



**Agape Villages**  
Foster Family Agency

# The Love Letter

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

October, 2014

Healing Hearts and Building Families

Volume 56, No. 4

## Offering 2<sup>nd</sup> CHANCES & Never Giving Up!

From disappointment, discouragement, obstinacy and failure, to perseverance, change and the hope that comes with a second chance. For "David" (name was changed), it was a two year journey. Here is part of his story.

David came to Agape Villages when he was 11 years of age as a result of enduring a long history of mistreatment from his family of origin. What finally triggered his entrance into the foster care system was his father getting caught locking him in a closet for an extended period of time.

For David, he wasn't totally "blame free." He reacted to his parents treatment with anger and belligerence. His behavior and attitudes continued on display at his foster homes. Yes, he had more than one placement. In fact, he failed his way through four different foster homes until he was placed in a therapeutic group home program. He was a challenging young man to serve.

The last foster home really tried, but finally surrendered to his resistance to work on things in his life. However, they never

gave up hope and maintained a relationship with David while he was in the therapeutic group setting.



After completing the program 2 years later, he was placed back with this Agape foster family. He told Agape Outreach Social Worker, Dave Roach, that one thing he learned was people like his foster parents are what unconditional love is all about.

David is now 13 years of age and in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. He has been described by his foster parents as having gone through a complete turnaround. He is respectful now, funny, and enjoys his family. He says *"I have a loving family I can call my own."*

David's happiness is evident by the facial expressions of love and contentment he has in addition to his cooperative behavior. He enjoys sports and everything related to physical activity. He is now on the honor roll at school and his teachers say that he is a role model for other children to follow. Yes, hope can be found in giving second chances and never giving up! We appreciate all those who help us serve youth like David!



Rod Davis

## Blessed Are The Peacemakers

By Rod Davis, Minister

Every day when I read the paper or listen to the news, I am reminded that we live in a violent world. People are often controlled by fear, whether by force or neglect.

important than in the lives of children and youth in our communities who face violence and neglect every day.

This is why I pray for God's intervention and try to become part of His solution by promoting and supporting Agape Villages. Nowhere in California has an organization been more effective in placing foster children, those neglected and often abused, in the best spiritual environment available. I believe this gives all of us who want to be peacemakers an avenue to really be involved with God in positive ways!

This is my choice and I ask gently, but seriously, *"What have you chosen to do to demonstrate Jesus' love and concern for needy children?"* Pray, yes, but we also must be involved in other meaningful ways. Please, consider joining me and many others by doing it through Agape Villages. Together, we are making a huge difference!

The entertainment world, through video games, movies and even sports, uses violence to attract an audience. The National Football League has been called into account for allowing the aggression used on the field to be ignored when used in domestic violence, whether against spouses or children.

So, I call myself into account. What am I doing to alleviate the results of this problem in our society? Jesus didn't call us to hide from it (most of us live in a "peaceful bubble" in our quiet neighborhoods); but He promised we would be blessed if we were peacemakers. There is no place where this is more

### Transporting Children is My Mission

By Mike Cerf

I have the privilege of transporting children in Agape's foster care program, often including trips to visit birth relatives. I have noticed that when I take children to see their parents, the trip there is exciting. I'm the "good guy." However, picking up the children from their parents is often difficult and sad. I become the "bad guy" for a while.

Although I have formed positive relationships with the children I transport, there is one particular child I always look forward to. I started transporting "Lily" when she was only eleven months old. As the days, weeks and months went by, Lily started to realize she was seeing me over and over again. By the time she was 18 months, she started to smile every time I arrived. When she was two, the foster mother would walk out to the car and Lily would get a big smile on her face and call my name repeatedly. She now gets very excited to see me and gives me a big hug.

I have learned if I take just a few minutes to reach out to the children, it changes a regular old boring car ride into an interesting conversation. I believe this gives a little bit of comfort to the child during a trying time in his or her life.

### Two Boys Transition to their Foster Home

We recently took into care a sibling group of two brothers. "John" is 10 and "Joe" is 9 years of age. Prior to coming into our care, they were in a foster home with another agency. However, due to questions about how they were treated, that home had to undergo an investigation and the two boys were placed with us. This kind of move is always hard on children. Joe has a small scar on his back that he

received in the last home. Right now, both boys are adapting well to our foster home. This family has a 3 year old grandson with whom these boys have really become attached. There is something therapeutic about that.

Agape Social Worker Courtney McAlister tells us that the boys are living normal lives. They are enjoying this family, school and are playing in a city football league paid for by Agape donors.

### New Beginnings

Little John and his bright-eyed, younger sister, Maya (names changed) came into care for the first time with one of our foster homes. Not much was known about them. After a week of school, we noticed that John had difficulty maintaining focus, self-control, and good judgment. It was learned that he had been on medication for ADHD. With the help of Agape Social Worker Virginia Jensen, approval was gained to place him back on his medication. John did so much better!

Both John and Maya are doing well in school and adjusting well to their placement. John's anger issues are decreasing and Maya, who was once timid and shy, has found her voice and expresses herself in a positive and appropriate manner.

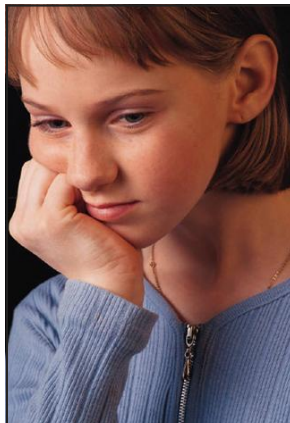
## We Need Foster Parents

— 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.



## Volunteer Spotlight

**Volunteers are Priceless!**

Our volunteer spotlight this month is on the Tri Valley Advisory Council. This group includes many volunteers working collectively in the Pleasanton, San Ramon and Dublin areas to host events and fundraisers (see Pleasanton dinner on page 3) to help Agape carry on its mission to serve at-risk youth and their families. They have attended street fairs to help us in our foster parent recruitment efforts. They give tirelessly of their time, energy and finances, all for the sake of helping those children and youth in the foster care system in California.

We especially thank new mom Elizabeth Lyall for continuing to volunteer her time even when at home with a newborn. We appreciate their compassion and efforts. They are making a huge difference as we carry on this work.

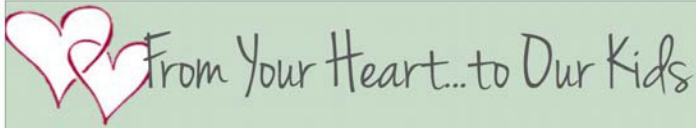


Elizabeth Lyall

### We Need More Volunteers!

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





## 2nd Annual Dinner at Pleasanton

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual dinner and auction event in Pleasanton was a great success by many markers. Although part of the focus of the event was on raising much needed funds, it was also a great opportunity for us to share our story and encourage others to join with us in fulfilling our mission to provide better and brighter futures to disadvantaged children. We raised over \$25,000 but also raised everyone's enthusiasm for our work! It was a night filled with inspiration.

Hosted at the Doubletree by Pleasanton Hilton at the Club on Saturday night October 4th, we had a sit down dinner, a raffle, a silent auction and an amazing keynote speech by Derek Clark, a former Alameda County foster child and internationally known motivational speaker. He shared his inspiring story of resilience and redemption.

A special thank you to Brock Roby for being the emcee of the night and to all of our corporate sponsors including: The Rose Hotel; Livermore/Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation; Restore



Agape foster mother, Segrid Williams, with foster son, Jedidiah, at the banquet.



Brock Roby, Emcee, Derek Clark, speaker and Janet Kleyn, Agape President, at the dinner.

& Renew Couples Counseling; BTS Consulting Group; Safety Compliance Management, Inc.; Sharon Robinson - Realtor; Office Spots; Active Family Magazine; Shir Martial Arts; Whipple, Mercado and Associates; Melissa Pederson - Realtor; Tom Dote Farmers Insurance; Mary C. Hanson, Horizon Wealth Solutions; Sports Gallery; N2 Publishing; and Wanlan Xiao, DDS.

## Foundation Gives Major Gift to Agape Villages

The **Livermore Valley Winegrowers Foundation** gave a check in the amount of \$70,000 in support of the work Agape Villages does to serve disadvantaged children. These funds came from an auction event called "Fund-a-Need" in which Agape had listed several needs in association with serving children with the dollar amount to meet those needs. People then raised their auction numbers to purchase the cost of meeting the needs. They were tremendously responsive!

This event was held on May 10, 2014. Peter Leary, President of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Foundation Board, said, "The tremendous support we receive from sponsors and donors makes the Auction a great success." We are very grateful for this generous gift. It will be used to meet important needs!



Janet Kleyn and Peter Leary



## Cheryl's Corner

### Foster Parents, Girls Group and Our LSP Program...

Our foster parents are very special to us...they are exceptional! We conscientiously screen families to ensure they meet our requirements to become foster parents. Once approved to serve, we then strive to provide them the best possible training and support we can. As one aspect of this, we offer monthly foster parent support meetings, facilitated by our outreach social workers, Courtney McAlister and Dave Roach.

Cheryl Youngblood, LCSW



Agape Villages' Program Director

Our Girls' Group continues to be active. This is an innovative and fun way for our girls to learn new skills, participate in fun activities, talk to other kids that are in similar situations and to make new friends. Over the recent months, they had a fun-filled day at Great America and helped with Agape Villages annual Golf Tournament. The Girls' Group is interested in helping out in the community, so please let us know if anyone has any ideas or requests.

Our LSP Program is an inventive program geared for assisting youth ages 15-21 with transitional living skills. We strive to provide, education, knowledge, and day-to-day living skills essentials to our young adults. This quarter our LSP group received training on banking and finance among other activities.

Let us know if you can help with any of our groups!



# What Do You Do?...Relates to Who We Are

By Hank Lawson, Agape Villages Board Chair

Many, if not all of us, are asked a similar question almost every time we meet new people. The question is, "What do you do?"

And most, if not all of us, for years and years have allowed ourselves to follow the norm, the traditional response. When we are asked, "What do you do?," we begin by telling them what our employment is...what we do to earn a living. However, is that really the best answer? Does it relate to who we are?

Okay, I have a dare for you! Try something different. To the next person who asks you, "What do you do?," break away from the norm and say, "I serve the Lord."

I have heard someone say that you can change your life in 20 days by practicing new habits. Well, I am going to try this new response for 20 days and see how it impacts me and others. We can learn a new way of doing things if we change our habits!

Jesus said many things in His Sermon on the Mount. Among them are the following two considerations:

1. **Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works** ( Matt. 5:16), and
2. **What are you doing more than others?** (Matt. 5:47)

Yes, following Jesus DEMANDS a changed life. This comes from living a devoted life. This change can take many forms according to one's abilities. The challenge is to determine what our abilities are and to USE THEM !

Each of us has to determine how we will respond to the question, "What do you do?" Each of us can relate that to who we are. We can become more like Jesus, do more good for others, let our light shine brighter by learning new ways, habits and attitudes. It may only take 20 days! How much can we change our lives?

I AM GOING TO GIVE IT MY BEST EFFORT ----- Join me?

*Needed: "misfits, criminals and enablers"*

## Jail 'N Bail Time Coming Soon



Agape Villages will have its annual "Jail 'N Bail" fundraiser on Friday, **November 14<sup>th</sup>** at the **Bank of Stockton** in Manteca. Watch out to see if you get a **subpoena** in the mail! To participate, contact Nina at [npayne@agapevillages.org](mailto:npayne@agapevillages.org) or call **209-992-8346**. We ask our caring "criminals" to raise bail to get out of jail. And so, if asked, please take pity on these poor souls and foot the bail money!!

## Fairways for Foster Kids 2014

This year was the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Fairways Fore Foster Kids Golf Tournament at the Manteca golf course and it was a huge success with over \$10,000 raised! We had over 80 golfers participating. They received polo shirts by Kevin Youngblood of USGA, Inc. and goodie bags donated by SSJID. After golfing, the golfers enjoyed lunch at Chez Shari. Thank you to all of our sponsors, SSJID, PG&E, Crystal Downs State Farm, Oak Valley Community Bank, Municipal Maintenance Equipment Inc., The Cruise Company, Doctors Hospital and Tuff Boy Leasing just to name a few.



Tanner Kriskovich, Joe Kriskovich, Mike Banton, Manteca Police Captain Charlie Goeken and Manteca Chief of Police Nick Obligation.

## Our Professional Service Statistics

### Current Year Statistics (From 1/1/14 to 10/02/14)

- 138 – Foster Children Served Year-to-Date
- 64 – New Children in Care this Year
- 82 – Foster Children Currently in Care
- 54 – Certified Foster Families

### Since We Began in 1958

- 5,886– Foster Children Served
  - ♦ 4,000 – Through Sierra Children's Home
  - ♦ 1,886 – Through Agape Villages
- 445– Foster Families who have Partnered with us in Foster Care

## Our 2014 Thanksgiving Appeal

# We Need YOU!

Our Thanksgiving Appeal is where we ask churches all over California and the West Coast to take up a special collection to support our work on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. For those whose congregations are not participating, we hope you will send a donation to Agape Villages. Thanks!!!



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



# So much to be **THANKFUL** for!

## Agape Receives Grant from United Way

We are thrilled to receive a \$10,000 grant from **The United Way of San Joaquin County** Community Impact Fund for 2014-2015. This grant is specifically for the Enrichment program for foster kids and will be used to help us with our Living Skills Program and our Teen Girls Group. It will also help us with activities foster children enjoy such as football, ballet, karate, swimming, horseback riding and driver's training. See picture below. Thanks again!!!



Ted Guzman (left), Board Chair, and Andy Prokop (right) CEO of United Way of San Joaquin County, present check to Agape Villages.

## Thoughtful Gift in Memory of Her Father

Rolland Hamilton was a faithful donor and friend to Agape Villages. He passed away in June of 2014. His daughter, Karen Hansen, donated 80 tickets to the Oakland Athletics vs. Houston Astros game on September 7th in his honor. She stated: "As trustee, on behalf of my dad, I wish you a lovely time. Please share with foster kids, foster parents, and staff, as you see fit. You are giving my dad one more chance to donate for your kids. Thank you." We all appreciated the opportunity to enjoy the game. Thank you again!

## Donating a Portion of Sales to Agape

Agape Villages is thankful to New Leaf Community Market in Pleasanton who, on July 31, donated 5% of all sales to help the children we serve. This totaled \$1,223.40! We appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity!



## Tip a Hero Fundraiser

We had our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "Tip A Hero" fundraiser at Chili's in Manteca on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Chili's did a wonderful job hosting the event with great food and friendly employees. Funds raised included the tips given that day and totaled over \$1,600! The event was put together by Police Captain, Charlie Goeken of the Manteca Police Department, who did a fantastic job! Agape would also like to give a huge shout out of thanks to Police Sergeant Jody Estarziau, Fire Chief Kirk Waters, Fire Marshall Lantz Rey and from the Navy Recruiting Office, Mark Thornton, Chris Pietrzykowski and Manny Ponserrada. These men are truly HEROES to our kids in foster care!

## Fund Raiser at Gianni's

Agape is grateful to **Gianni's Italian Bistro in San Ramon** for hosting a fundraiser for us on September 15. How did it work? Gianni's staff did all the cooking (thankfully!), and Agape staff and volunteers "waited" on tables. All tips went to Agape! We are thankful to Agape donors who came out that night, enjoyed the wonderful food and ambiance, and tipped generously. Agape received a check for \$1900 that night! Thank you, Gianni's...we'll be back!



## Matching Gift Challenge Met!!

In our August appeal letter, a generous friend of our children offered to match every dollar given by September 15, up to \$10,000! What a wonderful opportunity to make your dollars count twice! And you responded! More than \$14,000 was given in response to this "challenge!" Thank you all!

## Applebee's Breakfast and Silent Auction

Our **Sacramento Advisory Council** put on a successful fundraising event on July 12th, a Flapjack Breakfast at Applebee's in Elk Grove with an auction. A special "Thank You" to all our volunteers and those who donated. More than \$1,100 was raised!



## Grocery Shopping for Agape

We received \$3,723 in proceeds through the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2014 from grocery stores participating with us. Thanks to everyone.

## Hughson Church of Christ

We are grateful to the Hughson Church of Christ who gave Hank Lawson the opportunity to preach and share about the good works of Agape Villages. The next Sunday, this congregation took up a special collection and gave over \$1,200 to Agape. We appreciate your support!

## Wal-Mart Grant

We are grateful to Wal-Mart for the generous grant of \$1,000 as we meet our children's needs!



Agape received \$2,600 to purchase shoes and pajamas for our foster children. This helped with our back-to-school effort to supply our youth what they need. Thank you, Sleep Train, for all that you continue to do!



# Memorial & Honor Gifts

June 27, 2014 through October 7, 2014

## In Loving Memory

### AUNT JENNY

John & Nadine Greff

### ERLINDA ACOSTA

Gene & Mary Copeland

Hank Lawson

### ROY AYRES

The Ayres Family

Louise Linker

Allen & Kay Naff

Darlene Peek

Nancy Pickett

Barbara Stoffle

Catherine Trice

### BEN BALDWIN

Doris Beard

Norman & Becky Cole

Richard & Judy Deatherage

Melvin & Iona Dutra

Wilma Flach

Ron & Peggy Fullen

Virginia Gordon

John & Nadine Greff

Donna Hodges

Ron & Sherry Jones

Janet Kleyn

Hank Lawson

Ted Mann

Marvin & Lorraine Mettler

Vance & Laura Moore

Elmer & Geneva Prout

Barbara Stoffle

Norman & Mary Wilson

Helen Yelverton

### ROY & BETTY JO

### BARTLETT

JR and Judy Teeples

### ZULA BREWER

Cleta Sisk

### TAHJ BRUCE

Heather Bruce

### MAXINE CALHOUN

Dennis & Judy Cree

### DIANE PEARSON CARROLL

Madaline Johns

### ROSALENE HALL COOPER

Jim & Patsy Clark

### JOE CORCORAN

Matt & Jill Ormand

### ROSALIE CREE

Dennis & Judy Cree

### WANDA GILMORE

Wyba Nienstadt

### SARA GENEVA GREEN

Murline Bond

### NADINE HAGER

Hilda Dunn

John & Nadine Greff

Janet Kleyn

Hank Lawson

Gregg & Stephanie Pino

Orval & Diane Welch

### IRA & EDNA HAMES

Betty Hall

### MARRIANNE HAWKINS

David & Hildegard Melander

### FLOSSIE L. HEATH

Danny & Dee Jimmerson

Marcia Simons

Pam Simons

### HOMER & FLOSSIE HEATH

Loyce Foster

### DONNIE HICKMAN

Orval & Diane Welch

### BILL JAMES

Norman & Becky Cole

### EDITH KEARNEY

Lloyd & Rhonda Fisher

### FRED KLEYN

Duane Canby

Beverly Kleyn

### McNEAL LANKFORD

Lois Lankford

### GINGER LAWSON

Gene & Mary Copeland

Hank Lawson

Jo Lawson

Ray & Celia Lawson

### SYBLE MANN

Ted Mann

### CLETE MILLER

Jim & Patsy Clark

Loyce Foster

### ROBERT OLIVER

Vivian Oliver

Sarah Rockey

### LARRY & ANNA PARIS

Kathryn Paris

### PAT PETERSON

John & Nadine Greff

### GLYN RILEY

Richard & Judy Deatherage

### LEONOR RINCON

Doris Beard

Norman & Becky Cole

Richard & Judy Deatherage

Wilma Flach

Ron & Sherry Jones

Norman & Mary Wilson

### JERRY ROBINSON

Betty Frazier

### DEANNA SENFT

Dean & Starr Baxley

Orval & Diane Welch

### RALPH STOREY

Janet Hames

### A. E. SWIMS

Darlene Peek

### BOBBYE SISK TEMPLE

Jim & Patsy Clark

### MATTIE B. TURNER

Eleanor Francis

### LES & LORAIN WEBBER

Ted Mann

### FRANCES WILLSON

Barbara Dunn

### MEL WILSON

Loyce Foster

**PLEASE  
REMEMBER  
Agape Villages  
in Your Will or  
Estate Plan**

*With Respect and Honor to  
The Ripon Church of Christ*  
**RIPON CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Wyba Nienstadt

*With Love and Respect*  
**MARGARET TOUCHTON**  
Wyba Nienstadt

*Congratulations on the Birth of  
Twin Girls*  
**JAKE & MEGAN TUGGLE**  
Wybe Nienstadt

## In Honor And Respect

*A Great Dad!*

### HANK LAWSON

Jo Lawson

Ray & Celia Lawson

*Happy 94<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Dad*

### TED MANN

Jeanette Mann

## Love that Keeps on Giving

By Hank Lawson

The ones I knew were brother and sister, Vern and Nadine Hager. The family has been supporting our work for years, beginning back with Sierra Children's Home. Faithful supporters and LOVERS OF CHILDREN. Vern passed away nearly three years ago and Nadine continued to be supportive. Then Nadine went to be with the Lord just a couple of months ago. But love does not stop, because Nadine wanted to continue to bless children even after she and Vern were gone. So, she left part of her estate for the support of the children they loved. We loved Vern and Nadine and we love them for all that they have done and this allows them to **Keep on Doing.**

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

*Offering Second Chances to Youth*

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



# Agape Welcomes Velma Sykes and Jennifer Oxe to our Staff

Velma Sykes and Jennifer Oxe will both work with us part-time as our Community Engagement Directors. We are excited about the dedication and enthusiasm they bring to our efforts! We hope with their help, we can expand our efforts to raise funds, recruit more foster families and better promote Agape in their areas.



**Velma Sykes** was hired in August to lead our efforts in the greater Sacramento area. She has quite a resume with over 20 years of experience in the field of business development and marketing. She also currently works as the Founder and Chair of the Sacramento Area Women's Chamber of Commerce. She's been a Senior VP of Market-

ing and the Executive Director of the California State NAACP. Welcome to Agape, Velma!



**Jennifer Oxe** was hired in September to lead our efforts in the East Bay area. Jen has a diverse background in fund raising, marketing, sales, event planning and human resources. She's been an independent consultant, marketing programs specialist, senior employment representative and an on-site recruiter. She has also been a dedicated volunteer with Agape Villages for over a year. With her children getting older, she is ready to get back into a part-time job and Agape Villages is just what she wanted to do! Welcome, Jen!

## Expanding Efforts in our State Capital!

In the spirit of a Christian mission, Agape Villages President/CEO Janet Kleyn and the phenomenal Sacramento area Advisory Council identified a need for an expanded presence in the greater Sacramento area. There are more children needing care than we are able to serve.

We need families. We need a stronger local presence in an effort to build trust in the community and let people get to know who we are and what we do. We need to strengthen our relationships with the non-profit, business and church communities. We need to advocate on behalf of the foster care system and the children in its care. Velma Sykes, Community Engagement Director (see above), will spearhead this effort.

Our efforts to be visible and out in the community continued during the summer. We went everywhere! The following are a few highlights. The Banana Festival was held in historic Land Park on August 9 and was filled with children and families alike. Even though the day was a very hot day, many people stopped by our booth to find out how they can help.

The Multi-Cultural Festival in Elk Grove on August 23 was truly successful. CA State Assemblymember Roger Dickinson (District 7), a champion for foster youth, stopped by to congratulate us on our efforts. US Congressman Ami Bera (District 7) stopped by and took a picture with President Janet Kleyn and commended her on the commitment of the agency to protect and serve the foster youth and the families where they are placed.



Debra Bowen, CA Secretary of State

"Hot August Nights" at the Sacramento River Cats game was held on August 28<sup>th</sup> and was so much fun. The Honorable Debra Bowen, California Secretary of State was the speaker at the event. The Secretary of State divulged that her parents were very involved foster parents

most of her life. She was a phenomenal speaker and you could just tell that she has a big heart, too. Must've come naturally!

The R&B Festival was held at Miller Park on August 30 and included lots of food and entertainment and was held right by the River. We were fortunate to have so many people stop by and talk with us about the organization, given the great entertainment that was performing on the stage.

The National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) Mixer on September 18 was a collaboration of NAWBO, Sacramento Women's Chamber and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. We met people ranging from those interested in learning more about the organization to those who had been certified foster families and were interested in doing it again. Even if just one!



Velma Sykes, Ami Bera (US Congressman) and Janet Kleyn.

There have been lots of exciting outreach efforts including meeting with Steve Heath, President/CEO of Sacramento Community Links, a community resource organization. We also connected with a very popular Christian radio station in Sacramento and will be using it as a resource for outreach and marketing efforts. Watch for us! Where will we be next?



## 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

## Other Admin. Staff:

**Cheryl Youngblood, LCSW**

Program Director

**Jennifer Oxe**

Community Engagement Director  
(Tri-Valley/East Bay)

**Velma Sykes**

Community Engagement Director  
(Greater Sacramento Area)

**Nina Payne**

Outreach Coordinator (Manteca)

## Board of Directors

Hank Lawson, Chair  
Desirae Núñez, Secretary  
Stephanie Pino, Treasurer  
Walter Bruce  
Theris Coats  
Charlene Cobb  
Janet Kleyn  
Carolyn Miller  
Gloria Robertson  
Don Thomas

## Our Mission

"Agape Villages mobilizes community resources to provide quality homes, innovative solutions and the highest of professional services to disadvantaged children and their families to meet their needs, maximize their potential and lead toward a better and brighter future."

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

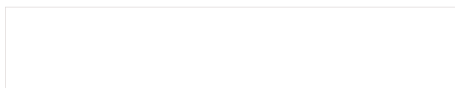


**Agape Villages**  
Foster Family Agency

3160 Crow Canyon Place, Suite 120  
San Ramon, CA 94583

Return Service Requested

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



Janet Kleyn, President

### **Ephesians 5:1**

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

Remember, Online  
Giving is Available on  
our Website

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

## From the President

### Doing Heart Work Together!

At our recent dinner in Pleasanton (see page 3), the theme was "From Your Heart...to Our Kids!" When we think of the "heart," we think of "love." Agape love. Agape Villages. Agape is an ancient Greek word which means "unconditional love." The love our heavenly Father has for us. In human terms, the love we have for children. Love given without the expectation it can or will be returned.

It is a sad reality that there are children in our communities who are abused and/or neglected. The work we do is incredibly important and life changing for many. It is "heart" work. Agape Villages represents the care and compassion of God's people to vulnerable and at-risk children. Every child we help and every family we help is a victory and worth celebrating.

Many, maybe most people, don't know about the disadvantaged children in our communities. Maybe they haven't been personally im-

pacted by one of these children. There are other people who know about these children, and choose to not be part of helping them. Maybe they think someone else will.

And then there are people, like many of you, who see these children and do something. Maybe they become a foster parent. Or a volunteer. Or a donor. We are so thankful for people like you, people with big hearts! We need you! Those we serve need you!

For the first time, Agape "marched" in the 4th of July parade in Danville, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley. We passed out newsletters and candy, and joined in the community fun.

**Thank you, Kiwanis!**

