Wilke Funeral Home
Anderson Zurmuehlen
Ascent Bank
Big Sky Plumbing
Bjerke Architects
Bloomquist Law Firm, P.C.
Clear Choice Auto Glass
Copper Plumbing
D & D RV Center
Dakota Supply Group
Eagle Beverage
Edward Jones - David Polk
Finstad's Carpet One
Gary's Auto Plaza
Good Samaritan
Helena Orthodontics
Hjelm's Body & Paint Shop
Hugh McWhorter
Karen Rillahan
Kate Herron
Knights of Columbus #844
Marc Parriman Construction
Montana City Grill
Montana Eye Care
Montana Knights of Columbus
Mt Ascension Physical Therapy
Opportunity Bank
Our Lady of the Valley Parish
Peter Sullivan
Power Townsend
R & R Diesel Repair
R & R Pump Co.
Randall & Hurley Inc.
Rocky Mountain Medicare
SCL Health
Scott & Mary Buswell
Shellies Country Cafe
The Connect Group
The Investment Group
Town Center Chiropractic
Van Horssen Law & Governement PLLC
Van's Thriftway
Wells Fargo Advisors
Wentana, LLC (Wendy's)
Wipfli



A big thanks to all our volunteers!



After two very successful years in Missoula...

And having to be cancelled last year due to the pandemic....



**Back by popular demand:
Dueling Pianos, a Gala
benefiting Montana children!!!**



This year, we held the fun-filled event in Billings, on Friday, October 15 at the Big Horn Resort. **A special thank you to Jay Glen, our first Billings sponsor!**

The occasion included dancing, singing, a silent auction and, of course, the **amazing** musicians of Fun Pianos!

Please plan on attending
Dueling Pianos on October 7, 2022 in Billings, MT!

Our Dueling Pianos Sponsors

Platinum Sponsors

Starkel Farms
St Vincent Healthcare
Leisure Montana

Custom Sponsors

Rocky Mountain Compost
Colleen Black and Co
Sprague Construction Roofing
Angie Buckley Counseling

In Kind Donors

Leisure Montana
St. Mary Catholic Community
La Vie
Lesnick Place
Russell Fagg
Yellowstone Country Club
Pryor Creek Country Club
Rock Creek Coffee Roasters
Incredible Ar Productions

Gold Sponsors

Granite Peak Pump Service, Inc
G & T Plumbing & Mechanical, Inc
Vincent Davey Law Firm
Advanced Employment
Wentana
KOC #8345
Patten Peterman Bekkedahl and Green

Digital Sponsor

Payne West

In Kind Donors

Par One
Peter Yegan
Lake Hills
Briarwood Country Club
Mitchell Golf
Eagle Rock
Hilands Golf Club
Pet Smart
Stella's

A big thanks to all our volunteers!





Also in 2021...



CSSM and the **Good Samaritan** partnered to gift \$10,000 to those in the Helena area who had been evicted or were in danger of being evicted from their homes!

In May, James and Barbara Schaeffer donated their car to CSSM.



We gifted it to a Billings Birth Mother.

Thanks Jim and Barb!!!

Also in May, Girl Scout Troop #3846 donated handmade blankets and baby items to CSSM. Thanks to their leader Tolly Patten and her Troop!



Based on our commitment to Catholic social teaching, Catholic Social Services of Montana provides for works of advocacy, compassion, pastoral outreach, education, and social justice.

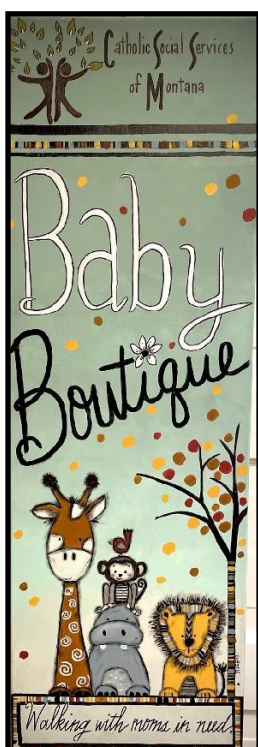


Our Upcoming Move



We're moving! After 17 years at our 1301-11th Ave location, Catholic Social Services of MT will be joining the Foundation for the Diocese of Helena, the Diocese of Helena, and The Montana Catholic Conference at the Center for Catholic Life in the Seeley Building at 630 North Last Chance Gulch.

This exciting move is in progress now and we hope to be completely up and running in our new location by the start of the New Year!



BABY BOUTIQUE UPDATE

Our Baby Boutique is still going strong! We continue to provide free diapers, wipes, clothing and hygiene supplies to families in need in the Helena area.

Beginning in January, the Baby Boutique will be located at the Brondel Center in the Cathedral of St. Helena.

Thanks to the Cathedral for their support!



Staff Updates

It is with sadness but warm wishes that we announce the upcoming retirement of our Executive Director, Twila Costigan. After many years as a Social Worker and then four years in her current position, Twila has truly been a huge part of CSSM and has contributed so much. Her upbeat attitude and boundless energy have been greatly appreciated and we wish her lots of well-deserved happiness in her new adventure!



Our Executive Assistant of five years, Senja Linjanen, will also be leaving us to pursue a new step in her career. We would like to congratulate her on a job well done here and give her our very best wishes for the future! By the time you receive this Newsletter, we will have hired for her position!

Please welcome Jeannette Bower,
our new Program Assistant!



Our Social Workers, Michelle Perlick and Jann Petek continue their busy schedules, completing home studies and post placement visits all throughout the state. Michelle covers Eastern Montana and Jann covers Western Montana.



**Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year! Thanks for all your support
throughout the year-from Twila, Senja,
Michelle, Jann and Jeannette!**

The Twelve Days of Christmas



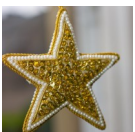
The Twelve Days of Christmas is one Christmas carol that has always baffled me. What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

Today I found out.

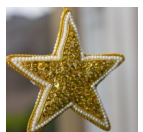
From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.



- ♦ The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- ♦ **Two** turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
- ♦ **Three** French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
- ♦ The **four** calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- ♦ The **five** golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- ♦ The **six** geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- ♦ The **seven** swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- ♦ The **eight** maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- ♦ **Nine** ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
- ♦ The **ten** lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
- ♦ The **eleven** pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- ♦ The **twelve** drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.



So there is your history for today! This knowledge was shared with me and I found it interesting and enlightening and now I know how that strange song became a Christmas carol...so pass it on if you wish!





Catholic Social Services of Montana
PO Box 907
Helena, MT 59624
406-442-4130 or 800-baby-due
www.cssmt.org

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Helena, MT 59601
Permit #216

Grace and truth

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from Catholic Social Services of Montana!
-December 2021

MAIN OFFICE

PO Box 907
Helena, MT 59624
(406) 442-4130

GREAT FALLS

410 Central Avenue #601
Great Falls, MT 59401
(406) 442-4130

BILLINGS

1048 North 30th St.
Billings, MT 59101
(406) 252-3399