



Agape Villages
Foster Family Agency

The Love Letter

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

January, 2015

Healing Hearts and Building Families

Volume 57, No. 1

Securing Bright Futures For Children

The focus of the work we do at Agape Villages is designed to be strategic in many ways. Serving children in out-of-home care is all about making plans, setting goals and working the plans.

For each child who enters our care, the first thing we think about is what the plan is for the child's discharge. The idea is "permanency." We try to determine as soon as possible the plan for permanency for each child, whether it is for the child to return home or to an alternative placement, such as adoption. It is one way to "begin with the end in mind."

Consider the following stories of children who have achieved permanency recently, but in different ways. These are stories of success even though the outcomes are not the same.

We served a sibling group of three children who have been in our care for over a year. They are Amanda who is now three years of age, and fraternal twins who are two years of age, Johnny and Lisa. They came into care because of physical abuse, substance abuse by their parents, domestic violence and suspected sexual abuse by a family member. These children



received wonderful care by their foster parents, supportive help from Agape Villages Social Worker Jim Neal and the necessary medical care. They've adapted well to their new family and have established a strong bond with them. Due to parental rights being terminated, their permanency plan ended up being adoption by their foster family. Their future is very bright.

We also served another sibling group of three girls, now ages 5, 9 and 10 years. Diane, Hannah and Rachel came into care because of domestic violence and instability of their mother. She went to a shelter and has made great improvements. The Agape foster parents, Agape

Social Worker Jim Neal and Agape transportation worker, Shannon Cerf, all became best of friends with this mother.

After 9 months in care, the mother's situation has improved dramatically to where she could get her children returned to her. This became the permanency result for these children. Their future is very bright also!

We celebrate both kinds of permanency outcomes, a return home to mother and an adoption placement!

Announcing: Hank Lawson becomes our new "Director, Church Relations"



Hank Lawson

Churches Can Be a Big Answer to Our Prayers

I am excited to be chosen to take on the newly established role of Director, Church Relations! This coincides with my background and my passion. I love the work we do at Agape Villages and I love working with the church! I've been serving on the Agape Villages Board of Directors for 7 years, the last 5 as the Board Chair.

I have been a preacher for 45 years now, serving the Empire Church of Christ for the past 32 years. With my new role at Agape, I will restructure my preaching duties there.

I believe my background makes a perfect fit for the work I am

charged to do for Agape. I hope to visit many churches all throughout California in hopes to engage the Christian community more in what we are doing. Here is where we hope and believe we can find much help.

Yes, the church can be a big answer to our prayers as we seek to meet our needs and the needs of our communities for more resources for the young people of our state. Providing loving homes for disadvantaged and "homeless" children and youth is work that is close to the heart of God. How self evident it is for us to look to God's people to be more involved!

We all can make a difference in a child's life. The question is, will you? Please join with us in our caring efforts!

One Child's Consequences of Neglect By Courtney McAlister, Agape Social Worker

We recently took a 7 year old girl I will call "Angela" into our care. She had been in the hospital for the treatment of symptoms as a result of neglect. She had pneumonia, was severely underweight and had a bad case of lice. Agape Villages received a call from Sacramento County while Angela was in the hospital as they wanted to place her in a loving home upon her discharge.

While in the hospital, I took our foster parent (who had agreed to take this child into care) to visit Angela in the hospital. After 9 days in the hospital (that is a long time for a child), Angela was discharged into our care. As an interesting coincidence, our foster mother already knew Angela. Our foster mother happens to live in the same neighborhood. She knew Angela and her siblings, but not their mother. In the past, she had given food to the mother's boyfriend to feed Angela and her siblings. Angela was placed with us before the Christmas holidays.

Foster Mother Off to a Quick Start! By Terry Thomas, Agape Social Worker

Jennifer Braley is one of our newest foster mothers. She's been serving children since July. So far, she has cared for two newborn infants who both have had developmental delays requiring the special care provided through Valley Mountain Regional Center. We are so thankful to have wonderful foster parents, like Jennifer, who put their love into action for those who are often considered "the least of these" in our communities.

Adventures with our "Teen Girls Group" By Kara Isensee, Administrative Assistant

Last October our teen girls group went to Dell 'Osso Farms in Lathrop. They went through a haunted house, worked their way through a couple of corn mazes, shot pumpkins out of a cannon and experienced a zip line! They all had a wonderful time! Plans for 2015 include going to an animal sanctuary, having a movie night, and even Great America. Girls Group offers teens girls the opportunity to join in fun activities while making friends with girls in similar situations. They want to use their skills. so please let us know if you have an idea and would like to involve us!



Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteers are Priceless!

We Need Foster Parents!

— Every Child Deserves a Home —

We regularly receive calls about children needing foster care. We serve children who've been abused, neglected 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.



Tia Revels is one of our much appreciated volunteers! She helps with our booth at community events, street fairs and goes to ladies days to promote our work. We see public speaking for Agape in the future! Tia learned about Agape Villages while a member of the Central Church of Christ in Sacramento. She has a special heart for the disadvantaged and displaced children in part due to her own personal experiences. Her mother was displaced when she was only 6 years old after her single mother passed away because of cancer. Tia lost her single mother when she was 11 years of age. She then moved in with her father who was a cross country truck driver. All of this has enhanced her sense of compassion for children without voices. Thank you Tia!



Tia Revels

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 Support button or call us at 866-922-4273.

David Lee Becomes Chair of the Agape Villages Board of Directors

A couple of years ago, David Lee felt it was necessary to step down from the Agape board, due to a very busy personal schedule. We are delighted to announce that David has re-joined the Agape board, and in fact was recently elected to be Chairman of the Board! David said, "Put me to work," and we did! Many remember David's uncle, Arvil Lee. Arvil was the first administrator of Sierra Children's Home, predecessor agency to Agape Villages. The Lee family legacy continues!



The Agape Villages Board of Directors oversees the work of the agency, sets the policies and strategic direction, and serves as ambassadors to the public for the great work being done.



Lawrence Livermore National Lab recently gave a \$2,000 grant to Agape. Pictured above are William Goldstein, Laboratory Director and President of Lawrence Livermore National Security, Janet Kleyn and Jen Oxe.



Bangon Badial, Jen Oxe, Janet Kleyn and Ed Golden, event Chairman of "A Starry Night" Rotary Club fund-raising event.

"A Starry Night" - What a Night!

The Pleasanton North Rotary club held their annual fundraiser, A Starry Night, and it truly was a beautiful, starry night. Agape was selected to be the "fund-a-need" charity. A highlight of the evening was a speech by Austin Stoker, a former Agape foster youth. Austin shared his courageous story and how Agape helped him become the successful young man he is today. Many were touched and gave generously. Some weeks later, we were presented with a \$15,750 check from that night. We are so thankful!

Fitness Trainer Business Helps Agape

Melissa Dickey and Dan Taylor, owners of **Tri-Valley Trainer** in Pleasanton, held a clothing and gift card drive during December to collect much needed items for the foster kids of Agape. Thank you Dan and Melissa and the members of TVT for your generosity!



Spirit of Danville Event

The "Spirit of Danville" shopping and dining event involved shops and restaurants who gave 10% back to several non-profits and Agape Villages was honored to be one of the recipients. We were awarded \$200 and enjoyed meeting people and talking about foster kids in our community.



Dentist Donates to Agape

Dr. Dhaliwal of San Ramon Smiles donated \$500 and clothes and toys to our foster children for Christmas this year. Thank you!

Supporting Churches in 2014

We are very thankful for the support we receive from congregations all over California and beyond. Below is a listing of the 22 churches providing support to Agape Villages in 2014 and we are thankful!

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Anderson Church of Christ | First Presbyterian Church of Livermore | Los Banos Church of Christ |
| Central Church of Christ (Sacramento) | Healdsburg Church of Christ | Martinez Church of Christ |
| Chino Church of Christ | House To House Church of Christ | Oceanview Church of Christ (Pacifica) |
| Christ's Church in the Tri-Valley (Dublin) | (Fresno) | Roseville Church of Christ |
| Davis Park Church of Christ | Hughson Church of Christ | Tri Valley Church of Christ (Livermore) |
| Dos Palos Church of Christ | John Knox Presbyterian Church | United Lutheran Church (Manteca) |
| Empire Church of Christ | (Dublin) | Vermont Ave. Church of Christ (LA) |
| First Baptist Church of Vacaville | Lathrop Church of Christ | |
| | Los Altos Church of Christ (Long Beach) | |

Foster Care Christmas Parties a Real Joy!



Our foster kids and their foster parents enjoyed Christmas parties in the three major regions of our work. One was held in **Sacramento** at the Country Club Bowling Lanes. Another was held in **Manteca** at the Manteca Bowl and Family Fun Center. The third was held in **Danville** at the Danville Bowl. Although the specific activities at each site varied, they included plenty of pizza, cake and desserts, glo bowling, laser tag, face painting, gifts for the kids, and of course, pictures with Santa!



We have so many to say “thanks” to, including: (a) Darlene of the Elk Grove Church of Christ for organizing gifts for our foster children, (b) the Natomas Walmart General Manager, Franklin Jackson, for donating gift cards, (c) Tri-Valley Bank in San Ramon (funds donated); (d) Morgan Stanley Municipal Bond Department (\$1500 in gift cards); (e) Good New



Some of the gift bags given to our kids.

Bears (teddy bears); (f) Quilts; (g) Safety Compliance Management; (h) Saint Raymond Church (Angel Tree); (i) Cathy Todd, our face painter; and (j) the Law Office of Patricia Leong. There are many others who helped with our parties and we appreciate you all!

Jail ‘N Bail 2014



Manteca Police Chief Nick Obligation (“Judge”) and “Jailbird” Lu Hale.

Agape had our 7th annual “Jail ‘N Bail” Fundraiser on November 14th at the Bank of Stockton. Special thanks to Manteca Mayor Steve DeBrum, and the Sharps gang for helping us out with the “jailbirds.” Also, thanks

to Mary Louise Applebaum for being the transport for our “Jailbirds” and “Judges” (Manteca Police Chief Obligation and our own Sarah Garcia from DocuMed Revenue Solutions.) This event raised over \$7,000 this year.

Justice Has Been Served...Again!

Christmas Celebration With Our Families

Calvary Church in Lathrop invited our foster families to take part in their Christmas party. Julie McGregor and the folks at Calvary put together a wonderful Christmas celebration. Our families were treated to a sit down lunch, gingerbread-house decorating, games, a family portrait, groceries and a gift for all participating children. Thank you for inviting Agape to your wonderful Christmas Celebration!



Steve Fineran with Bregante + Company LLP (Pleasanton) held another golf tournament this year in October and asked all of the players to make a charitable donation to Agape. A total of \$5,000 was raised. Thank you, Steve and Bregante!

Our Professional Service Statistics

2014 Year-End Statistics (From 1/1/14 to 12/31/14)

- 158 – Foster Children Served Year-to-Date
- 84 – New Children in Care this Year
- 76 – Foster Children Currently in Care
- 59 – Certified Foster Families

Since We Began in 1958

- 5,906 – Foster Children Served
 - ◆ 4,000 – Through Sierra Children’s Home
 - ◆ 1,906 – Through Agape Villages
- 450 – Foster Families who have Partnered with us in Foster Care

Grocery Shopping for Agape

The following grocery stores have a donation program which will send a percentage of the total receipt to Agape: **SaveMart, Lucky, Food Maxx, Food 4 Less, Ralph’s and Food Co.** Call us at 866-922-4273 and we will send the special card to use.

We received \$4,806 during 2014.



Donate a Vehicle Today!

Our car donation program provides vital support to our work. To donate your car (or trucks, trailers, boats and RVs) call **Car Program** toll-free, seven days a week at **1-800-513-6560**. Or go to our website:

www.AgapeVillages.org

So much to be **THANKFUL** for!

Matching Gift Challenge Met!

In our October appeal letter, 2 of our generous donors joined together to offer a challenge gift of \$30,000! Every gift post-marked by December 31 would be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$30,000 total. You responded! We are thrilled to announce that more than \$32,000 was given in response to this challenge. Thank you! What a blessing to young lives.

Bikes!

Agape was blessed this year to receive a donation of 39 bikes from **Turning Wheels for Kids**. These bikes were of great quality. Just imagine Christmas morning for 39 lucky kids! Helmets were provided also, of course! Thanks to all!



A Bunch of Gifts!

Brenda Bunnell and other members of the **Turlock Church of Christ** provided gifts for every single Agape foster child for Christmas! It was a truck load of gifts! Our foster parents, and of course our children, were so grateful!

Ford Blesses Agape

The **UAW-Ford** in Manteca provided Agape families with their **Holiday Box of Love Project**. Aubrey Hagler and an associate helped deliver 50 dinners to our foster families which consisted of a 12 lb turkey, dressing, macaroni & cheese, large can of vegetables, cornbread, cranberry sauce, cake mix and frosting. Then to add to the blessing to Agape, Aubrey Hagler and Rich Harrell along with fellow employees from **Ford** collected toys and gifts for our kids. Thanks to all at Ford!



Holiday Boutique Helps Agape

Joanie Hahn, of Boisset Wine Tasting at Home, held a wonderful holiday boutique at her gorgeous Ruby Hill home. The ladies shopped for Christmas presents, and many brought in gently used jackets for the children of Agape Villages. A big thank you to Joanie and George Hahn!

“Elfing” for Agape!

When you combine balloons and fund raising, what do you get? It’s called “Elfing!” It works like this: you pay \$40 and they put 20 red and green Christmas balloons in someone’s yard along with a sign that lets them know you are responsible for getting them elfed! The youth group at the **Tri-Valley Church of Christ** (Livermore) were busy elves this Christmas! Doing this project raised more than \$1200 to help the kids at Agape. Thank you, Tri-Valley elves!



Shop with a Cop

On December 20, 2014, Manteca Police Chief Nick Obligation coordinated efforts for our foster children to go shopping with a cop at the local Walmart store. It was a fun and inspiring day for all! Thank you Manteca Police Department!

Gifts of Coats for our Kids

Harris Griffin of **Berkshire Hathaway Home Service** and a member of our Manteca Advisory Council started a **coat drive** for our foster kids in San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties. Together with co-workers & fellow associates from Cornerstone Mortgage, they purchased beautiful coats for our kids and provided a check for \$400 for those that remained. When we asked the kids and parents what they wanted for Christmas, coats were high on their list. So thank you Harris & Company! You came through for our kids and parents!



Holiday Fund-Raising Party

For the second year in a row, Daryn and Jennifer Oxe hosted a Holiday party fundraiser benefiting Agape Villages in their Pleasanton home. It was a festive night celebrating the holidays with great conversation, food, and wonderful company. The generous attendees of the party donated more than \$1000 to the foster kids of Agape Villages! See picture below of attendees.



Memorial & Honor Gifts

October 8, 2014 through January 3, 2015

In Loving Memory

ERLINDA ACOSTA
Gene & Mary Copeland
Hank & Betty Lawson

DORIS ALLSUP
Kim Diaz

CLARA ALMAND
Homer & Norma Benson

PAUL ARNERICH
Melanie Arnerich

AUNT ANILA
John & Nadine Greff

BEN BALDWIN
Bessie Lee

CAMMIE BARKSDALE
John & Nadine Greff
Clyde & Joyce Percival

ELMER & FAYE BEATY
Bob & Opal Taylor

EARL BREWER
Bonnie Brewer

GLENN & JEAN BROCK
Don & Judy Price

LEO BRYANT
Josephine Banks
Ernie & Sharon Buda

JERRY BYRNE
JoAnne Byrne

MELVIN S. CLARY
Mauney Clary

GENEVA COMER
Ron & Carolyn Miller

JOE CORCORAN
Donald & Barbara Gray
Matt & Jill Ormand

MARGIE E. ELSWICK
Margie Bullock

MARILYN EVANS
Rebecca Sloat

DIANE FRANKLIN
Gene & Mary Copland

CHRISTINE IRWIN GOLT
Darla Kilgannon

PAT HALL
Betty Hall

ROLLAND HAMILTON
Bill & Karen Hansen

KATHLEEN HOUSE-SHARP
Steve Sharp

ROY JOHNSON
Murline Bond
Marcia Dickerson
Ernest & Jackie Hillman
Bill and Nel Huie
Hank & Betty Lawson
Ray & Celia Lawson
Walt & Carolyn Sayles
Jean Shotwell
Steve, Doris, Arianne &
Tobias Walker

WILLIAM & VAUGHNCELE KISER
Rita Blue

FRED KLEYN
Chris Bentley
Robbie Bentley
Beverly Kleyn
Janet Kleyn

BILL LAIRD
JoAnn Byrne

McNEAL LANKFORD
Lois Lankford

TED LANKFORD
Joann Lankford

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

ROMAINE LUKEY
Norman & Mary Wilson

JIM MATHEWS
Murline Bond
Ernest & Jackie Hillman

PAT McCAIN
Mark & Naomi Guy

EVERETT NICHOLAS
Wilma Flach
Janet Kleyn
Norman & Mary Wilson

CHERYL ORMAND
Donald & Barbara Gray

LEONOR RINCON
Norman & Mary Wilson

NEAL ROYAL
Rita Royal

GLEN RUST
Virginia Gordon

OKALEE SCHREIBER
Murline Bond
Ernest & Jackie Hillman
Walt & Carolyn Sayles

DEANNA SENFT
Jerry & Karel Baxley

BILL SILVA
Rick & Linda Deuel

NELL SIMON
Rita Blue

ELGIE SPENCE
Jim & Patsy Clark
Janet Hames

RICHARD STARK
JoAnn Byrne

NANCY SUMMITT
Don & Gwen Minor

LOIS TAYLOR
Wilma Neal

KELSEY THOMAS
Dev & Donna Ogle

TIM TOOMBS
Janet Hames

In Honor of The Marriage of Hank and Betty Lawson

Jossue & Bangon Badial
Sharon Bennett
Walt & Terry Bruce
Ann Butler
Karen Cardwell
Theris Coats
Rodger & Charlene Cobb
Lisla Damoulos
Rod & Betty Davis
Kevin & Kate D'Or
Wilma Flach
John & Nadine Greff
Dan Hill
Dick & Dodie Jones
Ken Jones
Beverly Kleyn
Janet Kleyn
David & Jeanette Lee

Doug & Nancy Mead
Bill & Gerri Means
Ron & Carolyn Miller
Daniel & Desirae Núñez
Daryn & Jennifer Oxe
Nina Payne & Charles Osby
Dale & Marlene Peck
Don & Judy Pemberton
Gregg & Stephanie Pino
Gloria Robertson
John & Rhonda Rogers
Bobby & Ginger Sparks
Floyd & Pat Stumbo
Brandon & Shelby Teeples
JR & Judy Teeples
Don & Brenda Thomas
Wes & Diane Wolford

PLEASE REMEMBER
AGAPE VILLAGES
IN YOUR
WILL OR
ESTATE PLAN.



For more information:
jkleyn@AgapeVillages.org

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: _____
Email address: _____

Securing Bright Futures for Children

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

Become a Facebook friend of
Agape Villages. Just sign into
Facebook and search for
Agape Villages Foster Family
Agency

In Honor And Respect

A Sweet & Loving Girl
ALIHA
Alma Williamson

Love you, Grandma!
SHIRLEY ARNERICH
Melanie Arnerich

Merry Christmas!
CHRIS BENTLEY
Robbie Bentley
Janet Kleyn

Merry Christmas!
ROBBIE BENTLEY
Chris Bentley
Janet Kleyn

*Thank You For Your Loving &
Giving Hearts. Merry Christmas!*
JIM & MONA CARPER
Kari Carper

Merry Christmas!
KARI CARPER
Jim & Mona Carper

Merry Christmas!
KEN & TRACY CARPER
Jim & Mona Carper
Kari Carper

Merry Christmas!
**LENAE, JACLYN & CADEN
CARPER**
Kari Carper

*With Thanksgiving For My
Children and Grandchildren!*
DAN DORSEY
Lisla Damoulos

With Honor & Respect
CLAIRE FERREIRA
Teresa Hansen
William Killeen
Ryan Young

With Love & Respect
RITA FRANKMORE
Wyba Nienstadt

For All You Do!
JOHN & NADINE GREFF
Theo Roberts

Love You, Cousin!
HERMAN HOUSE
Wyba Nienstadt

Love You, Cousin!
ORVILLE HOUSE
Wyba Nienstadt

Happy Birthday!
MARY ANN JANKORD
David & Sheila Brown
Carol Pliner

Merry Christmas!
BEVERLY KLEYN
Chris Bentley
Robbie Bentley
Janet Kleyn

With Honor & Respect
BEVERLY KLEYN
Doris Smith

Merry Christmas!
JANET KLEYN
Chris Bentley
Robbie Bentley

Happy Birthday!
JANET KLEYN
Janice Mattoon

Merry Christmas!
LINDA KUENZINGER
Kari Carper

Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary!
PHIL & CLAIRE La SCOLA
Doug & Terez Matkins

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

Merry Christmas!
**RYAN, BRITTANY, LEVI &
RIGGS LIBBY**
Kari Carper

Merry Christmas!
ROY & BRENDA MILLS
Holly Murphy
Robert & Bonnie Murphy

Merry Christmas!
**ROBERT, BONNIE, HOLLY
& CHAD MURPHY**
Brett & Dyan Richardson

*With Thanks For The Many
Ways You Help!*
BARBARA NELSON
Dennis & Judy Cree

Merry Christmas!
**CLYDE & MARCIE
RICHARDSON**
Holly Murphy

Merry Christmas!
KATE ROBERSON
Robbie Bentley

Happy Birthday!
RHONDA ROGERS
John Rogers

With Love & Respect
MILLIE SCHULTZ
Wyba Nienstadt

*With Thanksgiving For My
Children and Grandchildren!*
KIM SIZEMORE
Lisla Damoulos

Happy Birthday!
LORENE SMITH
Sarah Rockey

*Happy 50th Wedding
Anniversary!*
SCOTT & LORENE SMITH
Sarah Rockey

Happy 86th Birthday!
ANITA WATERS
Michael & Lisa Waters

*Merry Christmas and Happy
Birthday!*
MEGAN WILLEY
Kari Carper

Cheryl's Corner

Providing Support to Our Foster Families and Staff

Agape would like to announce new additions to our team of professionals, **Kara Isensee** and **Corrine Menchaca**. Kara is our new administrative assistant and co-facilitator for our Girls Group. Corrine is a Master's level social worker. Welcome to Agape!



Cheryl Youngblood, LCSW

Agape Villages'
Program Director

One of the major goals of our staff is to help our foster parents be successful in serving children and youth. We offer monthly foster parent support meetings, facilitated by our outreach social workers, Courtney McAlister and Dave Roach. Courtney and Dave conduct their support meetings throughout the Bay Area, Central Valley and the Sacramento Area, making it accessible for all foster parents to attend. Not only do our foster parents receive pertinent trainings and educational information, they also receive added support as our meetings are a refreshing venue for parents to bond, collaborate, make new friends and share ideas with each other.

Our team of professional social workers are excited to be receiving training from a new facilitator, Paul Gibson. He is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who has over 35 years of experience training mental health professionals. Here at Agape, we go above and beyond the State requirements. We believe our kids and families deserve the best possible support, treatments and interventions, and that's why our social workers complete 36 hours of mental health training a year, 3 times the amount of training hours that is required.



Sleep Train was so generous in the 4th quarter! We received donations of pajamas, shoes, socks, school supplies and toys. We also received financial donations totaling nearly \$6,000, to be used to purchase those items and for our children to be able to experience activities like summer camp and other enrichment activities. All total this past year (2014), Sleep Train donated over \$50,000 worth of items for Agape Villages foster children. Thank you!!!

Agape Villages

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925-866-3020
866-922-4273

www.AgapeVillages.org

Janet Kleyn
President and CEO

Cheryl Youngblood, LCSW
Program Director

Other Admin. Staff:

Hank Lawson
Director, Church Relations

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

Velma Sykes
Community Engagement Director
(Greater Sacramento Area)

Nina Payne
Outreach Coordinator (Manteca)

Board of Directors

David Lee, Chair
Desirae Núñez, Secretary
Hank Lawson, Treasurer
Walter Bruce
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."

56 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

Ephesians 5:1

"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love..."

Remember, Online
Giving is Available on
our Website

www.AgapeVillages.org

From the President

We Can (and Must) Make a Difference

As I reflect on 2014, one basic question is, "Did I make a difference?" We all want to make a difference. To have our lives matter. I'm sure we made a difference with our families and those we are closest to.

What a blessing to know that 158 young lives were touched through Agape in 2014. That they had safe homes with food and clothing, that they attended school, that many participated in enriching activities. But most of all, that they were loved.

As I often tell people, "foster" children have not done anything wrong. The adults in their lives have let them down and that's why they are in foster care. We work hard to "do right" by these kids. **We want for "Agape" kids the same thing we want for our own kids – we want the best!**

In a sense, we must make this work personal for us to be most effective. This relates to why

Jesus gave us the "Golden Rule." He said in Matthew 7:12, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you..." This makes things personal, doesn't it?

As Paul wrote to the church in Galatia, "As you have opportunity, do good." (Galatians 6:10) Here at Agape, we have opportunities to do good just waiting for you! How will you get involved in 2015? Will you be a foster parent? A volunteer? A donor? A prayer warrior? By taking advantage of the opportunities at Agape, at the end of 2015, you will be able to look back and say, "I made a difference in young lives!"

Thank you for your help, your support, your prayers in 2014. With your help, Agape will make a difference in many young lives in 2015. Indeed, in this sad world of ours, we must make a difference in young lives. Thank you, Happy New Year, and I pray God's richest blessings on you in 2015.