



Agape Villages
Foster Family Agency

The Love Letter

"Continuing at Agape Villages the work we began at Sierra Children's Home."

April, 2016

Healing Hearts and Building Families

Volume 58, No. 2

Our Vision:



6,000th Child Placed!

A Better and Brighter Future for Children/Youth

By Janet Kleyn, President

57 years ago, 13 fine men had a Godly vision to help abused and neglected children in Northern California in need of out-of-home care. Children who were not as fortunate as their own children. That vision became Sierra Children's Home which later became Agape Villages Foster Family Agency. We've celebrated many milestones along the way. We had a very special one to celebrate a month ago.

In February, we received a call from San Joaquin County stating a sibling group of 3 children needed a foster home. We were thrilled, of course, to have the perfect family for them. It was even more exciting because with the placement of the 3 children, we reached 6,000 children served by Sierra/Agape over our 57 year history. In fact, we had been at 5,999 children, so these children were #6,000, #6,001 and #6,002!

I recently spoke with **Frank Curtis**, one of the original board members, about reaching this milestone. He said the original group of men never thought it would grow to that number or have that impact. They were just trying to do something good in their corner of the world. As he had told me before, they saw a need and decided to do something about it.

I've always been inspired by the vision of those men so many years ago. It's not easy to begin a work like this. We continue to live out that vision, to serve abused and neglected children, those not as fortunate as our own children and grandchildren. As I write this article in late March, we have just placed our 6,012th child. It is a blessing and an honor to serve these children, and we are thankful to our foster parents, staff, board and, of course, our generous donors who make this ministry possible. We have much work to do.



Lorraine Perkins

Honoring Exceptional Service to Children

Lorraine is Truly an Inspiration to Many!

Lorraine Perkins embodies the ideal characteristics of what it means to be an effective foster parent. Lorraine has been a foster parent with Agape Villages for 4 years now, but served previously with another agency. With

us, she has cared for six children in her home. She currently has two boys who have been with her for over a year now.

Throughout the years, Lorraine has taken several challenging children who have had mental health issues and has never given up on the opportunity to assist a child in need. Because of Lorraine's guidance, love and encouragement, the kids in her care have received support to overcome their past difficulties and positively embrace day-to-day life.

One child in particular, two year old Tanisha, came to Lorraine severely malnourished and abused by her biological parents. Doctors estimated that she would have one year to live. Determined to nurse Tanisha back to health, Lorraine

stayed by her side, meeting her needs. We say that, "miraculously," this girl found the strength to recover and eventually was adopted by Lorraine. Today, Tanisha is attending college in Southern California, majoring in business.

Truly a people person, Lorraine enjoys life, laughter, and making people feel comfortable and validated. Because Lorraine is an exceptional role model, children in her care learn the value of honesty, integrity and compassion. Because of her style of parenting, some of the most withdrawn and depressed children have become successful at expressing their emotions and feelings. Many of the youth who are grown now, and have families of their own, continue to have a relationship with Lorraine. She still considers them family!

Brian, a former foster youth, who has now been reunited with his biological mother, fondly remembers the kindness and devotion he received in the Perkins' home and warmly refers to Lorraine as "the angel who saved my life." We are so grateful for Lorraine and her heart for children!

A glimpse of how we make a difference! (The names have been changed.)

Fixing a Child's Teeth is a Big Deal!

By Courtney McAlister, MSW

We've been serving a 12 year old African American boy, Trevor, in our foster care program for 1½ years now. All of us have felt so bad for him due to his teeth problem. His teeth are not straight and he has a severe overbite. He's always been embarrassed by this and has never let himself smile. We knew this issue was affecting his self-esteem and confidence.

We are all thrilled that I was able to find an orthodontist who accepted "Medi-Cal" which agreed to pay for the work to fix Trevor's teeth. He is so excited to have his braces! He is doing great following the orthodontist's instructions and keeping his teeth cleaned. This will make a huge difference in his life in the future.

Going "Above and Beyond" in Serving a Child

By Sara Ritz, MSW

One of the loving foster families I work with has gone above and beyond to support a child in her care who came with a variety of developmental delays. The foster mother is an incredible advocate for children. She is a doer! She takes her foster child to four hours of occupational therapy, physical therapy and infant development appointments each week.

Every interaction I have with this family feels refreshing and forward-thinking. They consistently persevere through all kinds of challenges and consider new ways to address any issues that arise. They never linger on a difficult diagnosis or accept defeat. I am absolutely amazed by the relentlessness and positivity of this particular loving foster family. I've noticed how they credit their strength to their faith and feel called to be foster parents. Faith is truly a motivator and guide.

Two Foster Children Being Adopted...

By Dave Roach, MA

We've been serving two sisters, ages 11 and 3 in our foster care program for 2½ years now. They came into care because their mother had severe substance abuse issues and there were no other family members willing to take in the girls. We recently found a loving foster family who were also interested in adoption. They have an 11 year old son and wanted to expand their family.

The girls had attachment issues coming into this home. They are now blossoming, both in school and at home. After four months in this home, they were talking that they wanted this family to adopt them. Well, that dream became a reality on March 8. Congratulations to all!

"Whether you think you can or think you can't, you're right."

We Need Foster Parents!

— Every Child Deserves a Home —

We receive calls almost daily about children needing a foster home. We serve children who've been abused, neglected, abandoned and mistreated in ways they need to be removed from their own families for their protection. These are children who've been thrust into the foster care system, who depend on the mercy of others for their care.

We need families for children of all ages, especially children 10 years and older and sibling groups. **Consider today** how you can be used to care for children.

For more information on foster parenting, call the Agape Villages office at 800-566-2225.



In The Volunteer Spotlight!

Sarah Rockey teaches English at Tracy High School and Bible class at Lathrop church of Christ. A proud alumnus of Pepperdine, she is already actively recruiting her 4-year-old nephew and 6-year-old niece to be a Wave! Sarah is grateful for the opportunity she has to make a difference by helping Agape's kids. She is active with our "can" project and also helps regularly with our newsletter mailing. You will see her at just about every Agape event, helping wherever and however she can. Sarah, you are a blessing to Agape and we are grateful! Thanks again!



Sarah Rockey

We Need More Volunteers!

If you would like to be a volunteer, please let us know via our website: www.AgapeVillages.org and use the "Get Involved" button, or call us at 866-922-4273.



Hank Lawson

DOING OUR PART, ONE "DROP" AT A TIME!

By Hank Lawson, Director, Church Relations

The earth is dry and in need of rain. The clouds gather and the rain drops look down. The drops may wonder, "WHAT GOOD CAN ONE DROP DO?"

But the first drop falls, then others join in, and soon there is a downpour and the earth receives the moisture that is needed to supply the needs of a hungry world. All because the ONE drop went forward to do what good it could do.

The "CAN" MINISTRY of Agape Villages is a bit like that. It is easy to think to oneself, "What good can one can of coins do?" But when one person goes ahead and fills their can with coins, OTHERS join in and together the coins add up.

One congregation wonders what good will our cans be able to do? However, one congregation adds to another congregation and TOGETHER it becomes dollars, a real source of income to Agape Villages. The old saying is so true, "Many hands make light work."

We've all seen recently what can happen if there is not enough rain. A crisis develops. Nature, in a sense, is out of balance and lives are negatively effected.

As rain is essential to life on earth, your financial support is essential to sustain our work of providing loving and nurturing homes to children and youth. We depend on many caring people joining with us to do what we do. Our "change can" effort is just one way for us to raise funds...funds that are essential to us. We encourage churches everywhere to participate in our "can" ministry. We also encourage everyone to ask for one of our cans.

Many cans add up to being a great help to our effort. I want to say "thank you" to all of you that do your part...the can effort is A PERSONAL MINISTRY. Yours and mine, so little by little we "can" participate in helping others.

If you'd like to be part of our "can" ministry, please call me at (209) 484-1377.



www.bigdayofgiving.org

24 HOURS - MAY 3RD - WE NEED YOU!

Agape Villages is Participating ♦ Save the Date!

Taking Place all Over America ♦ A BIG Day for Agape!

We are excited to invite you to join us on May 3rd for another huge and historic event, the BIG Day of Giving. Over a 24-hour period from midnight to midnight, Agape Villages will join with other nonprofits to raise donations and engage donors on this national day of giving.

Our goal: Please join our campaign and help us reach our goals of \$25,000 and 100 donors!

1) Spread the word. Tell your friends, post on Facebook, and tweet about it. This is an opportunity to be part of something really big!

2) Mark your calendar for May 3rd! Starting at 12:00 am midnight, visit www.bigdayofgiving.org and make a tax deductible gift to Agape Villages of as little as \$25. You will have 24 hours to make your donation; all giving will end at 11:59 pm on May 3rd.

May 3rd

While Big Day of Giving is located in the **greater Sacramento** area, people **anywhere** can give through Big Day of Giving, designate Agape Villages, and the funds will flow to us.

Questions? Contact Velma Sykes at 916-643-5031



The picture on the home page of our website

See Our Newly Designed Website

Agape Villages Foster Family Agency is so excited to announce that our website is new and improved! It is the same URL, "www.agapevillages.org," but with a whole new look! We think the final result after months of working with our incredible volunteer webmaster, **Ryan Purves**, is quite fantastic. Please make sure to check out the complete transformation and the features and information now available. One component we are particularly excited about is a new blog feature that will be updated continuously with events, news, and stories about the impact Agape is having on the lives of foster children and families throughout Northern California. There is also a lot going on "behind the

scenes" that has streamlined our processes, helping our staff to save precious time and resources. All of this helps us to better serve our children and families. Thank you to **John Doggett** for being an advisor throughout the process, and to Ryan Purves for donating his time and expertise. Ryan and his wife Amanda are foster parents with Agape Villages, and we highly encourage you to check out their Graphic and Web Design Services by going to www.savvypop.com!

www.AgapeVillages.org

Lessons from Bonanza

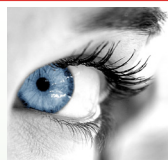
By David Lee, Chair, Board of Directors



I recently watched a “Bonanza” rerun about two young boys who had been abandoned by their parents. The younger brother did not speak because of the heartbreak he had been through. The older brother (about 10) was very protective of his younger brother and tried to take the place of his missing parents. A young couple wanted to adopt them, but finding the younger brother unable to talk, decided to only adopt the older

brother. When the boys learned of their possible separation, they ran away. A lonely old gentleman who had lost his wife, befriended the boys and gave them unconditional love. His example convinced the young couple to adopt both boys and give them a caring home.

There is no such thing as a throwaway kid. Every child deserves a chance to reach his potential in life. Agape Villages is there to provide these children with a happy, normal life. What can you do to help? Please consider donating time in volunteer service with Agape, prayers for the success of the mission of Agape, or a financial gift to assist in this good work. You’ll feel like you hit a bonanza! I know!



Attention:

Change to our Grocery Shopping Program!

The following grocery stores have a donation program which will send a percentage of the total receipt to Agape:

SaveMart, Lucky, Food Maxx.

Each shopper needs to **sign-up online** to participate now. The stores are no longer using the cards. To sign up online, go to the website escrip.com/shares. Or, you can call us at 866-922-4273 and we will help you sign up. After you sign-up, all you have to do is put in your phone number when checking out.

Please know that we appreciate your support in this way and we hope we can count on it in the future. Thanks!!

\$1,403 was received in the 1st quarter of 2016. Thanks!

To Protect and To Serve...Children!

Jail ‘N Bail 2016

Three Locations This Year

We are looking for “*criminals, misfits and all kinds of enablers*” to turn themselves in to reckon with the law (powers that be at Agape Villages). We ask them to then seek bail to redeem themselves and do a good deed for Agape! **The Three Locations this year:**



CIRCLE OF HOPE AND LOVE



In our January 2016 newsletter, we announced our “Circle of Hope and Love” program, where people can leave an “after-lifetime” gift. This is a great way to help the children of Agape Villages with gifts that do not come from current funds. We are very pleased that these people are Founding Members (those who notified us by March 31):

- Walt and Terry Bruce
- Theris Coats
- Rodger and Charlene Cobb
- Wilma Flach
- Vernon and Shirley Garretson
- Bill Gillaspie
- Bronall and Linda N. Heaslet
- Floyd Frank Henderson, Jr. (Hank)
- Janet Kleyn
- Hank and Betty Lawson
- David and Jeanette Lee
- Dave and Deanna Mitchell
- Gregg and Stephanie Pino
- Bob and Kristine Symonds
- Don and Brenda Thomas
- Four Anonymous Friends

You can be part of the Circle of Hope and Love for Agape children! For more information, contact Janet Kleyn at (866) 922-4273. And if we inadvertently omitted your name, please let Janet know.

Comerica Bank
3110 Crow Canyon Pl.
San Ramon
Friday, May 6
Contact Person: Jen Oxe
408-930-9951

Comerica Bank
600 Main Street
Pleasanton
Friday, May 6
Contact Person: Jen Oxe
408-930-9951

Oak Valley Comm. Bank
191 W. North Street
Manteca
Friday, May 6
Contact Person: Katy Partan
209-992-8346

Annual Dinner & Silent Auction

❖ **Roseville** ❖

Featuring:

China Juarez

Guest speaker China Juarez has overcome tremendous hardships. She recalls being involved in the foster care system for as long as she can remember, living in six different homes throughout her lifetime. In 2014, China came to Agape Villages Foster Family Agency and began to thrive. She has taken on leadership roles at school and church, and has proven to be an empowering role model and mentor for foster youth in the community. China hopes to one day become a mental health counselor and work with children that are faced with similar struggles to those that she has overcome.



Where

Roseville Church of Christ

1799 Cirby Way
Roseville, CA 95661

When

Friday, May 13, 2016
Doors Open at 6:30^{pm}
Begins at 7:00^{pm}

Cost

\$20 (13 & up) \$10 (5-12)
Children under 5 free

Contact

Danah Nelson
@ 916-498-4264

Everyone Welcome!

www.AgapeVillages.org

So much to be THANKFUL for!

Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund Check Distribution

Agape was once again chosen to be a recipient of the amazing Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. On March 3rd, we were so fortunate to be presented with a \$3,655 check. Agape thanks **Gina Allen** and **Jeb Bing** for sponsoring this wonderful fund that helps out so many non-profits in our area doing wonderful things for the people of the Tri-Valley.



Gina Allen and Jen Oxe

Gillette Donation

Thank you to Bryan and Audrey Gillette for a \$500 donation to Agape from their non-profit "Bridge of Opportunity" to use to help the Agape Foster Kids. It is caring and compassionate people like the Gillette's that enable us to keep supporting our kids and helping them heal, grow, and become productive members of society.

"Tips for Change" February 29th at Gianni's Italian Bistro in San Ramon

Our **Tips for Change** event was a huge success and such a fun night with Agape employees and volunteers acting as servers to our many wonderful dinner guests. Gianni's donated all the tips and 10% of the food purchases to Agape Villages. After it was all said and done Agape received over \$2,700. Thank you to Melanie and Gianni Bartoletti for being such wonderful business partners and helping out the local non-profits in your community.



Tip A Hero" Event at Chili's Restaurant

Manteca Police Department officers waited tables and collected tips for the Agape Villages foster children. The officers really stepped up and worked hard, doing everything from getting drinks, to bussing tables, to passing out official "police officer badge" stickers to the delight of several little boys and girls. Their work was well rewarded, as the patrons were very generous with their tips! Combined with the donations from Chili's, nearly \$2,000 was raised for Agape Villages. A special thank you to Charlie Goeken, Police Captain for Manteca Police Department, and Chili's Restaurant, for helping to make this event such a success!



Baby Clothes Donated

One of Agape's foster moms was at a local garage sale and struck up a conversation with the homeowner, who was getting ready to relocate and needing to downsize. She mentioned that she was a foster mom through Agape Villages FFA and further explained our mission and involvement in the community. The homeowner did not hesitate and quickly decided to donate all of the baby clothes that she had been selling – around 15 bags! This story reinforces how anyone can positively impact the lives of needy children, even if they do not feel called to be a foster family. There are many ways to give and help us!

Girls Conference Project for Agape

The annual West Coast Girls' Conference was held on March 11-13 at the Tri-Valley Church of Christ. The girls worked on a service project for the kids at Agape. They hand-tied blankets and coordinated them with stuffed animals which had been donated. There were enough for every child at Agape, and a few extra for new kids. What a blessing. Thank you, girls!



We are very grateful to be partners with Sleep Train. They had their pajamas drive. Agape children were able to pick from clothing, toys, and BIG pillow chums. We are very thankful for their support and look forward to a wonderful year with them!

Planet Beach Donation

Planet Beach spa (and much more — <http://planetbeach.com>) donated these 42 bags (teddy bear, blanket, coloring book & tooth brush kit) decorated by kids to our foster kids. They also gave twenty-three \$50 gift certificates to their Manteca/Modesto Salons for our foster parents. We appreciate your thoughtfulness!



Memorial & Honor Gifts

January 4, 2016 through March 31, 2016

In Loving Memory

ERLINDA ACOSTA
Gene & Mary Copeland
Hank & Betty Lawson

ROY & BETTY BARTLETT
Christopher Nunes

DAVID BENSON
Norman & Becky Cole

GREGORY BENSON
Norman & Becky Cole

JOSEPHINE BOYKIN
Friends of Duane Boykin
from NM DOIT/SHARETeam
Tawnya King
Janet Kleyn
Kai & Brenda Mickey
Ron & Carolyn Miller
Anthony & Tarah Tuck

KEN BROWN
Kyra Norried

BRADLEY BROOKS
Norman & Becky Cole

MILLIE BROOKS
Norman & Becky Cole

EARLIE BUSTER
Gene & Mary Copeland
Hank & Betty Lawson
Gregg & Stephanie Pino

BOB CRADDOCK
Oleva Dorman

RAY FLETCHER
Sue Latham

FRANCES S. HENSON
Pier & Rachel Dutcher

HILDE HOLLINGER
Janet Hames

JEAN KELLEY
Gene & Mary Copeland
Janet Kleyn
Hank & Betty Lawson
Gregg & Stephanie Pino

WILLIAM & VAUGHNCELE KISER
Lori Blue
Rita Blue

FRED KLEYN
Beverly Kleyn

JAMIE KYLE
Reta Kyle

LESTER KYLE
Reta Kyle

MARY KYLE
Reta Kyle

GINGER LAWSON
Gene & Mary Copeland
Hank & Betty Lawson
Jo Lawson
Ray & Celia Lawson
Debra Miller

SHIRLEY LINO
Murline Bond
Mike & Debbie Fontana
John & Marion Higgins
Earnest & Jackie Hillman
June Johnson
Ray & Celia Lawson
Mike & Jackie Lazzarini
Pat Vawter

ANNA LOUISE MASS
Jim & Virginia McPeak

ROGER PATRICK
Sue Latham

GUY PIERCE
Vivian Jones

DYAN RICHARDSON
Giuseppe & Laura Raneri

RAY SWAN
Wyba Nienstadt

CHARLENE SWANICK
Wyba Nienstadt

EVA WATTERS
Norman & Becky Cole

NELSON WILLIAMS
Janet Kleyn
Don & Gwen Minor

When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure.

In Honor And Respect

Happy Birthday, Sister!
BECKY COLE
John & Nadine Greff

Happy Birthday, Brother!
JOHN GREFF
Norman & Becky Cole

A Wonderful Cousin
GEORGE HOUSE
Wyba Niendstadt

With Love and Respect
BEVERLY KLEYN
Phyllis Trudeau

A Great Dad!
HANK LAWSON
Jo Lawson
Ray & Celia Lawson

With Thankfulness for all Your Years of Preaching for the Empire Congregation

HANK LAWSON
Marlene Peck

With Love and Respect
DAVID & JEANETTE LEE
Vernon & Novella Vignolo

Happy 95th Birthday!
MARGARET TOUCHTON
John & Nadine Greff

PLEASE REMEMBER AGAPE IN YOUR WILL OR ESTATE PLAN.



For more information:
jkleyn@AgapeVillages.org

Mother's Day



Mother's Day is May 8th. Make a gift in memory of, or in honor of, your mother for Mother's Day and Agape will send a touching letter with special thoughts of love and appreciation.

MEMORIAL OR HONOR GIFT

The enclosed gift of \$ _____ is given in Memory of or in

Honor of:

PLEASE NOTIFY:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Relationship to deceased/honoree: _____

Check here if for Mother's Day

Email address: _____

A Brighter Future for Children

Agape Villages • 3160 Crow Canyon Place, Suite 120 • San Ramon, CA 94583



"It's A Family Affair" Festival and BBQ Competition



Summer time is almost here. Are you ready to enjoy great BBQ and live music? Join Agape Villages and the **Sacramento** community at "It's A Family Affair" Festival & BBQ Competition on **May 21st** at the Village Green Park in Rancho Cordova for the best tasting barbeque in the region. The festivities will be from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. There will be lots of fun activities for everyone, including a BBQ competition with some of the best Q'ers in the region competing for the **"Best BBQ" trophy**.

This event is a family friendly, fun-filled day of entertainment, shopping and great food. Bring the kids, a blanket and/or chair, and get ready to relax and enjoy. **Vendor and sponsorship opportunities are available.** Contact **Velma Sykes** at (916) 643-5031 for more information.

Agape Youth Stay Busy!

In April the **Teen Girls' Group** will be going on an excursion to Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary. The girls will get to meet and snuggle with a variety of animals. In addition to bonding with the cuddly companions, they will hear the stories of turkeys, geese, dogs, cats, rabbits, goats, pigs, and other animals, and how their beautiful lives and spirits were saved.

Our **Living Skills Program** (LSP) is an inventive program geared for assisting youth ages 15-21 with transitional living skills. In March, our LSP group received training from Judy Bietz, Employment Services Specialist. Judy has been employed at Worknet for over 26 years and volunteers her time and knowledge for at risk youth. The curriculum for the meeting consisted of our young adults and teens learning about the interviewing process, employment preparation, resume writing, and assistance with obtaining educational and occupational information.



Drive Change. Donate a Vehicle Today.

Call our Car Program toll-free, seven days a week at **1-800-513-6560**. Or go to our website:

www.AgapeVillages.org

Thank You!

Corporations and Foundations

We appreciate the financial support from the following corporations and foundations:

- **Heffernan Foundation**
- **Rotary Club of Danville**
- **Rotary Club of Pleasanton**
- **Manteca Sunrise Kiwanis**
- **Safeway Foundation**
- **Sacramento Association of Realtors**

Our Professional Service Statistics

Current Year Statistics

(From 1/1/16 to 3/28/16)

- 100 – Foster Children Served Year-to-Date
- 22 – New Children in Care this Year
- 76 – Foster Children Currently in Care
- 62 – Certified Foster Families

Since We Began in 1958

- 6,012 – Foster Children Served
 - ♦ 4,000 – Through Sierra Children's Home
 - ♦ 2,012 – Through Agape Villages
- 461 – Foster Families who have Partnered with us in Foster Care

Cheryl's Corner

San Leandro Office a Reality

- Open for Business! -

Cheryl Youngblood, LCSW



Agape Villages' Program Director

We are excited to announce that our San Leandro office (in the San Francisco Bay Area, near the Oakland airport) is officially open, licensed and serving children and families already. Agape has just kicked off one of many fundraisers in the San Leandro area. A special thanks to all that turned out at Mountain Mike's Pizzeria on March 29, as 20% of the proceeds went to helping recruit more families within the neighboring communities.

The San Leandro Cherry Festival is coming up, so save the date for June 4, 2016. Agape will have a booth there so come on out and say hello and bring your family and friends and anyone who would like to learn more about becoming a foster parent. We look forward to collaborating with other agencies and nonprofit organizations in the East Bay Area. Let's work together to establish and reinforce a connection and compassion for foster children. If anyone is interested in assisting us please give us a call at: 510-570-5961 or stop by our San Leandro Office: 14739 Catalina St. San Leandro, 94577. We are more than happy to answer any questions.

I am very pleased to announce, and welcome, our new Advisory Council in San Leandro. I am grateful and excited to be working with this incredible group: Kevin Youngblood, USGA, Inc., Jorge Gomez, USGA, Inc., Dianne Peebles, Esq. and Dave Roach of Agape Villages Foster Family Agency. Our team is dedicated to supporting Agape's endeavors in recruiting foster parents, obtaining resources, and expanding our services to meet the needs of our families and children.

Agape Villages

3160 Crow Canyon Place
Suite 120
San Ramon, CA 94583
925-866-3020
866-922-4273

www.AgapeVillages.org

Janet Kleyn
President and CEO

Cheryl Youngblood, LCSW
Program Director

Other Admin. Staff:

Bangon Badial
Administrative Director

Hank Lawson
Director, Church Relations

Jennifer Oxe
Community Engagement Director
(Tri-Valley/East Bay)

Katy Partan
Community Engagement Director
(Central Valley Area)

Velma Sykes
Community Engagement Director
(Greater Sacramento Area)

Board of Directors

David Lee, Chair
Walter Bruce, Secretary
Hank Lawson, Treasurer
Theris Coats
Charlene Cobb
Janet Kleyn
Carolyn Miller
Stephanie Pino
Gloria Robertson
Don Thomas

Our Mission

“Agape Villages mobilizes community resources to provide quality homes, innovative solutions and the highest of professional services to disadvantaged children and their families to meet their needs, maximize their potential and lead toward a better and brighter future.”

57 Years of Caring Through Sierra Children’s Home/Agape Villages

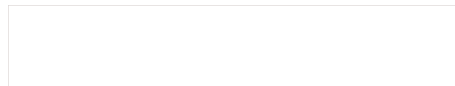


Agape Villages Foster Family Agency

3160 Crow Canyon Place, Suite 120
San Ramon, CA 94583

Return Service Requested

**Non-Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 103
San Ramon, CA**



Janet Kleyn, President

Matthew 19:14

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

Remember, Online Giving is Available on our Website
www.AgapeVillages.org

From the President

No Child Should Be Left Behind

May is National Foster Care month and we plan on promoting the value of this service and celebrating the good that is accomplished all month long! We have a number of events featured in this newsletter that will take place in May. Please celebrate National Foster Care month with us by doing a little extra to help kids in foster care.

The foster care system in California is overwhelmed. There are more children needing care than available foster homes. Almost every day at Agape a foster child is turned away due to the shortage of foster parents.

What we need is for everyone to realize we each can play a part in enhancing the lives of children and youth in foster care. When individuals, families and communities come together, solutions can be found.

We at Agape are looking for loving families willing to open their hearts and homes to fos-

ter a child. All children deserve the love and stability that comes with having a place to call home, someone to call family, to know that they matter. We are determined to see no child left behind, forgotten, thrown away.

We know that not everyone can be a full-time foster parent. However, everyone can be a part of the solution for children in foster care by helping in some way. Some could be respite providers (short term care), some could be volunteers, some could be mentors of children who need an adult role model, some could be an extra support to a foster family who is caring for children. The list could go on and on.

Over all this, everyone can help by being a financial donor to provide the sustenance needed to make all of this possible.

Please call me at 1-866-922-4273 ext. 104 and let’s talk about how you can make a difference with the kids at Agape.