

"....He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound." (Isaiah 61:1b) May His Peace be with you and all your loved ones.

Dear CSS Families and Friends,

Merry Christmas and a Happy 2024 to all of you! This greeting is still what we wish for each other but in different areas people feel far from merry or happy, due to the natural or manmade disasters. We are not totally out of the pandemic's threat, yet floods, fire, earthquake caused much damages. All of us are under the uncertainty of wars and conflicts however far away they may be. I guess that makes it more important for each of us to try our best to make life a little better and more peaceful.



CSS is trying our best to make this world a little better as we've done for the past 40 years. Some of you may remember our very low-keyed celebration of the 40th anniversary – a small road run, since I don't know if it can be called a marathon. The CSS team proposed many possible activities, all very good but the expense is also dear. After much debate we decided to put our limited resources in service and accept the offer of the road run, but we do have one of CSS' families that flew in to take part of the run on a beautiful Sunday. We are grateful quite some of our donors and staff came together and celebrated the occasion.



I was asked many times by adoptive families as well as other organizations what CSS would do once we stop providing adoption matching services. Before answering this question, we have to clarify one thing. CSS is not an adoption agency; we provide services for women and children in crisis and adoption is one of the option for those we serve. Now our service has motivated and promoted adoption regulations locally and many agencies are serving in this field, CSS is able to move into further and in-depth services for the women, children and their families that are facing challenges beyond their means.

During the past year, CSS provides service through the two Women Support and Empowerment Centers. These clients are the brokenhearted in marriage/family relationship. Many of our clients are captured and isolated with emotional challenges and/or mental illness. Now we not only help women, we also reached out to single male parents that are easily overlooked. The goal is as long as there are children in their home that may be exposed to danger, neglect of any kind, we want to be there and help. Most of our services users are still women but 1/4 of our rescue clients are men. CSS social workers visited them in their home with follow up calls to make sure the supplies we provide is sufficient and any further services is needed. Many of these families also receive legal consultations, child care support/respite care while self-care courses and training sessions are options they can choose and enjoy. Family outing is one of our program that is greatly appreciated for most of the parents we serve. For those who were so exhausted from going through a regular day of home with young child/ren, to go out with their little ones and have fun was unthinkable now made possible with our help. It's always quite an operation before and after the outing, but seeing the joy makes it all very worthwhile.

2023 has been packed for the Roots Team. The adoptive families that had to put their roots visit to CSS on hold because of the pandemic cannot wait to come. Thousands of communication between both sides of families and making trips to possible locations of a non-reached birthmother, all are part of roots team's routine. December is probably the busiest time for the team, several groups already sent in their schedules and with different wishes while they are in town. For some of our birth families that has been bounded in their private prison of quilt and fear over their relinquishment decision, the door to relieve and reassurance opens into re-established relationship.

2023 has not been easy for CSS just like the rest of the world. But from the little bits and pieces of information here, we want to share with you what CSS is experiencing through our service. We'd like to wish you peace and hope in the coming year, because He is love and Jesus came to bring us the joy no one can take away.



In His Service,

Georgie

