

## Reaccreditation: Just What Does it Mean?

By Mark Anglin, Chairman of Agape Villages Board of Directors

Agape Foster Family Agency is proud to announce the recently received maximum three-year reaccreditation from CARF International (Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities), an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services agencies in the areas of: Adoption (Children & Adolescents); Foster Family and Kinship Care (Children & Adolescents); and Agency Governance Standards.

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process and continuous improvement of services that enhance the lives of those persons served. CARF establishes standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of programs and services being offered.

This is the second consecutive three-year accreditation awarded Agape. By pursuing and attaining accreditation, Agape has exhibited a commitment to meet international

standards for quality and proven to be committed to practicing excellence.

This accreditation decision by CARF represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded and demonstrates Agape's considerable conformance to the CARF standards.

In achieving a three-year accreditation, Agape has put itself through a rigorous peer review process. We have demonstrated to a team of independent surveyors our commitment to offering programs and services that are measurable, accountable, and of the highest quality.



We welcome an opportunity to further acquaint you with our services. We believe our organization is an asset, and our CARF accreditation highlights our commitment to those we serve.

Thank you to everyone associated with the agency for all that you do. To contact us go to: <https://agapevillages.org/>.



## A Former Foster Youth's Story—Gripping

By Paulina Astafuroff, Former Agape Youth

I entered foster care for the first time when I was four years old due to my parents' negligence. I was poorly fed, had minimal to no supervision, and little care devoted to me due to their drug and alcohol dependency. After little time in foster care, my parents were able to compose themselves enough to get me back home. Shortly thereafter, they continued and worsened their habits. My father passed away in our home when I was six years old and my mother's addiction spiraled afterwards. My mother allowed many of her friends to live in our home which contributed to the physical, sexual, and mental abuse I endured.

When I was nine years old, my grandmother obtained senior living housing and would often sneak me into her apartment. After multiple reports, CPS found me at this senior living facility and took me back to foster care with Agape Villages at age ten or eleven.

My foster parents and I had our own challenges. However, love always prevailed. They adopted me when I was thirteen and supported me in my passions and academics. I was able to take community college classes in high school, focus on my interests and was accepted into UC Berkeley out of high school. I graduated with a double major in art practice and business administration and have been working in nonprofits for the last eight years. I currently teach preschool full time, work with a nonprofit that helps lead foster youth to higher education and am still pursuing my passions in art and giving back to my community. I am also proud to be engaged to my best friend of twelve years and have recently purchased my first home in California.

As I reflect on my time with Agape, I think of the events they held in which I was able to meet other foster youth.

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# From Foster Care to Adoption

By Leanne Darby, Foster & Adoptive Mom

My husband Andrew and I have been foster parents with Agape for 3 years now. We have 3 children born to us, ages 9, 15 and 17. Our first foster placement, a little boy named "William," was with us for over 18 months before reunifying with his family. As "William" was preparing to transition home, we began to pray for God to continue to use us as foster parents to serve precious children. Our prayer was for God to fill our arms and hearts with another child...and He did!

Working together during "William's" time in our home, Agape social worker Dave Roach got to know our family well. Not too long after, Dave heard about newborn Jade and thinking of our family, he placed her with us. We knew there was a chance she might become available for

adoption but we didn't know for sure. We trusted God's plan to reveal itself.

Just 2 weeks after Jade was placed in our home, COVID happened, and the world shut down! I cannot say enough about the support we received from Agape during this challenging time, and from Dave in particular. When it became apparent that Jade would not be going home, Dave was our mentor and guide through the adoption process, which was completed in record time despite COVID. Though she had our hearts from Day 1, Jade legally joined our family on June 7, 2021. We are so grateful for the blessing she is in our lives, and will forever be thankful to Agape and Dave Roach for their endless support and kindness.



The Darby's children

## From Grocery Store to Online Shopping to Benefit Agape

The escrip program, through which most grocery stores participated, has been re-vamped. It now is for online shopping that gives back to Agape Villages. It is for **Slickdeals Gives Back** and **Amazon Smile**.

— \$239 received YTD in 2021 —

## Faithful Support Each Year

We are grateful to **Manteca Sunrise Kiwanis** for 12 years of faithful support to Agape Villages (another \$500 this year). We are also thankful for the **Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley** for their 10 years of faithful support (\$2000 this year). Helping children and youth in foster care is a great way to make a difference in our communities.



## 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. Also, see our website at [www.AgapeVillages.org](http://www.AgapeVillages.org).



We want to highlight special volunteers. But first we had to contact this volunteer and ask because there was always a chance, she would not want any special attention. **Stephanie Pino** has been an Agape Villages volunteer for over 20 years. She lives in Empire, but that does not stop her. Whether it is a Crab feed in Roseville, a golf tournament in Manteca or a drive-thru dinner in Ripon, she is there. From set-up to break-down. Whatever it takes. Whatever needs to be done. You can count on Stephanie. On April 16, her birthday, she was with Agape during the Manteca - April Showers Drive-thru dinner. Dedication! We love you, Stephanie, and we love that we always get two-for-one when your husband Gregg accompanies you!!!



Gregg & Stephanie Pino

## 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 "Get Involved" button, or call us at 866-922-4273.

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



Hank Lawson

# Feel Good About Investing in Children!

By Hank Lawson, Director, Church and Community Relations

What is it that makes us happy? The answer to that question would vary between people based on one's worldview. For Christian oriented people, we are happy when we do God's will. Staying close to what touches God's heart is a sure way to know we are doing God's will. God communicates often through the scriptures that helping the disadvantaged, the oppressed and those in need is something He wants His children to do. This is a clear sign of what's important to Him. The Apostle Paul says to Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:18, *"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share."*

A major way of doing good is by investing in what's best for children in need. It's about their present needs and future outcomes. We must invest in them now in order to achieve bright futures. Consider the story of Paulina on the front page of this newsletter and also the article about "Pure Altruism" below.

Yes, we know we see some immediate results in children's lives when they first come to us. We meet their immediate needs for stability, love, food, clothing, medical and dental care, etc. We help them emotionally as we deal with the trauma in their lives and we provide the sense of security

they desperately need. All of this changes their lives beginning their first day in care with us.

There are many ways to be involved in how we invest in the lives of children and youth.

1. We need foster parents. They have the direct contact with our kids on a 24/7 basis. They make a tremendous difference.
2. We need financial supporters to help us wrap services around each child and youth we serve.
3. We need volunteers to help us in our endeavors.

We need everyone's involvement! Agape Villages is a joint effort, a community coming together to invest in the lives of children. Helping children puts a smile on our hearts!

## Agape's Nina Payne appointed to Chamber of Commerce Board



Our Certification Coordinator from the Manteca Office, Nina Payne, was inducted into the Manteca Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors on June 17<sup>th</sup>. She has enjoyed working with the Chamber as an Ambassador for 7 years.

Her board seat will last for 2 years. Congratulations Nina!

Continued from Page 1

## A Former Foster Youth's Story

Being able to speak to other youth like me and hear some of their stories truly empowered me. For a long time, I thought I was alone. However, realizing I was one of many who experienced a cruel upbringing made me feel like there was hope for not only me, but all of us.

Since that time, I have dedicated so much of my time learning about, mentoring, and supporting other foster youth. I also try to pay attention to the details when working with foster youth, just as Agape did for me. I distinctly remember Agape purchasing me a pair of boots I wanted one year for Christmas, which made me feel seen and cared about. Agape also provided me with a social worker, Dave Roach, I could look up to, which gave me a vision for myself. These small yet impactful contributions from Agape helped shape me into the person I am today, and like Agape, I try to show foster kids I care, whenever I can.

Through the strength and compassion of members of Agape, many devoted schoolteachers, and mentors along the way, I have found the grace to view hardship as an opportunity for wisdom. Experiencing pain at a young age taught me how important support is. I attribute my successes to those who believed in me and am forever grateful.

## Pure Altruism Rooted in Love and Empathy

By Sarah Rockey, Agape Board Member

A few weeks ago, we received a package containing homemade quilts. Enclosed was a note that ended, "Made with love for kids I will never see." It was a beautiful reminder of what it means to support Agape.

It's so much easier to care about what's in front of you, to be spurred to action when confronted with a need face-to-face. But when you donate to Agape, you do it without knowing the children whose lives you're blessing. You make your monthly donation or piece a quilt or sponsor an event because you see each child's worth, even though you will never see each child. What a testament to our faith that we support children who may be complete strangers to us, but who are known and loved by our God.

Thank you for that support on behalf of the children you may never meet, but whose lives you've changed.



# Memorial & Honor Gifts

February 6, 2021 through June 12, 2021

## In Loving Memory

### ERLINDA ACOSTA

Gene & Mary Copeland  
Hank & Betty Lawson

### DOROTHY ALLEY

Jerry & Karel Baxley

### ALMEDA AVEDIKIAN

Michael & Rena Avedikian

### ROY & BETTY BARTLETT

Christopher & Brittney Nunes

### ONIE BAXLEY

Jerry & Karel Baxley

### TAHJ BRUCE

Heather Bruce  
Heidi Bruce  
Rich and Malia Bruce  
Walt & Terry Bruce

### JAMES BUCKNER SR.

Norma Benson

### EARLIE & MARY BUSTER

Irvin Buster  
Gene & Mary Copeland  
Hank & Betty Lawson

### TRACY BUSTER

Irvin Buster

### HARLAN COKER

Gordon & Annette Giboney

### PAUL COVEY

Janet Kleyn  
Cheryl Lee

### TANDRA DOOLEY

Gene & Mary Copeland

### TATIANA DUGGER

Tom & Jessie Farris

### DUANE DUKE

Darrell & Milene Radford  
Kelly Scott  
Scott & Lorene Smith

### WILMA FLACH

Richard & Judy Deatherage

### FRED FOLLOWILL

Glen & Sandy Cobb  
Janet Kleyn  
Hank & Betty Lawson  
Joe & Joy Mears  
John Rogers  
LaVonne Sibert  
Ginger Sparks

### NANCY GARRARD

Hank & Betty Lawson

### PAUL GROSE

Norman & Rebecca Cole

### A.J. GWIN

Norman & Rebecca Cole

### TOM HARDY

Andy & Becky Borchers  
Janet Kleyn  
Hank & Betty Lawson  
Joseph & Angelina Torres

### AMOS & FRANCES HENSON

Pier & Rachel Dutcher

### WILLIAM & VAUGHNCELE

### KISER

Mark & Dianne Kiser  
Vickie Kiser

### FRED KLEYN

Robbie Bentley  
Beverly Kleyn

### GINGER LAWSON

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

### JOHN MARK MALONE

David & Ann Malone

### BETTY MCPEAK

Janet Kleyn  
Donald & Gwen Minor

### MARLENE MEISSNER

Wayne & Nettie Meissner

### CHARLES OSBY

Agape Villages Board of  
Directors

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Norman Benson

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Marlene Peck

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Lois Robinson

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Jerry & Karel Baxley

### GAYLE SWEENEY

Denis & Joan McGrellis

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Austin Watts

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Alisal Church of Christ,  
Salinas, CA  
Eugene & Mary Maddox  
Kyra Norried

### MARIE WIMBERLEY

Mark & Peggy Paslay

### ALVIN ZUEHLK

Judy Price

## In Honor And Respect

### ELDERS AND MINISTERS, SAN LEANDRO CHURCH OF CHRIST

With Honor & Respect!  
Sharon Casanares

### JASPER FLAGG

With Honor & Respect!  
Katie Patterson

### JANUSHA KRISHNAN

Happy Birthday!  
Ranjeet Kowel

### SHANA LAPASTORA

With Honor & Respect!  
Ernest McNabb

### HANK LAWSON

"The Best!"  
Gene & Mary Copeland

### HANK LAWSON

A Great Dad!  
Jo Lawson

### HANK & BETTY LAWSON

With Love & Respect!  
Ray & Celia Lawson

### BETTY MAYNARD

Happy Birthday!  
Barbara Stoffle

### JANICE MCCLESKY

In Honor of Your Retirement!  
Norman & Rebecca Cole

### JAMES PAYNE

With Honor & Respect!  
Bronall & Linda Heaslet

### SARAH ROCKEY

Happy Birthday!  
Scott & Lorene Smith

### NOVELLA VIGNOLO

Happy Birthday!  
Jayme & Bunny Nash

### RAY WILSON

Praying for You!  
David & Kathy Spegal



## A Legacy Gift

Remember Agape Villages  
With The Ones You Love!

### Wills and Estates

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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Love Will Always Prevail

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

# A True Champion for Children

We highlighted **Kevin Youngblood**, President of USGA, Inc., in our March 2020 newsletter for the many ways he supports Agape, both financially and with his time. We are so grateful for his continued support and enthusiasm for Agape that we feel compelled to highlight him again as a real Champion for Children.



Kevin continues to be a passionate advocate for the children at Agape. He is a member of the Agape Advisory Committee in San Leandro. Notably Kevin was instrumental in our golf tournament last October being so successful. His company, USGA, Inc., was the Shirt Sponsor for the event. He personally recruited 12 foursomes to play at the tournament. He was responsible for 6 companies being corporate sponsors. At the end of the tournament, he even “passed the hat,” raising nearly \$1,000. All total, through Kevin’s efforts, more than \$16,000 was raised through the golf tournament.

And he hasn’t stopped there. As Agape has struggled with fundraising due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kevin has continued to be a very generous donor. And when an extra hand is needed for something, Kevin is there. Most recently, Kevin donated \$2,500 to Agape’s youth groups. This generous contribution will provide our kids with the opportunity of engaging in activities such as horseback riding, hiking excursions, field trips and amusement parks. Thank you Kevin from the bottom of our hearts. You are truly a Champion for Children.

# Virtual Fundraising Event Huge Success

We couldn’t have our usual **“From Your Heart to Our Kids”** in-person event but that didn’t stop us from raising money! We held a virtual online fundraiser on March 6 at the Amos Productions studio in Livermore. **Randy Brown**, local realtor with PMZ Real Estate, former chairman of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and passionate Agape supporter, was our amazing MC. Paulina Astafuroff, former Agape foster youth, spoke of her experience as a foster youth (see page 1 for her story). Emily Youngblood, Agape Certification Coordinator in San Leandro, also spoke of her experience and observations in various Agape staff positions. There were some great Live Auction items and Fund-a-Need of course.



Randy Brown

More than \$30,000 was raised for the foster kids of Agape Villages! Thank you to everyone who helped make this night a huge success, especially Agape board members Cindae Hull and Walt Bruce.

Our belated thanks to **Waldo and Yvonne Herrera** and the **tenants at 9401 E Stockton Blvd, Elk Grove** for their generosity to “our” children last Christmas time. The whole building did a toy drive led by Waldo and Yvonne. More than 100 gifts were collected. Thank you!

We thank **The Alliance: Defending the Cause of Kids and Families** in the Greater Sacramento area for their ongoing support of the children at Agape. They are always there at Christmas time with toys. And they support Agape throughout the year with diapers, clothing, baby items, bedding, books and Easter baskets. Our thanks to Tiffany Loeffler, Michelle Kopkash and everyone at the Alliance. You truly make a difference.

## Eagle Scout Luke Darby's Service Project

Luke Darby (the son of an Agape resource family) selected Agape Villages for his Eagle Scout service project. Luke and other scouts replaced all of the old shelving in the San Leandro storage room, organized all of the items up and off the ground so that items are easier to locate, and built a new bookshelf in the supervised visit/meeting room. Luke coordinated with Mara in the San Leandro office, and with all of the scouts and their parents to have a morning and afternoon crew to help organize the items. He raised over \$2000 to make this project possible, and did an excellent job of ensuring that the shelves were properly put together and that all items were organized and labeled accordingly. We are so grateful to Luke for leading the project, and to all of the scouts who helped out. The storage room looks beautiful, and will make things so much easier for staff and resource families when picking up items!



Luke Darby and his friends

**“I cannot do all the good that the world needs. But, the world needs all the good that I can do.”**  
Jana Stanfield



Our car donation program provides vital support to our work. Call **CARS** toll-free, seven days a week at **1-855-550-4483**. Or, go to our website below.

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



## Congratulations to our 2 Graduates!

We are very pleased to report that we have two 17 year olds who have just graduated from High School. This is very significant given the fact that only 65% of foster care youth in California graduate High School. Having a High School diploma will open many doors to these two young adults. We are so happy for them and how they have overcome many obstacles to get to this point. They are champions to us!

## Crab 'N Go

We could not have our very successful crab feed in person this year, but thanks to the **Roseville Church of Christ** and their many volunteers, we were able to have a drive-thru "Crab 'N Go" event. The food was terrific! More than \$6,000 was raised. Our thanks to everyone involved!

## Drive-Thru Fundraisers

From February thru May the **Manteca Advisory Council** organized three consecutive Drive-Thru fundraisers with the wildly popular Slick Fork BBQ restaurant located in Hughson. Thank you to the **Turlock Church of Christ, Valley Christian Fellowship and Ripon Church of Christ** for allowing Agape to use their sites and providing volunteers for the events. Thanks also to Chit Chat in Manteca for donating 300 cupcakes! Good food and a fun time. All total, more than \$5,000 was raised.

## Big Day of Giving

Every year, the **Sacramento Region** hosts a **Big Day of Giving** which people all over the country can participate in, on-line. This was held on May 6, 2021 and exceeded our expectations! In less than 24 hours you helped us raise more than \$7,500 (nearly 3 times as much as last year). Our thanks to everyone!



## Women Doing Great Things

Our thanks to the **Dublin/San Ramon Women's Club** for their very generous \$500 donation. They are such a kind, sweet group of women doing great things in our community and we are so thankful for the continued support.

## Gift Cards

We are grateful to the **Ticket to Dream Foundation** for their ongoing generous support of Agape. We received \$3,000 in funds to purchase gift cards for our children and youth in care. Thank you!

## Foundation Gift from NFL Player

We are so grateful to the **Austin Hooper Foundation** for recently granting the wishes of 9 Agape youth. Austin is a tight end with the Cleveland Browns. His foundation exists to make a difference for foster care children with an emphasis on those aging out of the system. The youth attended the foundation's charity golf tournament and were able to meet Austin and other NFL players. The wishes included attending a Nike football camp, attending a Nike basketball camp, taking piano lessons and having a keyboard, private cooking lessons with all the pots, pans and utensils, and to attend a class that will lead to becoming an engineer. Thank you Austin Hooper Foundation!



Lisa Foster, Austin Hooper and Eddie Marquardt

## Books Donated

We thank **Neil S. Burgstahler** of the Fulton Road Church of Christ for generously donating 50 copies of his book, *A Child's Bug Collection*. The book contains fascinating fictional stories about bugs and includes some true facts. Our kids are already enjoying reading the books. Thank you, Neil.

## Rotary Clubs Support Agape

We appreciate and value the partnerships with our local Rotary clubs who are always so charitable and giving to their local communities and beyond.

**Livermore Foundation Rotary:** Thank you for the \$3,000 grant. **Pleasanton Downtown Rotary:** Thank you for the \$2,500 grant. **Danville/Sycamore Valley Rotary:** Thank you for the \$1,000 grant.

## Toys & Toiletries

The **Future Farmers of America chapter at Manteca High School** recently donated toys and toiletries to Agape Villages. We have already blessed the resource families with these donations. Pictured is Isabella Foster with some of the donations. Thank you so much for thinking of us.



**Do Good.  
And then good will come  
to you.**

## Resource Parent Support Meetings

Monthly resource parent support meetings, conducted by Agape Social Worker Supervisors Courtney McAlister and Dave Roach, are continuing via zoom for now. Topics include the therapeutic value of pets in the home and how to do that safely; Social Media – Keeping your kids safe online; Healthy Relationships (Boundaries); Suicide Prevention – Signs to be aware of. These topics are chosen to help equip our resource parents to handle issues that may come up. Our resource parents are the best!

## Living Skills Program

Our Living Skills Program (LSP) will be meeting in person after months of meeting via zoom. LSP provides training that helps to promote independence, practical knowledge and lifelong skills for foster youth ages 15-21 years old. The final zoom meeting was with Matthew Fatusi. He spoke about How to Survive in a Crisis. He was very engaging with the youth and encouraged them to promote their interests by earning money online and helping others.

Upcoming in-person topics include the benefits of being out in nature (the youth will take a nature hike and have a picnic, led by JoRita Isola, Agape Support Counselor); Community Service, Giving Back, and Generosity, led by Molly Dua of Project HUGS (the youth will assist with assembling donations); and the healing experience of equine therapy led by Cathy Calvin, founder of Rosie's Journey of Hope Therapeutic Riding Facility. The youth will have the opportunity to groom a horse.

## Our Professional Service Statistics

### Current Year Statistics (From 1/1/21 to 6/14/21)

- 114 – Foster Children Served Year-to-Date
- 32 – New Children in Care this Year
- 79 – Foster Children Currently in Care
- 67 – Certified Foster Families
- 4 – Adoptions Facilitated

### Since We Began in 1958

- 6,527 – Foster Children Served
  - ◆ 4,000 – Through Sierra Children's Home
  - ◆ 2,527 – Through Agape Villages
- 558 – Foster Families who have Partnered with us in Foster Care



Cheryl Youngblood, LCSW



Agape Villages' Program Director

## Program Activities Adapting to the Challenges of COVID-19

California returning to normalcy. Simply put, exciting!! As the Program Director of Agape, I want to acknowledge my staff and our resource families for adapting to the challenges that we have all experienced throughout this pandemic year. Continuing to demonstrate with perseverance and never missing a beat, our passion for serving children faced with

trauma, abuse, neglect and overall adversity is truly heart-warming. Joining together and working steadfastly to bring as much normalcy, stability and joy as possible to our kids in care, illustrates the dedication and authenticity that we all as an organization embody.

I also want to deeply express our gratitude for all of our donors and volunteers who remain devoted to working with us, and help Agape impact children in immeasurable ways that we couldn't accomplish without your gifts of donations, resources, support, well wishes, and by promoting Agape within the communities. Thank you!

## MATTRESSFIRM® And Foster Kids

We are always grateful to Mattress Firm for their donations. We recently received "Summer Fun Items" including goggles, swimsuits, balls, games, etc. Just in time for the hot weather! Thank you, Mattress Firm.

## 17th Annual Golf Tournament

Contact Nina Payne – 209-430-0323



Fairways  
Fore  
Foster Kids

Friday  
October 15, 22 & 29

## Manteca Golf Course

\$400 – Foursome ● \$100 – Individual  
Team Sponsorship Competition (Team Captains)

### Details:

- 6:30 a.m. Registration
- 8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start
- 4 Person Team Format/Scramble

### Includes:

- Driving Range, Golf Cart, Prizes,
- Breakfast and Lunch,
- Raffle

Continental Breakfast, Hot Dog Snack

Register Online @ [www.AgapeVillages.org](http://www.AgapeVillages.org)

## 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)

**Janet Kleyn, MBA**  
*President and CEO*

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

**Hank Lawson**  
*Dir., Church and Community Relations*

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## 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."



**62 Years of Caring Through Sierra Children's Home/Agape Villages**

Return Service Requested

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San Ramon, CA



Janet Kleyn, President

### Hebrews 13:16

*"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."*

Remember, Online Giving is Available on our Website

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

## From the President

# What Accreditation Means to Me

Becoming accredited by CARF (Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) and being reaccredited is admittedly a lot of work! Standards are revised each year. It takes much effort to read and understand them. We ask lots of questions. We review our policies and procedures annually and revise them as necessary to be in compliance with the changing standards. We add new policies when appropriate and make them part of our daily operation.

Every three years we go through a rigorous agency wide examination of our activities by experienced CARF representatives who also make a few suggestions and recommendations on what we can do to improve our efforts. Then we wait a couple of months to hear from the CARF corporate office if we are approved for accreditation. Twice now, Agape has been told, "Yes, you meet the standards and are accredited by CARF!"

That's how we get accredited. But what does it mean besides a lot of work? It means that

as President and CEO, I know Agape is following the "Best Practices" established for our field. It means I know that the children we serve are getting high quality services. It means I know we are in compliance with standards set for our Board of Directors as our governing body. I am so proud of our staff and their daily commitment to excellence.

To you as donors, accreditation means you can have confidence in knowing that your donations, given so generously, are going to support a high quality agency committed to serving abused and neglected children. Thank you all so much!

## Recent Corporate Sponsors

- A Teeples Plumbing
- Goldrush Getaways
- USGA, Inc.