

# THE LOVE LETTER



## 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."

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June, 2017

## It Started at Starbucks! By Amanda Purves Agape Foster/Adoptive Mom

After years of praying about how our family was going to grow, God made it clear that Agape Villages was going to be a part of it. My husband Ryan and I had wanted to adopt. I was fearful of getting attached to kids to have them taken away, so fostering was not an option...at least for our first year praying about it. The next year God made it very clear to me that our biological daughter was not "my" daughter but HIS and that any kids that come into our home will be HIS and not mine. We knew after that if God called us to love and pour into kids for a short time, we would do it joyfully without fear of losing them.

Through mutual friends, we were introduced to Agape. We met with Janet Kleyn at Starbucks in 2013. We had more praying and thinking to do, but we ended up being certified foster parents with Agape Villages in 2015. That September, we got a call that there were two kids who needed a foster home. The little boy was a year and a half and the little girl was 4 months. We picked them up the next day and fell in love instantly!

Our sweet boy was homeless most of his life and had seen a lot of abuse, so he needed extra love and care. When we got him he was covered in scratch marks that were infected. He also had

this asthmatic cough with no medicine. We took him and his sister to Urgent Care right away. He is now medicine free and has no more asthmatic symptoms! Praise God!!



Our amazing girl was showing signs of delays almost immediately after we got her, so we keep track of her milestones. Agape Social Worker, Jordan Sherry, was really good at calming my anxieties and encouraging us. Today she is doing great! She still has some delays but is making progress. We are so proud of her!

While we had these sweet babies we found out their mom was pregnant. When the baby was born, they removed her and placed her with us. She is doing really well and it is wonderful to have them all together. And our biological daughter has done such a wonderful job being a big sister to all of them!

In February 2017 we adopted these precious babies and became a family of 6! And now we are ready to love and care for more babies. Well, maybe 1 more!

*We at Agape are so thankful for Ryan and Amanda and the many other wonderful Agape foster parents who take such great care of "our" kids.*



## Helping Those Who Need it the Most

By Charlie Goeken, Manteca Police Captain and Agape Volunteer

In today's society there is certainly no lack of non-profits to volunteer for or donate to. It seems a new one pops up every week. So why volunteer for Agape Villages Foster Family Agency instead of one of the other non-profits? For me, it came down to a question of who needed help the most, who was unable to help themselves through no fault of their own and where I could make the biggest difference. The answer was obvious, foster children. Foster children are truly victims and need our help.

It has been a pleasure to work with the other members of the Manteca Advisory Council, the dedicated Agape employees in the Manteca office and the Agape Board of Directors. The hard work from these dedicated people to improve the lives of

foster children is amazing. At the Manteca advisory council, we support several events a year to raise funds for the foster children and to raise awareness of the issues facing them. Through these events, it has been my pleasure to meet several of the foster children and foster parents. The parents are the ones who are seeing to the needs of the children on a daily basis and have my respect and admiration. As a father of four of my own children, who are now all grown, I can remember the hard work and dedication needed by my wife and me to raise them.

It is a pleasure to be part of such a professional organization that is making a difference in the lives of children every day and is working to strengthen our communities, one child at a time.

## From our Foster Care Program

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

### The Complex Nature of Foster Care

By Courtney McAlister, Agape Social Worker

We placed an 11 year old African American female girl, "Amy," in one of our new foster homes this past year. Amy was removed due to her mother's mental health issues making it not possible for her to properly care and protect Amy. The foster home has done an excellent job caring for Amy and meeting her every need. Amy has shared that she wants the foster home to be her forever home. Amy is able to continue visits with her mother on Saturdays and with her brother who resides in the Bay area.

As foster care situations can often be complicated, it takes professional skill and coordination to work toward what we believe are best outcomes for children. In Amy's situation, a distant relative stepped forward and requested Amy be placed with her. Amy expressed that she did not want to move to her aunt's home. There were concerns about her home which surfaced.

We assembled many people who were involved with Amy to speak up on her behalf to the county worker, including her foster mother, her counselor and Agape's Social Worker, recommending that Amy remain in her foster home. However, the county set a moving date anyway. We then asked her attorney (guardian ad litem) to speak with Amy regarding her

feelings and the attorney then set a court date for a trial in order to stop the move. In court, many testified to how well Amy is doing, both at home and in school, and that it would be a disruption to move her during the school year. The judge ruled in favor of Amy not moving to her aunt's home. We will continue providing loving care and supervision to Amy's placement.



**13<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
**Fairway Fore Foster Kids**  
**Golf Tournament**

**September 15, 2017**  
**Manteca Golf Course**

Early Bird Registration Discount  
Sign up BEFORE August 15th  
4some: \$375 | Individual: \$100

6:30 a.m. Registration  
8:30 a.m. Tee Off

Lunch & Auction

Competitions and Great Prizes

Sponsorship Opportunities Available  
See Our Website – Events Page  
[www.AgapeVillages.org](http://www.AgapeVillages.org)

**“You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.”**

## 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.



## In The Volunteer Spotlight!

We'd like to spotlight the value of volunteering in this issue. It's been said that there is nothing more powerful than the heart of a volunteer. At Agape Villages, we depend on volunteers to help us in many ways, including the following: (a) getting our newsletters processed for bulk mailing; (b) being the coordinator of our "coin cans" program at a congregation; (c) participating in an advisory council or in one of our fund raising events; (d) hosting dinners with prospective donors to encourage their hearts to get involved with our mission; (e) having a yard sale and donating the proceeds; and (f) befriending our foster parents and supporting them in their efforts with children. There are so many other ways to help. Be creative! Join with us!



### 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.



Hank Lawson

# EXPRESSING OUR FAITH IN LOVE

By Hank Lawson, Director, Church Relations

Hebrews 11:6 says: *“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”*(nas)

We read it, but what is it really saying to us?

Have you considered what the writer is wanting us to grasp?

Without faith, God is NOT pleased. So then, how much "faith" does it take to PLEASE HIM? And from another perspective, what "kind" of faith do we need? How would we describe it?

For one thing, we know we need to be continually growing in our faith, don't we? We also know that faith and love are often connected when it comes to pleasing God.

Grow so that you can learn to love...then love enough to care.

For one thing, we need to care enough to think about what James is saying in James 1:27: *“Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of God and Father is this: to visit orphans and*

*widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”* Those without a mother and/or father to care and protect them are the “orphans of today.” We often find these children in the foster care system.

One way to care is to become a foster parent. However, we know that not all can do this. Just because one cannot take an orphan into their home does not mean they are excused of needing "pure religion." The next best thing is to SUPPORT one who does take a child into their home.

Last year, Agape Villages turned away 1,200 children who were referred to us by the state to be cared in our foster homes. Unfortunately, we just don't have enough homes. Now we know we can't do it all, but we want to do all we can.

Remember, one way to help is to join Agape's KEY CLUB. Here we are asking YOU to give \$50 dollars a month to support us to recruit and train foster parents. Children need YOU! Will you be part of the KEY? Come join the club! See the coupon below!

## Support Agape While Grocery Shopping

The following grocery stores have a donation program to benefit Agape: **SaveMart, Lucky, Food Maxx**. Call us at 866-922-4273 and we will tell you how this works.

**\$274 was received through May 31<sup>st</sup> of 2017.**

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sacramento Fundraising Dinner

How do you rate the success of an event? Scrumptious food? Musical excellence? Knowledgeable speakers? Good attendance? Happy people? Big-hearted auction bidders? Sounds like the Annual Agape Dinner fundraiser in Sacramento!

The **Parkway church of Christ** hosted the event on April 28 with leadership from members **Stephen T. Webb**, Agape Advisory Council member, and **Laura Abello**, Parkway church secretary. We are thankful to **Segrid Williams**, Agape foster mom, and **Eddie Marquardt**, Agape social worker, for sharing their insights into the wonderful world of foster care at Agape. \$7000 was raised at this event by those attending. On top of this, a generous donor matched these gifts and, therefore, upped the total amount raised to \$14,000.

This kind of princely giving supports people and programs that promote stable, caring relationships for foster kids. The end goal is to help heal the wounds that exist for these children. Thank you so much, Parkway, and all participants!

*Pictured at right are those who attended from the Tyler Street Church of Christ.*

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

## Join Our Key Club

### Help us Fund our Foster Parent Recruitment and Training Program

Yes, I'd like to commit to help fund Agape Villages' Foster Parent Recruitment and Training Program in the amount of **\$50.00 a month** beginning \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

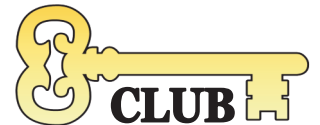
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to: Agape Villages  
3160 Crow Canyon Place,  
Suite 120 • San Ramon, CA 94583**



Justice has been served!

# Jail 'N Bail 2017 Events

## — Sacramento Jail 'N Bail —

Thanks for BAIL'n us out, Sacramento! A special thanks to Stephen T. Webb and Mark Haw for being our "judges" for the day. Our judges then became jail birds and joined other people from the community to raise money for the kids at Agape. When asked why? "Doing it for the kids!" said Mark Haw, Property Manager. Monica Patel, Vice President, Bank of the West wasted no time raising her bail. She was accused of having a kind heart and a great smile. She didn't look so happy in stripes. We were even visited by a very young man who showed his kindness by joining in on the fun. We raised over \$5,000! The kids say "Thank you," Greater Sacramento region! Our thanks also to the Pappas family for allowing us to hold the event in the lobby of their beautiful building at 9250 Laguna Springs Drive in Elk Grove. And also to Keller Williams Elk Grove, located in that building, for their important support of this event.



Stephen T. Webb and Mark Haw



## — Manteca Jail 'N Bail —

This year we had a successful Jail 'N Bail event in Manteca, raising more than \$10,000. We had a great showing and are grateful to be involved in a community that is so supportive of our work with children and youth. Our big earner this year was Mayor Steve DeBrum. Our thanks to everyone and especially to Oak Valley Community Bank for allowing us to have the event at their location. Pictured at left are "judge" Kyle Shipherd, Manteca Fire Chief and Charlie Goeken, Manteca Police Captain.



## — Tri Valley Jail 'N Bail —

Jail 'N Bail was held on May 19th at both the Pleasanton and San Ramon Comerica branches. Many amazing community members stopped by to get thrown in jail for a good cause. It was a wonderful day raising money for the foster kids. We raised over \$10,000. Pictured at right are "jail birds" Lisa and Randy Brown with "judge" Kathy Narum, Pleasanton Vice Mayor.



## Celebrating Adoption!

Continued from the front page article. The picture there is enlarged here to enable you to get a better view of this loving family! This is a picture of adoption day in February, 2017 with Contra Costa County Judge Rebecca Hardie. Congratulations to all!

## Mattress Firm & Foster Kids

Sleep Train stores are now Mattress Firm stores. Mattress Firm continues with the commitment to foster children.

Earlier this year, we received pajamas for our kids.

Our kids love the warm, cozy pajamas!

Thank you, Mattress Firm!

## Our Professional Service Statistics

### Current Year Statistics

(From 1/1/17 to 5/30/17)

- 132 – Foster Children Served Year-to-Date
- 47 – New Children in Care this Year
- 81 – Foster Children Currently in Care
- 57 – Certified Foster Families

### Since We Began in 1958

- 6,147 – Foster Children Served
  - ♦ 4,000 – Through Sierra Children's Home
  - ♦ 2,147 – Through Agape Villages
- 480 – Foster Families who have Partnered with us in Foster Care

# So much to be THANKFUL for!

## Grants Received

We are very grateful for the following grants: \$1,000 from **Kiwanis of San Ramon Valley**; \$500 from **Manteca Sunrise Kiwanis**; \$5,000 from **Rite-Aid**; \$3,000 from **Pleasanton North Rotary**; \$2,500 from **Sacramento Association of Realtors**; and \$1,500 from **Inspirity Services**.

## School Items Donated to our Children

We are grateful to the **Joshua Cowell School in Manteca** for donating school items to our children. They have a drive every year where all the grades pick a non-profit to support. We were chosen by the 6th, 7th and 8th graders. They donated school supplies for us and we picked them up on Thursday, May 11th, at their annual "WE Day." This is their way of teaching their students how to give back to those less fortunate than themselves. Thanks to all!

## Giving to Agape Year after Year

On February 23, we received a check for \$7,300 from the generous **Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund**. We appreciate them continuing to choose Agape in their yearly fund that benefits so many amazing non-profits.

## Providing a Helping Hand

A group of men from **Cornerstone Men's Bible study group (Kevin D'Or's group)** recently moved all the furniture and equipment out of the Agape San Ramon offices so the offices could be painted and re-carpeted. They moved everything out on Friday evening and everything back in on Sunday evening. Sweaty but happy! We are thankful for the many ways people volunteer. It all helps the kids!



## Yard Sale for Agape

The **Roseville church of Christ** opened up several rooms in their building and over the weeks the rooms filled to the brim with boxes and bags of used items for a yard sale to benefit Agape. Ten volunteers met in one day to set up the event and then carried out and sold the items on the parking lot the next day. Working together they all focused on the same goal to encourage them in their efforts, the children in crisis who would benefit. Plus, it gave lots and lots of folks the opportunity to clean out old shelves, closets, and garages! Thank you to all volunteers who worked tirelessly in the hot sun and to all who gave items to be sold. The day was a total success! \$1,300 was raised! **We hope others will hold yard sales for us!!**

## Matching Gift Challenge Met

We were offered a \$10,000 matching gift to help inspire giving to Agape through April 30th. The donor heard about how well we were doing and then increased the matching gift to \$15,000 through May 4th. We raised more than \$18,000, so with the match, we were blessed with more than \$33,000 of support. How grateful we are!

## Bake Sale for Agape

Thank you **Taylor Oxe** and **Tatum Krekorian** (pictured at right) for holding a bake sale at Walnut Grove Elementary School in Pleasanton and raising \$107 for our kids.



## Sharing their "Tips" with us!

**Gianni's Restaurant** in San Ramon again hosted us for their "Tips for Change" event. We raised \$2,600 for our foster kids, through a combination of tips and 10% of the sales that night. Thank you, Gianni's!

## The Power of Friendship

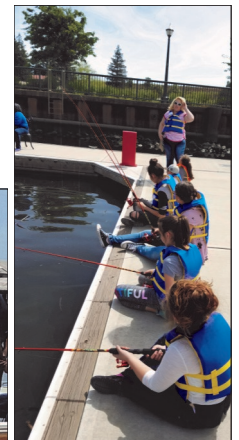
Thank you, **Girlfriends Boutique in Pleasanton** for hosting a shopping night and donating \$520 to Agape.

## Big Day of Giving

We are thankful to the generous donors who contributed a total of more than \$2,000 on May 4, the national Big Day of Giving. We hope that as this event continues through the years that we can build and expand the number of donors giving to Agape. It has great potential!

## Spring Youth Day Program

**The Ebony Boat Club** of Stockton invited Agape's kids to participate in their spring youth day program. They all had a wonderful time! They had a quick orientation from the San Joaquin Sheriff's Department in charge of water patrol. Then they all got to ride in boats..they LOVED THAT! The older kids got to ride in a speed boat and circle the other boats 3 times. They had hot dogs for lunch and then went fishing off the pier. Good times had by all! Thanks!!



# Memorial & Honor Gifts

January 28, 2017 through June 4, 2017

## In Loving Memory

### ERLINDA ACOSTA

Gene & Mary Copeland

### VALERIE LYNN ALLEN

Jack & Jan Allen

### DOROTHY ALLEY

Marvin & Brenda Alley

Jerry & Karel Baxley

Gene & Mary Copeland

Dale & Loretta Ghaner

Janet Kleyn

Hank & Betty Lawson

Christopher Nunes

### AL AVEDIKIAN

Michael & Rena Avedikian

### JOHN BAILEY

John & Nadine Greff

Janet Kleyn

Hank & Betty Lawson

Gregg & Stephanie Pino

### ROY & BETTY BARTLETT

Christopher Nunes

### ELMER & FAYE BEATY

Bob & Opal Taylor

### AUDREY BONIFAY

Jim & Mary Holland

### BILL BONIFAY

Jim & Mary Holland

### LENETTE BRYANT

Ron & Sherry Jones

Janet Kleyn

Ernie & Barbara Taber

### MICHAEL SHANE

### BUKOWSKI

Jim & Mary Holland

### EARLIE BUSTER

Gene & Mary Copeland

### MARY BUSTER

Gene & Mary Copeland

Kathleen Nordstrom

### JACK CAMPBELL

Vernon & Novella Vignolo

### ALEJANDRO LEONARDO

### CASANARES

Sharon Casanares

### RETA CLARK

Michael & Rena Avedikian

### LORENE COOPER

Sue Latham

### RYAN JAMES CREE

Joann Lankford

### NANCY CUTTER

Doris Smith

### HARRY "NORMAN"

### GADLOT

Vivian Oliver

### LENARD GARROW

Vernon & Novella Vignolo

### DON VAN HAM

Loyce Foster

### FELIX HASH

Vernon & Novella Vignolo

### STANLEY HASH

Vernon & Novella Vignolo

### ALVIN HAWES

Wyba Nienstadt

### WILLIAM & VAUGNCELE

### KISER

Mark & Dianne Kiser

### FRED KLEYN

Duane Canby

Beverly Kleyn

### MARGARETTE LANKFORD

Jerry & Karel Baxley

### SUE LATHAM

Janet Kleyn

Mary Lou Thomas

### GINGER LAWSON

Gene & Mary Copeland

Hank & Betty Lawson

Jo Lawson

Ray & Celia Lawson

Debra Miller

### SETH LOUDERMILK

John & Nadine Greff

### ROMAINE LUKEY

Jill Barger

### DON MIMMS

Vernon & Novella Vignolo

### KINWOOD MITCHELL

Daryl & Yvette Evans

### FRANCES MITTS

Rosalee Kurtz

### JOSEPHINE MORRIS

Richard & Judy Deatherage

### SHAWN NORRIED

Kyra Norried

### RALPH OGDEN

John & Nadine Greff

### CHARLES PARTAIN

Jim & Mary Holland

### DR. JAMES PETERSON

JoAnn Byrne

### ABIGAIL POWER

Don & Joan Power

### EVELYN JUNE POWER

Don & Joan Power

Tim & Tonya Power

### GRACE RICE

Doris Smith

### WYLIE ROBINSON

Lois Robinson

### RHONDA ROGERS

John Rogers

### VICTOR ROPER

Jim & Patsy Clark

### HERMAN JOSEPH "JOE"

### SCHULTZ

Wayne & Irene Smith

### DEANNA SENFT

Jerry & Karel Baxley

### DR. JIMMIE B. SMITH

Doris Smith

## In Honor And Respect

*Happy Mother's Day!*

### KERRY AVEDIKIAN

Michael & Rena Avedikian

*With love and respect!*

### PETE & PAM BOGDANOVIC

Olga Brazzel

*Happy Mother's Day!*

### JULIA DENTON

MaryAnn Clontz

*Thank you for your devotion to leading the women's weekly Bible study!*

### WILMA FLACH

Richard & Judy Deatherage

*With love to my wife of 59 years!*

### BETTY HIRSCHI

Darrel Hirschi

*A great Dad!*

### HANK LAWSON

Jo Lawson

*With love and respect!*

### HANK & BETTY LAWSON

Ray & Celia Lawson

*I love you, Nephew!*

### DAVID LEE

Dorine Warren

*With respect!*

### NOEL MADDEN (Be Well Yoga)

Marie Parker

*Praying for you!*

### PATSY RICE

Wyba Nienstadt

*With respect!*

### SARAH ROCKEY

Darin Haydock

*We love you!*

### THE 8 "SCHEPPEGRELL"

### GRANDCHILDREN

Thomas & Elaine

Scheppegrell

*Happy Birthday!*

### LORRAINE WILFREY

Ron & Peggy Fullen

## MEMORIAL OR HONOR GIFT

The enclosed gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is given in  Memory of, or in  Honor of:

### PLEASE NOTIFY:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

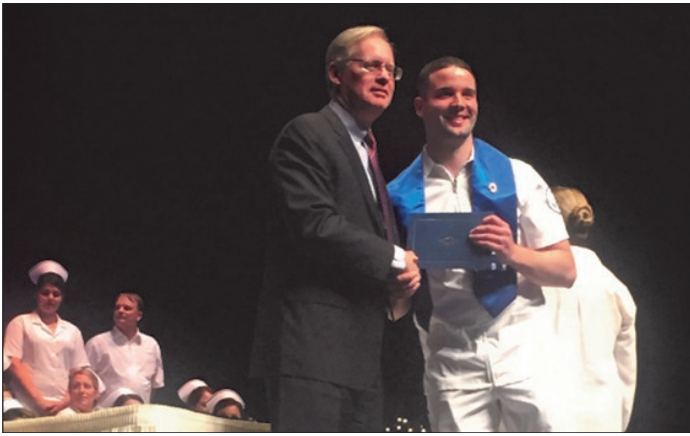
Relationship to deceased/honoree: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Helping Those Who Need it the Most*

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

God is Love. Where love is, God is there also.



Pictured above is **Austin Stoker**, a former Agape foster youth, who graduated from San Joaquin Delta College from their two year nursing school program. We are so proud of you, Austin! Pictured with Austin is Dr. Matthew Wetstein, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction and Planning.

## Cheryl's Corner **Program Activities** Providing Many Learning Opportunities

Cheryl Youngblood, LCSW



Agape Villages' Program Director

A huge shout out to our San Leandro advisory council which includes Kevin Youngblood, Jorge Gomez, our very own Dave Roach, and our latest member, and employee Eddie Marquardt. Thanks so much for your dedication, guidance and financial support as well. Gratitude to Kevin and USGA, Inc. for your generosity and providing the funding for our advertising in the Bay Area, in order to recruit resource parents who are opening their homes and families to youth and non-minor dependents. If anyone is interested in becoming a resource parent or a volunteer please contact us at: 888.908.8384.

We are pleased to announce and welcome a new intern in the Sacramento area, **Sydney Benson**. Sydney's a college student, whose focus of study is psychology. Sydney's warm smile, eagerness to learn and positive attitude are well received by all. Welcome Sydney!

It may be summer but training is continuing strong at Agape. Sacramento outreach social worker Courtney McAlister will be conducting training for resource parents on the importance of enrichment activities for youth in care. With summer approaching, the emphasis will be to ensure that the children have the opportunity as well as access to participate in activities of interest while having fun and being safe. In the Bay Area our outreach social worker, Dave Roach will be conducting training for resource parents on Cultural Competency, and the importance of embracing and promoting our youth's individuality and interests.

Upcoming activities for our "Girls Group" include a movie night, making homemade ice cream and eating pasta!

Agape continues to expand and benefit youth and non-minor dependents placed in the foster care system. Join us at Agape and make the lives of youth in care better than ever!

### RFA Approval Accomplished!

We are excited to announce that we have received our **Resource Family Approval License**. This is a huge achievement for Agape! We are now ready, able and eager to sign new families up! California Continuum of Care Reform was implemented January 1, 2017 by the State. Residential and foster family agencies throughout California have been given 2 years (by January 1, 2019) to develop a program meeting the new higher standard requirements. Agape accomplished this milestone in 5 months!



### Donate Your 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](http://www.AgapeVillages.org)

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



For more information:  
[jkleyn@AgapeVillages.org](mailto:jkleyn@AgapeVillages.org)

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



### We Can't Do it Without You

By David Lee, Chair, Board of Directors

Recently we had the pleasure of an enjoyable visit from our granddaughters, Mia, 8 years old, and Jenna, 5 years old. When it was time for them to return home, Jenna turned to my wife and said, "I don't know what I'm going to do without you." Fortunately, our grandchildren all live in loving Christian families who are great providers. I'm sorry to say, that is not the case for all children.

Each week Agape is contacted with requests to place innocent children who need a loving and safe home. Agape is also asked for funds for extra activities, such as camp, music lessons, etc., to enrich the lives of our foster children. If those children could speak to you directly, they might also say, "I don't know what I'm going to do without you."

First of all, thank you and we pray God's blessings on all of you who have supported these "innocents" by being foster parents, through your financial support, and prayers. However, there is always more that needs to be done. Please give serious and prayerful consideration to becoming a foster parent, beginning or increasing a monthly contribution, and earnest daily prayer on our behalf. **We can not do it without you.**

## 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**  
President and CEO

**Cheryl Youngblood, LCSW**  
Program Director

## Other Admin. Staff:

**Bangon Badial**  
Administrative Director

**Hank Lawson**  
Director, Church Relations

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

**Michael Contreras**  
Community Engagement Director  
(Central Valley Area)

**Velma Sykes**  
Community Engagement Director  
(Greater Sacramento Area)

## Board of Directors

David Lee, Chair  
Walter Bruce, Secretary  
Hank Lawson, Treasurer

Theris Coats  
Charlene Cobb  
Janet Kleyn  
Carolyn Miller  
Stephanie Pino  
Gloria Robertson  
Sarah Rockey  
Don Thomas



**Agape Villages**  
Foster Family Agency

**Healing Hearts and  
Building Families**

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

Return Service Requested

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



Janet Kleyn, President

### James 1:27

*"Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world."*

**Remember, Online  
Giving is Available on  
our Website**  
[www.AgapeVillages.org](http://www.AgapeVillages.org)

## From the President

# I'm So Thankful

I happen to be writing this article as we finish this newsletter. I've just completed my final review, trying to be sure there are no typos! In reading this newsletter, I'm struck by the many parts of Agape to be thankful for.

I'm thankful for families like Ryan and Amanda Purves. Their hearts for kids. Doing whatever it takes to provide the best for their family.

I'm thankful for our many volunteers. Like Charlie Goeken, Manteca Police Captain, who gives of his time and resources to help those who need it the most.

I'm thankful for staff like Cheryl Youngblood, Program Director and Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), who works tirelessly on behalf of each child at Agape. Making sure they have the best to help them succeed. And ensures that we are

in compliance with the many, many regulations and laws.

I'm thankful for the kids in our care. Thankful for the opportunity to support kids like "Amy" as they work to rise above their circumstances. Thankful for former Agape foster youth, like Austin Stoker, who served in the Air Force for 7 years, and has just completed a two-year nursing program at San Joaquin Delta College.

I'm thankful for board members like David Lee who have such a heart for children and work to ensure that foster children have the same opportunities as their own children and grandchildren.

And I'm thankful for donors. Individuals, Churches, Corporations, Foundations. People like you. You are the final piece. We cannot do it without you! Thank you!