



Agape Villages
Foster Family Agency

The Love Letter

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

July, 2015

Healing Hearts and Building Families

Volume 57, No. 3

They Are All "Our" Children



A child welfare expert recently commented on some of the problems and challenges in the foster care system, including children moving from home-to-home and the difficulty obtaining counseling for children and youth. He framed it personally when he said, ***"I look at the overall situation and think none of us would sit still for a minute if this was our child, when in fact, these are ALL our children."***

Yes, children in state custody foster care are, in a very real sense, all "our" children...our responsibility. This highlights one of the biggest challenges we have to overcome. It relates to the following idiom, ***"If it's everyone's responsibility, then it's no one's responsibility."*** This is mostly true. Why? When it's also someone else's responsibility, we let them handle it. If everyone responds this way, no one takes charge.

The antidote to this tendency is for us to be full of compassion. Have you heard that admonition before? Scriptures relate to this often as well as provide other similar encouragements, i.e. be kind, be merciful, be gracious and tenderhearted. What do these have in common? They call upon us to take the concern of those in need personally and get engaged in helping.

We've been beating this drum for nearly 57 years now as we continue our outreach to vulnerable children and youth. We are grateful for how so many have joined with us over the years. Even so, there is so much more to do, so many more children and youth in need of homes. We must respond and do more! This is what we are trying to do! Please continue to partner with us as, together, we continue to do something very special for "our" children!

"It Ain't Much, But Maybe It Will Help!"

By Hank Lawson, Director, Church Relations

I travel to make presentations to congregations all over California. I want to share a story of a recent visit I had at one congregation. After I had made my presentation and after the assembly was over, a young man came up to me. He was a tall, lanky kid and he handed me an Agape Villages return envelope we place in our newsletters. He said, *"It ain't much, but maybe it will help."* I thanked him and shook his hand.

When I got home, I opened the envelope and a dollar bill was in there with a note from this young man. He said, *"I was at the church and was inspired by your story. I myself was in foster care and was harshly abused in two out of the three. It is good to hear that your ministry tries to help those kids to have it much better. It ain't much, but I hope it will help."*

I wish I had known. I would have liked to have said much more. I think of Jesus and the widow's mite. He said, "It ain't much" but just maybe it was a whole lot. I don't think that young man had a lot of those "dollar bills." I am thankful, I

am humbled and I am prayerful. I believe a dollar was a lot to him. It was a gift to help others like him to have a better experience...to improve their lives and provide the prospects for a brighter future.

Being mistreated in foster care is a terrible thing. It goes against the purpose of foster care. Fortunately, it is very rare...but it can happen. That is why it is so important to screen families well, to provide close supervision/support to them and to provide good training to equip them to handle the children and youth in their care. This is how we do foster care at Agape.

Our promise is reflected in our mission statement: *"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."*

A Wonderful Experience...

John, age 20, recently attended a Disneyland trip with his girlfriend and her family and had a blast. John had never been to Disneyland and had the best time of his life. He can testify why Disneyland is the happiest place on Earth! John was so excited about his time at Disneyland and he gave social worker Brian Bossemeyer detail on specific rides that he went on. He definitely wants to go back!

What a Cell Phone Means...

Foster Mother, Sandy, recently bought a cell phone for Jose. Jose has been so excited to have the phone because not only is he able to communicate easily with his Agape social worker, Brian Bossemeyer, but he is also able to communicate with his sister and mother in Mexico using calling cards. The phone can be used for emergencies to get hold of his foster mother and he also uses the phone to play games. He's loving the phone. We are pleased that Jose is even so responsible that he pays \$10 a month toward the cost of the cell phone.

Working with the Child and the Family...

Mary was first placed with our agency as a voluntary placement by her parents through the county. The initial plan was

to help this family for roughly 30 days while the parents located housing. Unfortunately, her parents' problems grew worse, especially their drug use. The County approved this situation for another 6 months contingent on the parents locating housing, attending parenting classes, attending drug classes and testing "clean."

Throughout the 6 months, our foster mother, the child's parents and Agape Villages social worker, Courtney McAlister, cooperated in working together for Mary's sake. Mary is autistic and change is very difficult for her. She calls the foster mother "Grandma" which helps as her parents are comfortable with this (not feeling in competition). Over time, a good relationship has developed between our foster parents and Mary's parents.

Social Worker McAlister has assisted our foster mother in locating resources in the community for Mary. Mary is thriving in the home and the behaviors have immensely reduced since when she first was placed. When she was first placed, she would constantly scream and throw temper tantrums. That is no longer an issue.

Our foster mother has stated that if the parents are not able to reunify with Mary, that she would be willing to keep Mary forever.

San Ramon Chamber Event Good for PR!

Agape was pleased to co-host the San Ramon Chamber of Commerce monthly mixer in May. The event provided the opportunity to meet a lot of people and tell them about Agape. Thank you, San Ramon Chamber.

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.



In The Volunteer Spotlight!

Stephen T. Webb is an active member of our Sacramento Advisory Council. His energy, enthusiasm and charisma make him a natural to be on the microphone at our public events, often encouraging people to "spend just a little bit more!" He has also been active in recruiting volunteers and donors to support Agape. Stephen has been a licensed realtor since 1998 and has won numerous awards in that business. Stephen is NAACP President of the Sacramento branch after holding many other positions within NAACP. He received the Outstanding Community Service Award in 2010 and 2013 from the Sacramento Association of Realtors. He was named Person of the Year in 2014 by the Sacramento Observer. Stephen and his wife Sandra attend the Parkway Church of Christ in Sacramento. With Stephen's busy schedule, we appreciate him making Agape a priority. As Stephen says, "It's for the kids." Thank you, Stephen!



Stephen T. Webb



Hank Lawson

PROVIDING HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

By Hank Lawson, Director, Church Relations

Paul wrote this marvelous promise: *"But just as it is written, 'Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love HIM."* (I Cor. 2:9). He quoted from Isaiah

64:4 and 65:17. We all acknowledge God's power to bless, but few can visualize it the way Paul has written it.

Sister Stella had been ill for a numbers of years. She knew her time on earth was just about over. She called her preacher to talk to him about the service she wanted. As she talked about her plans, one of the things she wanted was to be buried with a fork in her hand.

At her funeral service, the preacher did her celebration of life. He explained to those in attendance that as they walked by the casket, they would see she held a fork in her hand. He ex-

plained why. When Sister Stella was a child, and would go with her parents to people's houses to dine, she remembered that the hostess would always say, "Keep your forks." Stella knew as a child that this meant dessert was next: THE BEST WAS YET TO COME!! As she faced eternity, she knew the truth of that statement: for her, the best was yet to come!

For the children and youth who come into our program at Agape Villages, we want to be able to offer the VERY BEST in foster care services. We know they come with a fork in their hand (figuratively), hoping that better days are ahead for them.

Together, we can make that happen! Not only can we meet their needs right now, we can help them see (offer hope) that their future is bright and that they can also have an eternal destiny where the best is yet to come.

Agape Welcomes Katy Partan to our Staff

Katy Partan has been hired as our "Community Engagement Director" in the Central Valley area. Katy has been a grant writer and a non-profit consultant. Katy has also led fundraising events. Katy worked with foster kids and families in Southern California before moving to Northern California. We are glad to have Katy on board at Agape!



Katy Partan

Katy's role will focus on grant writing and fund raising. She steps in to handle some of the responsibilities previously handled by Nina Payne. Nina is returning to her "first love"

– recruiting and assisting prospective foster families through the certification process. Thank you, Nina, for your continuing dedication and hard work.

MARKET & MUSIC IN THE PARK

We're looking for foster parents, volunteers and sponsors this summer at our booth in the Market & Music in Manteca located in Library Park. This year the Manteca Chamber of Commerce has taken over the Farmer's Market and created a weekly event for the city. There's fresh summer produce, music and vendors of every kind. If you're interested in fostering, want to volunteer or just want to see what Agape is all about, come see us. We'll be there every Tuesday thru July 28th from 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

California Foundation for Stronger Communities

The California Foundation for Stronger Communities recently gave us a \$10,000 grant. In their letter to us, they said, "Your service to the community is heartwarming and we are honored to help support your goals." Thank you! Many hearts will be warmed because of this generous grant.



Nina Payne, Andy Prokof, President, United Way of San Joaquin County, and Janet Kleyn at annual "Power of One" luncheon in Stockton. The program celebrated the difference an individual can make. The United Way is blessed by many generous individuals and they pass that blessing on to others!

11th Annual
"Fairways Fore Foster Kids"
 Golf Tournament

Lunch and Auction!

~ September 25th ~
 Manteca Golf Course

Fun Competition & Great Prizes!

◆ 6:30 am registration ◆ 8:00 am tee off

Sponsorship Opportunities Available
 See Our Website – Events Page
www.AgapeVillages.org

A Child's Innocence



David Lee, Chair, Board of Directors

"Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." From its beginning, Agape Villages' goals have been to follow Jesus' instructions to care for our precious children. A child's innocence should always be protected.

Unfortunately, in many homes children are not protected and cherished, but are victims of those who should care for them. There are many reasons for this: drugs, alcohol and abusive adults can make a child's life unbearable. That is the reason for Agape Villages' existence...to give these children a home of refuge in a Christian environment of love and respect. Please pray for our children and those people who protect them.

Tri-Valley Jail 'N Bail 2015

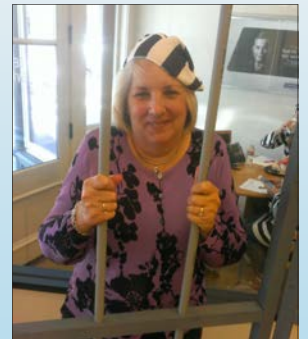


Wow! What an amazing day in the Tri-Valley (Bay Area)! On April 17th, we held our annual Jail 'N Bail event at both the San Ramon and Pleasanton Comerica banks. It was a great day raising money for the foster kids. So many dedicated volunteers worked hard to make their bail!



Marie Tara and Judge David Stark

They posted pictures on social media, texted and called their friends. Many of our jailbirds



Pleasanton City Council Member Kathy Narum

raised over \$1,000 each. Such dedication to a great cause resulted in raising over \$16,000. Thank you to branch managers Patty Diaz and Doug Crane for hosting our event. Special thanks to our "judges:" Newell Arnerich, Will Doerlich, Geoff Gillette, Ron Hyde, Todd Moberg and Dave Stark. And, thanks to everyone who helped make this day a huge success!

Justice Has Been served...Again!

amazonsmile



Can Benefit Agape Villages

AmazonSmile is a way Amazon.com offers caring people to purchase items and support their favorite charity at the same time. To participate, just go to their web site, smile.amazon.com, and start buying! A portion of the purchase price will then go to Agape Villages. For more information on this program, go to the following link:

<http://smile.amazon.com/about>

Live in the Pleasanton area? Stop and say "Hi!"

Come out to the 1st Wednesday Street Party – August 5 and September 2. It's a lot of fun to shop, dine and stroll your way through downtown Pleasanton. Look for our booth – we're across from Strizzi's Restaurant on Main St.

Our Professional Service Statistics

Current Year Statistics (So Far) (From 1/1/15 to 6/24/15)

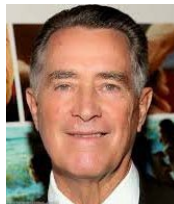
- 103 – Foster Children Served Year-to-Date
- 27 – New Children in Care this Year
- 81 – Foster Children Currently in Care
- 61 – Certified Foster Families

Since We Began in 1958

- 5,933 – Foster Children Served
 - ◆ 4,000 – Through Sierra Children's Home
 - ◆ 1,933 – Through Agape Villages
- 456 – Foster Families who have Partnered with us in Foster Care

Save the Date! 3rd Annual Dinner and Auction

Saturday, November 7, 2015 • 6-10 p.m.



Featuring Jim White, the real-life coach who inspired the Disney movie "McFarland, USA". Jim will inspire us all with his story!

At the Marriott Pleasanton • 11950 Dublin Canyon Road, Pleasanton

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 \$2,224 through the 2nd quarter of 2015.



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!

Sacramento/Parkway Church of Christ Fundraising Dinner

Our third annual fundraising dinner in the Sacramento area was held at the Parkway Church of Christ on May 1. Former Agape foster youth Austin Stoker was the keynote speaker and delivered an inspiring message of triumph and hope due largely to the support he received from Agape. The event raised nearly \$7,000! Thank you, Sacramento and thank you, Parkway.



Austin Stoker

Raymus Foundation Grant

The Raymus Foundation in Manteca recently gave us a \$5,000 grant. With this grant we will certify new foster homes and provide children placed in these homes with our Enhanced Treatment Foster Care and Enrichment Activities. Thank you, Raymus Foundation, for your continuing support of our program!

Give Local America Benefits Agape

Give Local America, a 24 hour on-line giving challenge, was held on May 5. We raised nearly \$2,000. We say "Thanks" to everyone who participated and especially to those donors who are brand-new to Agape. Welcome!

Agape Named as Beneficiary

A caring couple left Agape Villages in their will and we recently received 5% of their estate through their trust. We appreciate the many ways loving people support our work to serve children, youth and their families!

Girl Scouts Help Agape

Girl Scout Troop 33248 in Livermore recently collected books and undergarments for the children at Agape Villages. They earned their Silver Award by giving back to children in the community. To raise money, in April they sold tickets to the movie, The Lorax, where they handed out information about Agape Villages. Thank you, girls!



Mixed Bags Designs Fundraiser

Thank you to our loyal Agape Villages donors and to everyone who purchased items through our Mixed Bags Fundraiser. We received about \$600 for the foster kids.

CoffeeTea Superstore Fundraiser

Thank you so much to Debbie Asano at the CoffeeTea Superstore on Main Street in Pleasanton for donating \$.50 from each cup of tea or coffee to Agape Villages Foster Family Agency for the month of April! We are so blessed to have charitable businesses like this helping foster kids in our community.

You Never Know What You'll Find in a Can of Coins!

We were given a coin can that was labeled "3 generations of pennies." Irene is 82. We later found out that in fact 5 generations had contributed to the can. Irene, her daughter, her grandchildren and her great grandchildren, and they added pennies from Irene's mother who had a coin collection. So we decided to see how old the pennies were. The oldest pennies were from 1956 - they were "wheat" pennies (wheat on the "tails" side). The newest pennies were from 2014. 2 pennies from Canada! A total of \$5.49. What a great legacy to be passed on from generation to generation.

Coin Drive at San Leandro Church

The San Leandro Church of Christ recently held a "coin" drive and raised over \$600! Want to get a coin drive going at your congregation or business? Call Hank Lawson at (209)484-1377.

Disbanding Church Gives to Agape

We were among other recipients of funds from a congregation which made the difficult decision to end their work and disband the church. These transitions come with the sadness of loss, but the gift to Agape provides a sense of encouragement, knowing that children close to the heart of God will be blessed through this gift...one way to keep the gift giving into the future.

Living Skills Program Helpful!

Our Living Skills Program (LSP) is an inventive program geared to assisting youth ages 15-21 with transitional living skills. This quarter our LSP group was pleased to have Ruben Andujo, nutrition specialist and fitness trainer. Mr. Andujo conducted an informative and entertaining presentation for our youth, while encouraging group discussion and participation. He encourages people of all walks of life to do their own research to find healthy alternatives of nutrition that fit their individual lifestyles. The youth appeared to have a great time while also gaining important knowledge that will hopefully help them to make healthier life choices.

Memorial & Honor Gifts

March 21, 2015 through June 22, 2015

In Loving Memory

ERLINDA ACOSTA

Gene & Mary Copeland
Hank & Betty Lawson

ROY & BETTY BARTLETT

Christopher Nunes

EARL BREWER

Bonnie Brewer

AL BROCKMAN

Church of Christ of Murphys

SHERMAN & ELMA

CANNON

Dale Cannon

Elaine Cannon

Jim & Caye Randolph

TOMMY CLIFTON

Kim & Rebecca Sloat

PENNY COBURN

John & Nadine Greff

JOE CORCORAN

Donald & Barbara Gray

Matt & Jill Ormond

CAROL ELLIS

John & Nadine Greff

Janet Kleyn

Hank & Betty Lawson

LINDA FETSCH

Roger & Pam Elliott

NADENE FLETCHER

Bob & Ellen Fletcher

NORMAN FOSTER

Loyce Foster

SHERLENE HAMMONDS

Gene & Mary Copeland

RALPH HEINRICH

John & Nadine Greff

Joyce Percival

ORVILLE HOUSE

John & Nadine Greff

Janet Kleyn

Hank & Betty Lawson

Wyba Nienstadt

FRANK INSCORE

Dan & Shannon Bow

DALE IRVING

Ann Butler

Glen & Sandra Cobb

Rod & Betty Davis

Jerry & Kathleen Dotson

Don & Mary Ann Dunn

John Rogers

FERN JENKINS

Lisla Damoulos

Rod & Betty Davis

Jerry & Kathleen Dotson

Don & Mary Ann Dunn

Dave & Tami Jenkins

Dick & Dodie Jones

Doug & Terez Matkins

Don & Gwen Minor

Nancy Pearson

John Rogers

Wes & Diane Wolford

WILLIAM & VAUGHNCELE

KISER

Mark & Dianne Kiser

FRED KLEYN

Beverly Kleyn

Janet Kleyn

GINGER LAWSON

Gene & Mary Copeland

Hank & Betty Lawson

Jo Lawson

Ray & Celia Lawson

Debra Miller

Danah Nelson

JEANETTE MANN

Doris Beard

Olga Brazzel

Richard & Judy Deatherage

Wilma Flach

Janet Kleyn

Doris McLeod

PAT McMILLON

Ernest & Jackie Hillman

MARY (MAGNESS) MOYERS

Loyce Foster

TONI MUNIAIN

Raymond & Mary Muniain

ORILLION NAY

Kim & Rebecca Sloat

SHAWN NORRIED

Kyra Norried

CHERYL ORMOND

Donald & Barbara Gray

CLYDE PERCIVAL

John & Nadine Greff

Janet Kleyn

Hank & Betty Lawson

MARILYN SISK PITTINGER

Jim & Patsy Clark

EVELYN JUNE POWER

Tim & Tonya Power

JANE RAINES

Ernest & Jackie Hillman

Kim & Rebecca Sloat

DYAN RICHARDSON

Ash & Diana Ashley

Ann Butler

Lisla Damoulos

Rod & Betty Davis

Jerry & Kathleen Dotson

Don & Mary Ann Dunn

Madaline Johns

Beverly Kleyn

Janet Kleyn

Hank & Betty Lawson

Joe & Joy Mears

Guiseppe & Laura Raneri

Clyde & Marie Richardson

John Rogers

LaVonne Sibert

Bobby & Ginger Sparks

Wes & Diane Wolford

RHONDA ROGERS

Sharon Bennett

Ann Butler

Karen Cardwell

Glen & Sandra Cobb

Lisla Damoulos

Rod & Betty Davis

Jerry & Kathleen Dotson

Don & Mary Ann Dunn

Fred & June Followill

Dan Hill

Dick & Dodie Jones

Ken Jones

Janet Kleyn

Hank & Betty Lawson

Doug & Terez Matkins

Bill & Gerri Means

Don & Gwen Minor

Don & Judy Pemberton

John Rogers

Bobby & Ginger Sparks

Wes & Diane Wolford

JERRY ROMAN

Hank & Betty Lawson

DEANNA SENFT

Jerry & Karel Baxley

DR. JIMMIE SMITH

Doris Smith

DONALD A. STEPHENS

Loyce Foster

KAREN WEBER

Doris Beard

Olga Brazzel

Melvin & Iona Dutra

MELVIN WELDON

Rick & Linda Deuel

In Honor And Respect

Happy Birthday!

KERRY & AL AVEDIKIAN

Michael & Rena Avedikian

Happy Mother's Day!

RETA CLARK

Michael & Rena Avedikian

Happy Mother's Day!

BEVERLY KLEYN

Janet Kleyn

A Great Dad!

HANK LAWSON

Jo Lawson

Ray & Celia Lawson

With Respect & Appreciation!

ELVINA LUI

Pamela Ellis

Al Pacheco

Joe Tagupa

Praying For Your Recovery!

GLEN PULLIAM

Wyba Nienstadt

Faithful Christian Friends!

DALE & MARY ROGERS

Wyba Nienstadt

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: _____

They Are All "Our" Children

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

www.AgapeVillages.org

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



Date has Been Changed for this Event!

Summer time is here. Join Agape Villages and the **Sacramento** community at "It's A Family Affair" Festival & BBQ Competition on **September 12th** from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the Village Green Park in Rancho Cordova. 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**.

Activities for the children include a huge water fountain to splash around in, jump houses and face painting. There will be opportunities for shopping with local arts and craft vendors, health information and screenings, live music and much more. Would you like to showcase your BBQ'ing talent? Register to enter the competition. Do you want to be a vendor? For registration information or details about becoming a vendor, call Velma Sykes, Community Engagement Director at (916) 643-5031. **Sponsorship opportunities are available.**

Additional Grants Received Recently:

Sacramento Association of Realtors – \$2,500
Lam Research Foundation Fund – \$2,000
Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley – \$1,000



Thank you Sleep Train for the \$4,800 to purchase clothes, pajamas, toys, coats and school supplies for our foster children. We also appreciate all the donations of clothing, shoes, and toys. You are a blessing to our children!

Annual Picnic a Big Hit!

Our families, kids, staff and volunteers all had a magnificent time at Agape's 5th annual picnic/training. Thanks so much to Gordon Kennedy of GK Music for assisting us this year with live entertainment and providing the astounding band, Time Frame who played some favorite ol' tunes from well-known bands. The families and kids played in the sun while enjoying the free-wheeling music.



Kids of all ages enjoyed the bounce house, Python Ron's Reptile show, the water feature, the games, prizes, face painting, the mouth-watering burgers and treats. It was an opportunity for foster parents to gain knowledge of our Enrichment Program and for kids to have fun and meet other kids in similar situations.

Paws 4 Friends was also there!!

This is a non-profit organization that works frequently with Agape's kids and families. Their goal is to provide therapy dog services to the community. A therapy dog is trained to provide comfort and affection to the young and elderly.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make our picnic a wonderful success. A special thank you to Kevin Youngblood for donating all of the equipment for the picnic, and for all of his help and support.

www.AgapeVillages.org

Cheryl's Corner

Milo the Dog... From Homeless to Therapist!

As a therapist, I know the value that animals can add to a person's emotional and physical health. I also see the stress and concern our foster kids have, especially at first. Recently, a stray dog came into my life. Though I love dogs, I wasn't looking for one – I'm just too busy! But before you know it, this little dog ("Milo") had wormed his way into my husband's and my hearts, and Milo was ours.



Cheryl Youngblood, LCSW
Agape Villages' Program Director

Milo spent some time with the Agape staff and in no time was doing his Milo "magic" on them also. So I decided to find out if Milo could pass the extensive

testing necessary to become a therapy dog.

To no one's surprise, Milo passed with flying colors and is an official therapy dog through Paws 4 Friends.

Equipped with his red checkered flannel jacket (we call it a smoking jacket!), Milo is warming the hearts of not

only our staff, foster kids and foster families, but the hearts of folks young and old from assisted living facilities to schools for children with behavioral and emotional concerns. Milo has a life full of purpose and love, and is a blessing to all who know him.



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:

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

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

Romans 13: 9-10

"The commandments ... are summed up in this one rule: "Love you neighbor as yourself... Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law."

Remember, Online Giving is Available on our Website

www.AgapeVillages.org

From the President

Call Me Blessed

I have a spirit of thankfulness. Thankfulness for a wonderful family – my two sons and my mother in particular. Thankfulness for meaningful work, work that makes a difference in the lives of children and youth. Thankfulness for all the people I meet.

Thankfulness for the kids – all ages, all sizes, all colors, but sharing the need for a safe home, for people who will love them and take care of them. Thankfulness for the wonderful foster parents who care for these children. Who don't mind a little inconvenience when it can mean so much to a child. Who willingly, cheerfully give up time, space, energy to make life better for the children in their care. Who demonstrate true agape love on a daily basis.

Thankfulness for our professional, caring Agape staff, who time after time go the extra mile to be sure the children on their caseload have the best available. Who show incredible patience and compassion, understanding that

under temper tantrums in our younger kids and rebelliousness in our older kids, is often fear.

Thankfulness for our volunteers, who give so freely of their time and help us keep costs down. Thankfulness for our board of directors who give of their time, talent and treasure to be sure that this work, begun 56 years ago, will continue to serve children.

Thankfulness for the life of a wonderful man, Floyd Stumbo of Lubbock Texas, who passed away in June. For 57 years, Floyd cared for children in need at the Children's Home of Lubbock and the Lubbock Children's Home Foundation. For the last 7 years, he was my mentor and friend.

Finally, I am thankful for you, our donors, who care about children you will never meet. Who give generously and faithfully, because that is who and what you are. Yes, my name is Janet, but you can Call Me Blessed.