



Agape Villages
Foster Family Agency

The Love Letter

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

October, 2015

Healing Hearts and Building Families

Volume 57, No. 4

Our Hearts Break for the Children

Agape social worker, Dave Roach, received a call from the Alameda County placement unit over a weekend. The placement worker said he had been trying to find a home for a sibling set of five children and was having no luck anywhere in the Bay Area. Dave knew we had two homes who could take the five children between them, 3 in one home and 2 in the other, with both families willing to work together to be sure the children got together frequently. The worker agreed.

The 3 oldest children were placed in one home and the younger two in the other. All of the children came into care being scared, uneasy and not sure what to think about all of this. The oldest child, Julie, just turned 7 years of age. She was very anxious, protective and had a hard time trusting adults. This is fairly common in situations when children come from dysfunctional homes. In reality, Julie had no idea what it meant to be a child because she had been taking care of her younger sisters. We call this a "parentified child." Just think, at 7 years of age being given all of that responsibility.



Julie, and many other children, come into foster care being robbed of the innocence and carefree nature of childhood. Part of what we do is to help them re-assume the role of a child and remove the responsibility off their shoulders.

Very quickly Julie became motivated to do well. Her school work improved and she began establishing friendships there. You can tell she is happier, secure and more carefree now! In fact, all of the children are now happier and settling into the structure and nurturing environment of their foster homes.

We all were moved when we heard that Julie became emotional when she told Dave that **she had never been in a home where she felt safe, where she wasn't scared, and where she was not left home alone to take care of her sisters.** Our hearts break for what children like these 5 have been through, but are gratified knowing that we are a part of making their lives better now. Thank you, kind donors, for helping to make this a reality at Agape!



Ray Lawson

Bible Camp an Enriching Experience

By: Ray Lawson, Minister of the Martinez Church of Christ and Director, Sierra Bible Camp

Every summer, the Martinez church of Christ hosts a week long camp at Sierra Bible Camp, near Lake Almanor. The week includes Bible classes, sports, swimming, arts and crafts, campfire, and kitchen duty.

Each year is different. This year we looked forward to having 14 children from Agape Villages Foster Family Agency join us.

This year's theme was "Called to Duty." Each day, we looked at how we can love as Jesus instructs us to in Luke 10:27, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

It was such a joy to have the young people join us from the Agape Villages program. Each youth brought an openness and positive attitude. Awards in Bible class, clean cabin, and sports were won by some of the youth. All of the camp staff and campers enjoyed the time spent together. As Director of the camp, I was very impressed with the youth from Agape.

Agape staff, keep recruiting great foster parents! **Agape foster parents**, you are doing a great job! **And kids**, we hope to see you again next year!

**Agape Villages
Turns 57!**

The blessing of serving children could not have been done without our gracious donors, foster families, staff and volunteers!

More Stories

From our Foster Care Program

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

A Note of Encouragement From a County Worker

"I just want to thank you, Brian, for everything you did for Jose. I'm encouraged to see how connected he is to you and **the positive impact you've made on his life**. It was a pleasure to work with you. I appreciate how prompt you are to respond to phone calls and emails. I appreciate your dedication to Jose and your concern for his best interests. I hope you will remain connected, he still needs you!" *(From a note written to Agape Villages case manager **Brian Bossemeyer** from **Tyra Almaraz** at Alameda County Children and Family Services after Jose left Agape Villages care.)*

Twins Came Into Care, By Mindy Lee, MSW

We recently took 4 month old twins into care where they were placed with a loving foster family. They were born prematurely. The reason for placement was because of issues with the birth family that could hopefully be improved.

As part of the case plan, visitation is to occur each week with the birth family. To accomplish this, our foster family takes the children from Tracy to Oakland every week for the four hour supervised visits. As it turned out, the visits are taking place in the home of the biological parents and they are going well so far.

The foster parents, realizing that the biological parents were missing some essential household items, **took it upon themselves** to buy a set of dishes, silverware, glasses, towels, and a \$100 gift card to buy food. This was an endearing gesture!

From Tantrums to Top Place! By Lisa Monk, Intern

We took into our care a 7 year old girl last January, Katie, who came from a dysfunctional home. She was an angry child who often had tantrums and other acting out behaviors. With the love and care of our foster home and our treatment team, Katie was on notice that good things were expected! Our foster mom quickly enrolled Katie in a tap dance class. Our treatment team would spend many weeknights with Katie to counsel and encourage her while supporting our foster parents. **Katie responded beautifully!** By the end of the school year, Katie was making good grades and making friends.

Over the summer months, Katie stayed very busy. She attended "Kid's Zone," a summer day camp where she did very well. She went to Great America with her foster family and was an absolute joy to be around. This was her first time at an amusement park. Katie is now also enrolled in ballet classes in addition to tap dance classes. Foster mother tells us that she is the best one in her tap dance class! We are so encouraged by Katie's progress!

The great purpose of life is to spend it on something that outlasts it!

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.



In The Volunteer! Spotlight!

Carla Butler has been volunteering for Agape Villages through the Pleasanton Advisory Council. This is a very active group who helps us promote the work of our agency to the public and also helps with various fund raising events to support our work, such as Community Day at New Leaf Markets, Local Chamber Golf Tournaments, Concerts in the Park, etc. Carla said she first "fell in love with Agape by accident!" She had taken the initiative to meet with Agape's President, Janet Kleyn, to see if Agape might be a good fit for a community newsletter she edits, Ruby Hill Living. As Janet told the story of Agape, Carla's heart was truly affected. She's been very active ever since! She says the organization fits perfectly with her Christian values and that **her heart is filled with love because she gets to spread the love by volunteering** with the council. We appreciate Carla very much!!!



Carla Butler



Hank Lawson

PROUD OF OUR SERVICE TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH

By Hank Lawson, Director, Church Relations

I was working our fireworks stand one afternoon when a young couple approached the stand. I greeted them and told them that the money we raised went to help foster children. The man said, "I was a foster child once!" So I asked him to tell me his story. I was hoping for a positive one. IT WASN'T!

The home he was placed in treated the children badly. He said the only time they treated the children nicely was when the social worker was there. The social worker never asked the children how they were doing (so he said).

In that home, the children were locked in their rooms much of the time. Before the social worker came, they would call and let the home know they were on the way. So the children were let out of their rooms. I told him I was sorry that he was treated so badly. In reality, a CPS investigation should have

occurred at the home and possible charges filed.

Unfortunately, there are times when we hear these kind of horror stories and it breaks our hearts. These few stories perpetuate the view some people have that ALL foster homes are like that one. It often coincides with the idea that foster parents are only in this for the money.

However, this is not the case. In fact, it is the farthest from the truth for the vast majority of situations. Foster care at Agape Villages, and at most all private agencies, is a sincere mission of love and service. We engage to make life better for the children and youth. **Our foster parents do this work as angels of mercy** and work closely with us at all times. Part of this does include unannounced visits by our social workers.

We want to be the agency that you are proud to be part of. We want to please God with the care we give to His children

Fairways Fore Foster Kids 2015

We had our 11th annual Agape Villages Fairways Fore Foster Kids Golf Tournament on Friday, September 25, 2015. There were 84 golfers who participated and this event raised nearly \$15,000! Kevin Youngblood of USGA, Inc., and husband of Agape's very own Cheryl Youngblood, was our guest speaker. He told the golfers about the positive impact he has personally witnessed in the lives of children served by Agape Villages.

Our sponsors for the event were the following: **shirt sponsor – USGA, Inc., breakfast sponsors – Starbucks, Grocery Outlet, Costco, and Ted's Food Service** and our **lunch sponsor – Crystal Downs Insurance Agency.**

The golfers had a great time competing, with the team from **Oak Valley Community Bank** winning 1st place, the team from **Sunnyvalley Smoked Meats** grabbing 2nd place, and the **Manteca Police Chief Foundation's** team taking 3rd place. Agape Villages would like to thank all of our sponsors, golfers, and volunteers who each contributed to the event's success!



to the **Metro Church of Christ** in Gresham, OR for collecting coins all summer. The coins totaled more than \$400!



Agape would like to thank Sleep Train for their continued support of our foster children! We received lots of clothing and school supplies, including backpacks, pencils and paper and everything our children needed to start school! We are very thankful for how Sleep Train has continued its support over the years!



Note from Church of Christ in Merced

September 10, 2015

Good day,

The enclosed items come with love, from the church of Christ that meets at 4th & P Streets in Merced, Ca. We pray they meet a need. 😊 Have a great day!

Items donated by the Church of Christ in Merced



Our 2015 Thanksgiving Appeal

We Need YOU!

We are asking churches all over California and the West Coast to take up a special collection to support our work on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, **November 22nd**. If your congregation would be willing to participate, call **Hank Lawson**, Director, Church Relations at 209-484-1377. For those whose congregations are not participating, it would be great if you would send in a donation on your own. Thanks!

Help Right Here!

By David Lee, Chair, Board of Directors



Turn the TV news on and what do you see? Bad news! Earthquakes, tsunamis, tornados and terrorists randomly killing people. This has led to a mass exodus of people fleeing for their lives. We see children orphaned, homeless, hungry and abused. The magnitude of suffering is overwhelming in these countries and we are at a loss how

to help. There are so many...we can't help them all but we can help some.

Look next door, down the street or across town. In our own neighborhoods we have children in need of food, clothing, shelter and above all, the security of a loving family. **If you have ever wondered, "What can I do to help these children?"** I suggest we start at home. Consider taking the big step of being a foster parent. There is a child in need of your care and the influence of your Christian family. We can help find a child for you to love and care for. Please call!



Drive Change. 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

Our Professional Service Statistics

Current Year Statistics (So Far) (From 1/1/15 to 9/30/15)

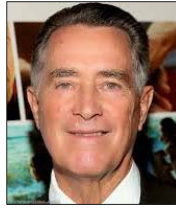
- 127 – Foster Children Served Year-to-Date
- 51 – New Children in Care this Year
- 80 – Foster Children Currently in Care
- 63 – Certified Foster Families

Since We Began in 1958

- 5,957 – Foster Children Served
 - ◆ 4,000 – Through Sierra Children's Home
 - ◆ 1,957 – Through Agape Villages
- 458 – Foster Families who have Partnered with us in Foster Care

Everyone is Invited!

3rd Annual Dinner and Auction



Saturday, November 7, 2015 • 6:30-10 p.m.



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

\$75 per person • A Fund-Raising Event!
Order Tickets Online – www.agapevillages.org/events or call 866-922-4273

At the Marriott Pleasanton • 11950 Dublin Canyon Road, Pleasanton

Change Cans for Agape!

It can really add up! Just as rain drops become small creeks and then join to become rivers, so can many people putting in the pennies, dimes and quarters add up to many dollars! We encourage you all to take home a change can and put your daily change in it...and even the green stuff! Over time, it will add up!



We are very thankful for our "can ladies" who take the leadership role of our "change" drive at their congregations. So far, we have can ladies at **San Leandro, Martinez, Lathrop, Livermore, Empire, Los Banos, North Metro and Vintage Park.**

We are grateful for each and every one of you! We are also looking for more "top can" people. Call Hank Lawson at 209-484-1377 for more information!

Tri Valley Church of Christ counting our coins in their can drive!



Thanks again to all who have, and will, participate!

Support Agape While Grocery Shopping

The following grocery stores have a donation program which will send a percentage of the total receipt to Agape: **SaveMart, Lucky, Food Maxx, Food 4 Less, Ralph's and Food Co.** Call us at 866-922-4273 and we will send you the special card to use.

We received \$3,134 through the 3rd quarter of 2015.

So much to be THANKFUL for!

Agape Receives Grant From United Way

We are thrilled again this year to receive a \$10,000 grant from the **United Way of San Joaquin County Community Impact Fund** for 2015-2016. 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.

Applebee's Breakfast and Silent Auction

Our **Sacramento Advisory Council** put on another successful fund-raising event on July 11th, a Flapjack Breakfast at **Applebee's in Elk Grove** with an auction. A special "thank-you" to all our volunteers and those who attended! All total, \$1,600 was raised for the children of Agape!

Pleasanton Concert in the Park

Agape Villages was the proud sponsor of the final Pleasanton Concert in the Park summer series event on Friday night August 28th. We met so many potential volunteers, donors, and wonderful **members of the Tri-Valley community** who wanted to help our foster kids. The best part was that **Taylor Oxe** gave away over 300 glow necklaces and bracelets that were a HUGE hit with the kids! Everyone was literally glowing!



← Pictured at left are Taylor Oxe, Jen Oxe and, Bangon Badial.

Donating a Portion of Sales to Agape

Agape Villages is thankful to **New Leaf Community Market** in Pleasanton who, on June 18th, donated 5% of all sales to help the children we serve. This totaled \$1,030! We are very thankful for your thoughtfulness and support!



Agape Villages sponsored a hole...

at the **Pleasanton Chamber's annual golf outing** on Friday, August 7th at Callippe Preserve. It was a beautiful day out on the greens meeting potential sponsors and donors. We raised almost \$500 for the kids of Agape Villages just by golfers dropping in a few dollars (or more!). Pictured at right are **Carla Butler** and **Jen Oxe**.



Boy Scout on a Mission

Boy Scout **Vikas Ravi** was looking for a project to earn his Eagle Scout rank. He heard about Agape Villages and arranged to have a clothing and toy drive for our kids. He collected clothing and toys, sorted them by age and gender, and brought everything to the office. Agape kids say thank you!



Janet Kleyn with Vikas Ravi

A Great American Experience at "Great America!"

By Cheryl Youngblood, Agape Village Program Director

In September, the Girls' Group had the time of their lives at Great America. Thirteen girls in our foster care program who were able to attend said that **it was an amazing experience** and wanted to know when they were going to do it again!! It was the first experience for most of them!

On the first day, Emily, Kara, Lisa and the girls all walked to the amusement park and jumped on every ride available. They could be heard throughout the amusement park laughing, giggling, and squealing with excitement. After dinner, they all headed back to their hotel rooms where the girls enjoyed a relaxing evening swim.

After a restful night, the girls were up and ready to go for day two at the park! Everyone enjoyed a hearty breakfast to start

the day off right, and then off to the park they went. The girls had a marvelous time at Boomerang Bay (the water park) and enjoyed exciting water activities including the waterslides, wave pool and lazy river. All total, an enriching experience!



← **Velma Sykes** with **Bobby Jackson**, former Sacramento Kings basketball player. Agape had a booth at the Bobby Jackson Foundation 2015 Golf Classic.

Memorial & Honor Gifts

June 22, 2015 through September 30, 2015

In Loving Memory

ERLINDA ACOSTA
Gene & Mary Copeland
Hank & Betty Lawson

RODNEY KEITH AVERY
Cletus & Marie Thompson

ROY AND BETTY BARTLETT
Christopher Nunes

ELMER AND FAYE BEATY
Bob & Opal Taylor

LaRENE BRADLEY
Don & Joan Power

TAHJ BRUCE
Heather Bruce

BETTY CABLEIGH
John & Nadine Greff

PAUL CANNON
Dale & Becky Cannon
Elaine Cannon
Jim & Caye Randolph

JANICE CAVOZAS
Janet Kleyn
Hank & Betty Lawson
Joe & Joy Mears
Norma Petrie
Doris L. Sibert

RETA CLARK
Wilma Flach
Janet Kleyn
Hank & Betty Lawson
David & Jeanette Lee
Gregg & Stephanie Pino

JOE CORCORAN
Matt & Jill Ormond

LYNN CRUSH
John & Nadine Greff

LELAND CUSLIDGE
Bob and Mary Taylor

HILDA DUNN
Barbara Dunn
John & Nadine Greff

NADENE FLETCHER
Hank & Betty Lawson

NORM FOSTER
Andy & Stephanie Nelson

EARNESTEEN FOX
Janet Kleyn
Hank & Betty Lawson
Gregg & Stephanie Pino

DAVID GRACE
Orval & Diane Welch

FRANK GUINTA
Janet Kleyn
Hank & Betty Lawson

Charles Osby
Nina Payne
Gregg & Stephanie Pino

FAYE HAMES
Janet Hames
Sandy Hames

ROBERT HARMON
Janet Hames

JOE HELF
Jerry & Karel Baxley

FRANK INSCORE
Dan & Shannon Bow

BILL JANKORD
Agape Villages Tri-Valley
Advisory Council
Jossue & Bangon Badial
Carla Butler
Janet Kleyn
Hank & Betty Lawson
Gregg & Stephanie Pino
Dave & Jill Rathjen

FERN JENKINS
Jenny Monteiro

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

FRED KLEYN
Beverly Kleyn
Janet Kleyn

GINGER LAWSON
Gene & Mary Copeland
Hank & Betty Lawson
Jo Lawson
Ray & Celia Lawson
Debra Miller
Danah Nelson

**CAROLYN POLLARD
MARTIN**
Loyce Foster

EUGENE MERRITT
Church of Christ of Murphys
Jill Foley
Bob & Mary Taylor

BONNIE FOX MEZA
Janet Kleyn
Hank & Betty Lawson
Gregg & Stephanie Pino
Phyllis Tackett

BOB OLIVER
Sarah Rockey

FAY PAYNE
Orval & Diane Welch

KATHLEEN POTTS
Fremont's Ladies Bible Class

GENEVA PROUT
Doris Beard
Norman & Becky Cole
Rod & Betty Davis
Wilma Flach
Ron & Sherry Jones
Janet Kleyn
Hank & Betty Lawson
Les & Peggy Ornelas
Hiroko Suzuki
Norman & Mary Wilson

IZABELLE REESE
Jossue & Bangon Badial
Richard & Judy Deatherage
Wilma Flach
Ron & Sherry Jones
Janet Kleyn
Sue Latham
Hank & Betty Lawson
Norman & Mary Wilson
Helen Yelverton

DYAN RICHARDSON
Bruce & Debbie Davis

LOUISE RITCHER
Virginia Gordon

DEBRA LYN RODGERS
Burl & June Rodgers

RHONDA ROGERS
Hank & Betty Lawson

DENNIS SIMMONS
John & Nadine Greff

DR. JIMMIE B. SMITH
Doris Smith

DON A. STEPHENS
Andy & Stephanie Nelson

HUGH AND FAY TAYLOR
Bob & Opal Taylor

JIM VOYLES
Norman & Becky Cole
Richard & Judy Deatherage
Melvin & Iona Dutra
Wilma Flach
Ron & Sherry Jones
Norman & Mary Wilson

JEWELL WALTMAN
John & Nadine Greff

CAROLYN WEBB
Sue Latham

COY WILLIS
Gene & Mary Copeland
Janet Kleyn
Hank & Betty Lawson
Gregg & Stephanie Pino

REBA WINSTON
Loyce Foster

Memorial and
Honor Gifts
Touch Hearts

PLEASE REMEMBER
AGAPE IN YOUR
WILL OR
ESTATE PLAN.



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: _____

Our Hearts Break for the Children

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

In Honor And Respect

With love and respect!

JOHN & NADINE GREFF
Wyba Nienstadt

Happy Birthday!

HANK LAWSON

Friend of Agape Villages
Jossue & Bangon Badial
Ann Butler
Mary Caldwell
Gene & Mary Copeland
Dennis & Judy Cree
Lisla Damoulas
Andrea Faulkner
John & Nadine Greff
Dan Hill
Dick & Dodie Jones
Janet Kleyn
Betty Lawson
Bill & Gerri Means
Gregg & Stephanie Pino
John Rodgers
Bobby & Ginger Sparks

JR & Judy Teeples
Wes & Diane Wolford

A great Dad! (and Happy
Birthday!)

HANK LAWSON

Jo Lawson
Ray & Celia Lawson

We will always love and pray for
you!

**MARTINEZ CHURCH OF
CHRIST**

Carol Campisi
Dan Zoellner

Thanks for your help with the
"coins" project

DONNA SMALL

Hank & Betty Lawson

Praying for you!

MARGARET TOUCHTON

Wyba Nienstadt

I love you, sister!

ALMA WILLIAMSON

Wyba Nienstadt

BBQ Cook-off A Great Success!

Wow, what an event! We had our first **"It's a Family Affair Festival and BBQ Competition"** in a beautiful park in Rancho Cordova on Saturday, September 12th. It was a great event! We had a Kids area for a magician show featuring Forrest Barnes, the Great Magician, storytelling, an aquatic splash pad and face painting. We had a larger area for an adult show/stage with many kinds of entertainers performing all throughout the day.

We were thrilled to have dynamic Drummer Katt, RAW radio host (Music That Pays) as our MC. Performers included "Just Blessed" praise dance team, UC Dancer group, King Taye, Lady Karla, Stephanie Smith, Iyana Charlene, Mz. Sunnie Daye, Dr. Tamme' Shinshuri and Cosmic Vibe. The evening ended with a full on blast of Gospel & Blues with the very popular sounds of the Gary Mendoza Band (Nan Productions) with surprise artist Ron S.L. Matthews sitting in on the keyboards before closing out the show himself.

Other groups participating included Health for All, Blue Shield, Sno-Bear Ice Cream, Paris Perfumes, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Glorious Baskets and JR's Texas BBQ.

In our "Throwdown" cook off, **Shatara Tillis** (of Rancho Cordova) won 1st place for best BBQ sauce and best potato salad. **Rodney Lewis** (of Sacramento) won 1st place for best BBQ ribs. **Gavin Wages** (of Rancho Cordova) won 1st place for best baked beans. **JR's Texas Barbeque** won 1st place for best BBQ chicken.

We thank our judges **Mr. Mel Knox** (named Mr. Sacramento in 2015), **Mr. Joey Ortiz** (former Rancho Cordova High School football star) and **Ms. Ruth Miller** (of the United Way Women of Philanthropy dedicated to serving foster youth.).

Teaching One of Life's Essential Skills for Adults, Driving a Car!

Our Living Skills Program (LSP) is an inventive program geared to assist youth ages 15-21 with transitional living skills. **The goal is to equip them to live independently in the near future.**

This quarter, our LSP group is pleased to have Love's Driving School facilitate an inclusive training on driver's education. Not only will the youth have the opportunity to learn about current motor vehicle regulations, but they will also have the opportunity to sign up for driving school. We believe that having **a driver's license is an essential tool** and imperative to assisting our youth with independence and success.

New Additions to the Agape Professional Staff

Agape is proud to introduce you to the newest additions to our team of professionals, **Eddie Marquardt** and **Mindy Lee**.

Eddie comes aboard the Agape team with 30 years of experience with San Mateo County. He's been a trainer, counselor, and a group home administrator. Mindy conducted her graduate internship



Eddie Marquardt

with Agape and we were so impressed that we hired her. She now has her Master's in Social Work (MSW). Welcome Eddie and Mindy!



Mindy Lee

Quality and Professionalism Our Ongoing Commitment

We are pleased to announce our new Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC) partnership with **San Francisco County**. We look forward to building rapport with San

Francisco County and serving children and families with them.

Cheryl Youngblood, LCSW



Agape Villages'
Program Director

In October, our parents in the **East Bay region** will receive training in Foster Parents' rights and procedures, and in the **Sacramento and Central Valley Area**, parents will be trained on Independent Living Skills. Our trainings are wonderful opportunities for our foster parents to increase their skills and share ideas with others.

Agape is excited to introduce our new mental health trainer, **Dr. Terese Gjernes**. She is a Licensed Psychologist with over 22 years of experience. She will lead a training in October for our social workers on understanding trauma.

Agape Villages

3160 Crow Canyon Place
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925-866-3020
866-922-4273

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)

Katy Partan
Community Engagement Director
(Central Valley Area)

Velma Sykes
Community Engagement Director
(Greater Sacramento Area)

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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.”

57 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

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San Ramon, CA



Janet Kleyn, President

I Cor. 10:31

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

Remember, Online Giving is Available on our Website

www.AgapeVillages.org

From the President

A Broken Heart

One of the sad realities of our world, and of all the communities we live in, is that there are little children who are abused, neglected, mistreated and put into harm's way by the very ones who should be trusted to love and protect them. Some children experience trauma by those who should provide a safe and nurturing environment for them.

One of the leaders of a worldwide mission organization serving the poor once said, **“May my heart be broken by what breaks God's heart.”** His way to motivate others to be concerned about those in need was to focus on the heart of God. I think this is a great way to approach ministry oriented work! We know that for a heart to be broken, it needs to be open and engaged in caring about others, doesn't it?

Those of us here at Agape Villages represent the care and compassion of God's people to

vulnerable and at-risk children. We represent one of the ways we are doing something constructive for abused and neglected children right here in our own communities...to make a difference for these children and hopefully, for their families also.

We base our work on the knowledge that each child's life is precious...that each little child is a person of great worth. And so, each child we help is a victory and something to celebrate!

As you hopefully know, we are not just about helping children. We also strive to help and strengthen families. **Every time we see a family improve and get their child back is also a victory and something to celebrate!**

Let your heart be broken by these children! And then help us do something for them!