



**Agape Villages**  
Foster Family Agency

# The Love Letter

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

July, 2014

Healing Hearts and Building Families

Volume 56, No. 3

## Blessed By Sharing Our Lives!

By Dave and Sabra Thomas, Foster Parents

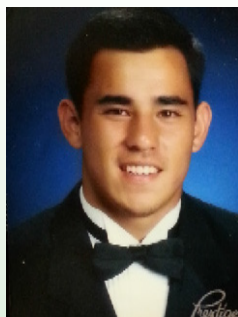
Sonny came into our lives as an 8 year old. His story was pretty much the same as most kids taken into the system. Yes, he was loved by his family, but he was living in an unsafe environment, constantly around drugs, and was neglected. This "little man," as I nicknamed him, was shy, but so darn cute!

We found out when Sonny was in about the fourth grade that he had a learning disability. Like many other children, he had attention deficit disorder (ADD). So, school work has always been challenging for him.

We tried to adopt Sonny twice... each time we got to a certain place in the process and he would begin to act out. So I asked him one day, "Don't you want us to adopt you?" He replied "No." Wow, my heart broke! But he had no clue how this affected us. He wanted to just keep things the way they were. And so we did.

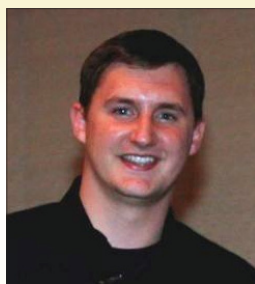
Sonny grew up to be a role model for others. He was an outstanding athlete at Rosemont High. His football skills and abil-

ity to run and set records in track were thrilling to see. Sonny and his 4/1 relay team went to Stanford and LA to race in "invitational only" races. This year he made it to **Masters**.



Sonny applied for an internship at the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) and is currently working his first Summer job there! Last Fall he was Homecoming King. This coming fall, he will begin classes at Sacramento State University. At this time he is wanting to become a physical therapist. He dreams of working with professional athletes someday.

Sonny is now 18 years old. The pride and love I feel for this child is indescribable. My wife and I never needed a name change or a piece of paper to define our family. Sonny was right. The heart claims who it loves and, in our home, we are very blessed to have shared our lives with Sonny and other amazing young men. We remember Agape helping us out with sporting stuff. Look, that is now his life's passion! We are so glad we opened our home and heart to him! So is everyone at Agape!



Christopher Nunes

## They are God's Masterpiece!

By Christopher Nunes, Associate Minister, Empire Church of Christ

**Ephesians 2:10** – *"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."*

This verse always astounds me, especially as I look out at all the marvelous things God has created. HE refers to US as HIS Masterpieces.

Recently, I had the opportunity to work at Bible camp and was blessed to interact with 16 children who were in the care of Agape Villages. What a JOY that was! As I listened to their stories, it was shocking to hear all that they have endured at such a young age. What speaks far greater than this is their ability to overcome their past, to enjoy life, to make friends and to appreciate the little things.

After you begin to look past the "foster kid" label, you see that they are simply Children. And not only that, they are Masterpieces of the Most High!

It touched my heart to be with them, to listen to their stories, to laugh with them and to learn from them. I left camp with a desire to be more involved, to do what I can to help because these children are God's Masterpieces and they deserve a chance to truly live up to that title!

That week at camp was truly a joy. The relationships I was able to make with those 16 children will be relationships I'll never forget and, hopefully, will be able to keep for eternity. I am thankful I had the opportunity to be with them at camp. I'm all too aware that it certainly wouldn't have been possible without the help and support from people reading this letter. Remember they're not "Foster Kids," they're Masterpieces!

*Opportunities to Make a Difference in Many Lives!*

## Many Good Things to Come for Teenage Boy After Tough Beginnings!

"Michael" is 16 years old, a junior in high school, and has been in an Agape home for about 18 months. During his time with Agape, Michael has been with "Tom and Julie Wilson." Tom and Julie have provided Michael with a sense of permanency and acceptance that has led to his educational and behavioral progress.

Michael initially had issues with authority at school, but has learned to advocate for himself in an appropriate way. With Michael's cooperation, Social Worker Virginia Jensen has been able to create an educational plan that will allow him to graduate with his class.

Michael is currently working towards independence. He recently completed Agape's Living Skills Program (LSP), a five-month series of presentations for Agape Villages foster youth ages 15 years and up.

Michael has developed his artistic skills such that he won 1st place in his school's art show. Michael advanced to the school district's art competition, where he also took 1st place. Furthermore, Michael received acknowledgment of his participation and awards in the local newspaper.

Michael is a unique young man. Though life can be difficult at times, he strives to surpass his hardships and seeks to make the best of situations. His resiliency is remarkable. The future looks bright for Michael and we are thankful for him and the opportunity we have had to play a part in his life.

## That Made My Day! By Terry Thomas, MA, Agape Social Worker

I have a heart-felt story. Last week I had the most rewarding moment as an Agape Villages social worker so far in my first 5 months since joining the staff. I have a 3 year old girl ("Jessica") on my caseload that has Down Syndrome. I have been working with her for about five months and it has been a pleasure to watch her progress! She can now use one word sentences (Hi, No, Yes, Bye, etc.).

During my last visit, she came home from school and greeted me by saying "Hi." She then came up to me with her arms wide open and said "Hug." I gave her a hug. That made my day!



## Volunteer Spotlight

**Volunteers are Priceless!**

Our volunteer spotlight this month is on the Lincoln Avenue Church of Christ in Manteca. This church is very close to our Manteca office and so they are our "go to" group of people when we need help. We receive donations of clothing and toys, and need somewhere to temporarily store them, until the social workers can get the things out to the children. Sure, Lincoln Avenue has an extra room where we can store things. Need help at a street fair? Of course Lincoln Avenue will help. Need somewhere to hold training? No problem! Have a special project? Lincoln Avenue will be there. Time and again, the Lincoln Avenue congregation has been there to help us. So we say, Thank You! You are just what we need!



## We Need More Volunteers!

If you would like to be a volunteer, please let us know via our website: [www.agapevillages.org](http://www.agapevillages.org) and use the Support button or call us at 866-922-4273.

## 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.





# What To See...So We Can Be...

By Hank Lawson, Agape Villages Board Chair

The Board of Directors at Agape Villages is made up of a group of diverse individuals who come from a variety of vocational backgrounds. This brings many perspectives to the board as we discuss and make decisions in governing the work of the agency.

Many may know, but I have been a pulpit minister in the Churches of Christ for 46 years now. This explains why I like to write articles for our newsletter which tie into the Christian motivation for our work. This work is, indeed, close to the heart of God. Scriptures speak much about our hearts also! We are challenged to do this work from the heart.

The Apostle Peter in 1 Peter writes to those who are the people of God and encourages His people to see how special they are...a royal priesthood, ...people belonging to God who have been "called out" of darkness into His wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9). We need to **see** and understand who we are so we can **be** who we need to be!

The Apostle Paul wants us to see that we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. (Ephesians 2:10). We **see** this so we can **be** about good works!

We continually encourage you to **see** the opportunities for service through Agape Villages. We are about caring for the children and youth in need of loving foster homes. We keep them safe, meet their needs and help them reach toward a better and brighter future. We help them **see** how God loves them and cares for them also.

Here's an important question. "If the 'called-out' don't step up and out to do good, who will?" I believe God wants His people to lead the way in **being** there to serve children. We are encouraged to do good to all people as we have the opportunity (Galatians 6:10).

Agape Villages is looking for good people with good hearts to take advantage of the opportunities to serve children who need our help. Let us **see** what we can **be**!

## Agape Hosts 4th Annual Picnic

We had our 4<sup>th</sup> annual picnic on June 7<sup>th</sup>. What a success!!! Our families, kids and staff had a fun-filled afternoon, enjoying the glorious weather, listening to live music and having grilled hot dogs and hamburgers. There was plenty of fresh cotton candy and flavorful, ice-cold, snow cones. The children enjoyed face-painting, soccer, water features, games and prizes. Passion for Equines



Redeems Dreams, or better known as PFERD, entertained the children with their traveling petting zoo. The kids enjoyed playing with the ponies, goats, puppies and dogs. "Paws 4 Friends" amused the kids with their adorable canine companions who were all in costume and doing tricks for the children.



We want to personally thank our amazing sponsors and volunteers, including Love's Driving School, Cavallo Riding Center, Paws 4 Friends, Funtastic Gymnastics, Moores Martial Arts of Manteca, Give Every Child a Chance, Candy Windschitl, Sleep Train, Sweet Cases, Mom's Club of Manteca, A Better Way, United Way, GK Music, USGA.INC, Bimbo Bakery in Sacramento, Noah's 7Up, Fagundes Meats in Manteca, The First Tee of San Joaquin, Frito Lay, James Mootz, Second Harvest Food Bank, Midas, Roland Group Real Estate, Oak Valley Community Bank, Manteca Visitors Bureau, Bank of Stockton, Meineke Car Care Center, The Senior Center, Dave Byrd, Northside Church of Christ, Gary Colby, Don's Mobile Glass, Diamond Almonds, Jessica Moul, and Fremont Bank.



We appreciate you all!

One does good to oneself when one does good to others!

**Golf Tournament in Manteca**  
**"Fairway for Foster Kids"**  
**- September 12, 2014 -**  
**At the Manteca Golf Course**  
*(Driving Range, Lunch, Fun Competitions and Great Prizes!)*

- \$90/player
- \$340/Foursome
- Registration begins at 6:30 a.m.
- 8:00 a.m. tee off
- A four man team scramble format
- Auction

**Sponsorship Opportunities are Available**  
 See our website for more information on this event:  
[www.AgapeVillages.org](http://www.AgapeVillages.org) (click on events & then golf)

# What Should We Ask For?

By Nina Payne, Outreach Coordinator

Gina Obrochta called me from **Joshua Cowell School** in Manteca. It was early May and she informed me that every class in the school had chosen an organization to sponsor. The 8th grade class chose Agape Villages to sponsor! She asked "What do the foster kids need?"

I was so excited. I got off the phone and called everyone, social workers, secretaries...everyone I could think of. WHAT SHOULD WE ASK FOR???

After much discussion, we decided on SCHOOL SUPPLIES!!!! Yes, school supplies! Never too soon for school supplies.

Dave Roach, Agape Social Worker, and I arrived at the school on May 16 and watched an amazing celebration

called "WE DAY." The 8th Graders had collected 5 boxes of school supplies for our foster kids. Then we heard a wonderful speech about how "If once you don't succeed, try, try again", from Astronaut Jose Hernandez who grew up as a farm laborer and was the father of one of the kids at the school. Wonderful day!

Agape says "thank you" to the 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Joshua Cowell School.



## 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 \$2,605 through the second quarter of 2014.**

## Lunch with Sleep Train Staff

We had the pleasure of visiting with Sleep Train staff to thank them for all they've been doing to help us and to give them a deeper understanding of the great work we are doing!

In the picture above, at left, are Agape staff: Bangon Badial, Janet Kleyn and Nina Payne. At right are staff from Sleep Train: Mauri Knowles, Adrienne Moss and Alyssa Del Vigna.



## 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**

**The miracle is this:  
the more we share,  
the more we have!**

## Our Professional Service Statistics

### Current Year Statistics (From 1/1/14 to 6/27/14)

- 107 – Foster Children Served Year-to-Date
- 33 – New Children in Care this Year
- 67 – Foster Children Currently in Care
- 62 – Certified Foster Families

### Since We Began in 1958

- 5,855 – Foster Children Served
  - ◆ 4,000 – Through Sierra Children's Home
  - ◆ 1,855 – Through Agape Villages
- 443 – Foster Families who have Partnered with us in Foster Care

## Jail 'N Bail – Pleasanton

Agape had our 1st annual Jail 'N Bail fundraiser in Pleasanton on April 11. Thanks to our Tri-Valley Advisory Council (*special recognition to Wes and Diane Wolford for all their hard work in advance of the event*)



Pictured above is "criminal" Jon Johnston making his case with "Judge" Dave Stark.

and those who helped to bail out our "jailbirds," Agape raised nearly \$10,000! A special "Thank You" to our judges, Fire Chief Jim Miguel, Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce Board Chairman Dave Stark, and Retired Alameda County Judge Ron Hyde. And a big thank you to Comerica Bank in Pleasanton for hosting our event.



# So much to be THANKFUL for!

## Pacific Gas and Electric

Thanks to Pacific Gas and Electric Company for their very generous grant of \$6,000 to Agape. Their commitment to the community is a real blessing. Pictured at right are Janet, Dylan George and Nina Payne.



## Kiwanis Club of Pleasanton

We are thankful to all those with the Kiwanis Club of Pleasanton - Sunrise for their very generous \$2000 grant. Pictured at right with Janet is Rachel Alameda, President of the club.



## Our 2nd Sacramento Annual Dinner

We held our second annual dinner in the Sacramento area at the Roseville Church of Christ on Friday, April 11. There were over 150 in attendance to hear Agape foster parents Patrick and Janet Mitchell and their daughter Zakaria speak of the blessings and rewards of being a foster parent and foster child. Janet Kleyn shared the highlights of 2013 and showed a video of some of the kids and their activities. Silent auction and Dessert auction added to the fun and excitement! Musical quartet "New Walk" entertained the group with several selections. We are thrilled that \$3500 was raised! Thank you, Roseville church, for hosting this event.



## Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley

We are thankful to the Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley for their very generous grant of \$1000. Pictured at left with Janet is Deanna Sullivan, President of the club.

## Pleasanton North Rotary

Our thanks to the Rotary Club of Pleasanton North Foundation for their generous grant of \$1,000 to help with recruiting and training new foster parents in Alameda County.



## 4th Annual Bingo Event in Manteca

Agape had our 4th annual Bingo event in Manteca on April 11. We thank the Senior Advisory Committee of the Senior Center for their assistance this year. We also thank all of our Manteca Advisory Council members who collected raffle items, sponsors and worked the night of the event. We added ice cream to the menu this year and it was a big hit! We also thank Fagundes Meats, Meineke Car Care Center, Midas, Second Harvest Food Bank and Don's Mobile Glass. We raised \$2400!

## Raymus Foundation

The Raymus Foundation in Manteca recently gave us a \$5,000 grant to support our intensive treatment foster care (ITFC) program and various enrichment activities like music, art and gymnastics. Thank-you Raymus Foundation, for your continuing support of our program!



## Ross Dress for Less

We thank ROSS Dress for Less for their generous gift of \$1,200 as we serve children and youth in our foster care program.

## Manteca Area Community Council

We were very pleased to receive a \$2000 grant from the Manteca Area Community Council of United Way of San Joaquin County. Pictured at right, from left to right, are Andy Prokop, President/CEO United Way of San Joaquin County, Janet Kleyn and Debbie Baglietto, Vice President and Manager of Oak Valley Community Bank and Co-Chair for the United Way Community Council. Thanks again to everyone!



## Danville Children's Guild Party

The Danville Children's Guild is a group of amazing women who work hard to help children in need in Contra Costa County. Agape was honored to be the beneficiary of their recent annual Poker Party fundraiser. And we were blessed to receive a check for \$10,750! Thank you, ladies, you are truly amazing! Pictured from left to right are Jen Oxe, Tracie Vollgraf, and Agape President, Janet Kleyn.



# Memorial & Honor Gifts

April 10, 2014 through June 26, 2014

## In Loving Memory

**ERLINDA ACOSTA**  
Gene & Mary Copeland  
Hank Lawson

**DICK BLYTHE**  
Mark & Dianne Kiser

**GLENN & JEAN BROCK**  
Don & Judy Price

**JERRY BYRNE**  
JoAnn Byrne

**TOM COOK**  
Lloyd & Rhonda Fisher

**JOE CORCORAN**  
Matt & Jill Ormond

**KENDALL KELVIN CUMMINGS**  
Burl & June Rodgers

**ALICE ESTES**  
Wyba Nienstadt

**IVA HECKENLIABLE**  
Carol Ellis  
John & Nadine Greff

**JIM HENRY, SR.**  
Ladies Bible Class of  
Fremont Church of Christ  
Lloyd & Rhonda Fisher

**KATHLEEN HOUSE SHARP**  
Steve Sharp  
Alma Williamson

**FRANK & CHARLOTTE INSCORE**  
Tom & Merla Avery

**BETTY IRVING**  
Lisla Damoulos  
Madaline Johns  
Janet Kleyn  
Hank Lawson

**LENORE JEWETT**  
Rebecca Sloat

**JIM JOHNSON**  
Rosell Johnson

**EDITH KEARNEY**  
Janet Kleyn  
Don & Gwen Minor  
Bill & Dalena Samuel

**WILLIAM & VAUGHNCELE KISER**  
Mark & Dianne Kiser

**FRED KLEYN**  
Duane Canby  
Beverly Kleyn

**GINGER LAWSON**  
Gene & Mary Copeland  
Hank Lawson  
Jo Lawson  
Ray & Celia Lawson  
Danah Nelson

**BEATRICE LAY**  
Virginia Gordon

**HOMER McILROY**  
Fred & Jenny Ricker

**SHAWN NORRIED**  
Kyra Norried

**ALMA ODGEN**  
Carol Ellis

**MALCOLM PECK**  
Vivian Greer

**VERLA PERVIS**  
Orval & Diane Welch

**FREEMAN POPE**  
Hank Lawson

**EVELYN JUNE POWER**  
Tim & Tonya Power

**IDABELLE PUCKETT**  
Steve & Shirley Lino

**NORMA ROBERTSON**  
Tom Robertson

**DEANNA SENFT**  
Larry & Lori Cheeves  
John & Nadine Greff  
Janet Kleyn  
Hank Lawson

**DR. JIMMY B. SMITH**  
Doris Smith

**WARREN THOMPSON**  
Norman & Becky Cole  
Carol Ellis  
John & Nadine Greff  
Hank Lawson  
Clyde & Joyce Percival  
Theo Roberts

**EVA TISCARENO**  
Mickie Phelps  
Rebecca Sloat

**NORMA WOOTEN**  
Steve Sharp  
Emily Sliger

## In Honor And Respect

*Happy Mother's Day*  
**NORMA BLAIR**  
Janice Mattoon

*With Appreciation and Respect*  
**SINA CHAN**  
Kendra Lui

*Happy Mother's Day*  
**DIANE CLONTZ**  
Paul & MaryAnn Clontz

*Happy Mother's Day*  
**TRACY CLONTZ**  
Paul & MaryAnn Clontz

*Happy Mother's Day*  
**LIZ CONNAUGHTON**  
Paul & MaryAnn Clontz

*Happy 63rd Wedding Anniversary, Sweetheart*  
**NADINE GREFF**  
John Greff

*Happy Mother's Day*  
**KAREN HALL**  
Paul & MaryAnn Clontz

*Happy Mother's Day*  
**BEVERLY KLEYN**  
Janet Kleyn

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

*With Appreciation and Respect*  
**HANK LAWSON & FAMILY**  
Emily Sliger

*With Appreciation and Respect*  
**ELVINA LUI**  
Kendra Lui

*Congratulations on Your Baptism*  
**FAITH NIENSTADT**  
Wyba Nienstadt

*Congratulations on Your Baptism*  
**HANNAH NIENSTADT**  
Wyba Nienstadt

The measure of  
*Love* ♥♥♥  
is to *Love*  
without measure.

## A Special Way to Honor Loved Ones

Memorial gifts are a meaningful way to honor the memory of those who have passed on while being a touching source of encouragement to their loved ones who are still among us. Honor gifts are also a meaningful way to pay tribute to those on special occasions or for special events. Once a gift is received, we send a nice letter of encouragement acknowledging the gift to those specified. We also list the gift in our newsletter. These tributes are always received with warm and appreciative hearts.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

*Blessed By Sharing Our Lives*

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

www.AgapeVillages.org



*The children and youth who are referred to us need a 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance in life. They are depending on us.*

## Special Masterpieces!

Our children and youth are so thankful to the women who make quilts and bedspreads for them. These are talented women who spend countless hours creating masterpieces for them. Some are for little girls and others for little boys. Some are just perfect for our teen girls. And some are big and masculine for our teen boys. No one is forgotten! These quilts come from places like Fairfield, Sacramento and as far away as Chino (Southern California). Our children treasure their quilts, knowing that someone who will never meet them, loves them, prays for them, and made this for them. Thank you!



## New Agape Offices

Agape hosted our first Manteca Chamber of Commerce Coffee and Ribbon Cutting in our new office. Over 50 guests attended and enjoyed touring our beautiful office and hearing about our work at Agape. Our Girls' Group created body and lip scrub, bath salt and spritz in various scents for the give-away baskets.

PLEASE REMEMBER  
AGAPE VILLAGES  
IN YOUR  
**WILL OR**  
ESTATE PLAN.



For more information:  
jkleyn@AgapeVillages.org

[www.AgapeVillages.org](http://www.AgapeVillages.org)

Actions and words  
are the windows  
through which the  
heart is seen.



Another playhouse  
donated by  
**Habitat for Humanity**  
which we sold as part of  
a fundraising event.  
Pete and April Banuelos  
purchased the  
playhouse and their  
grandchildren are  
simply loving it!

## Cheryl's Corner

### Special Programs Provide Opportunities for Growth and Healing!

Emily, Megan and the Girls' Group continue to make and sell decorative body mist fragrances and air fresheners for \$5.00.

Cheryl Youngblood, LCSW



Agape Villages'  
Program Director

If you are interested in purchasing one of our handmade, organic, scented delights please let us know. The Girls' Group is currently planning an activity that is community based. The Girls' Group is interested in helping out in the community and giving back their time and skills wherever they are needed, so please let us know if anyone has any ideas or requests.

Agape is pleased to announce that we just received a contract from San Joaquin County for Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC) services. Our ITFC program goes to great lengths to make certain that our youth and families receive the best possible resources and services. At Agape, we strive to ensure that the emotional, medical, psychological and social needs of our children are met so that they can begin to heal from their traumatized backgrounds and transition to a brighter future.

Our Living Skills Program (LSP) is an inventive program geared for assisting youth ages 15-21 with transitional living skills. This quarter our LSP group will be spending an exciting afternoon at Passion for Equines Redeems Dreams. Our youth will have the opportunity to do horseback riding, learn about the animals, how the horses are cared for and enjoy the beauty of the land and the stables where the animals call home. Our LSP youth will also be provided with the opportunity to participate in an internship at their stables. They will be taught gainful knowledge in the skill of equestrian life that could possibly transition into a noble trade.

If you would like to volunteer your time or make a donation, just let us know!



## Agape Villages

3160 Crow Canyon Place  
Suite 120  
San Ramon, CA 94583

925-866-3020

866-922-4273

[www.AgapeVillages.org](http://www.AgapeVillages.org)

## Admin. Staff:

**Janet Kleyn**  
*President*

**Cheryl Youngblood, LCSW**  
*Program Director*

**Nina Payne**  
*Outreach Coordinator*

## Board of Directors

Hank Lawson, Chair  
Desirae Núñez, Secretary  
Stephanie Pino, Treasurer  
Walter Bruce  
Theris Coats  
Charlene Cobb  
Janet Kleyn  
Carolyn Miller  
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.”

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

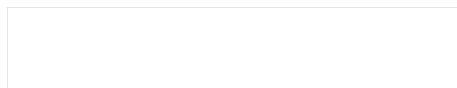


## Agape Villages Foster Family Agency

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

### ***1 Peter 2:12***

*“Live good lives among the pagans that...they may see your good deeds and glorify God...”*

**Remember, Online Giving is Available on our Website**

[www.AgapeVillages.org](http://www.AgapeVillages.org)

## *From the President*

# We Could Not “Be” Agape Without You

I was at the foster family picnic on June 7<sup>th</sup>. I go to every Agape event I possibly can... because it brings me joy! My favorite events are when the families and children are there. Our Christmas parties and our annual picnic.

The picnic was like most picnics – lots of food and lots of kids. Happy kids, running around, playing, enjoying all the activities the Agape staff had planned for them. Parents watching them, being sure that everyone was safe and happy. I thought about everything that was required for the picnic to be a success. And it’s really the same thing that it takes for Agape to be successful.

First of all, of course, we need children, children who need a safe and loving home. Sadly, there are many children in need of that. We wish we could serve every one of them, and we are always looking for foster parents.

It takes qualified staff, people with the educa-

tion and experience to support the families and children. But it takes more than that. It takes love and compassion, and the willingness to go the extra mile when necessary.

We must have foster parents of course. People who will open their home and heart to someone else’s child. To a hurting child who needs someone to take care of them and love them.

We need volunteers, people who will give sacrificially of their time and finances, people who will step in where needed.

We had all of them at the picnic – kids, staff, foster parents, volunteers. The final group that is needed for Agape to serve children is you – our faithful donors. Generous people who care about kids and want to help. You weren’t at the picnic, but in a real sense, you were, because we could not “be” Agape without you. **Yes, Each One Counts at Agape. Including you!**