

# 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."

VOL. 59 / No. 3

October, 2017

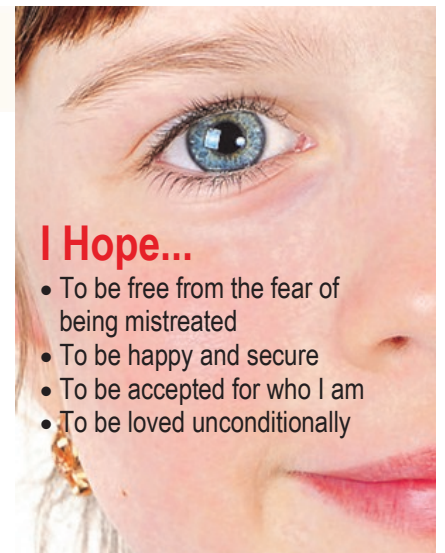
## Hope Has Now Entered

What does "hope" mean to you? It likely relates to a short term desire, something you would like to happen. It also likely relates to long term aspirations. Now, what if you were a child in the foster care system? What would hope mean to you then?

Someone has said, **"When the worst is here, the best is yet to come."** This relates to the work of Agape Villages in many ways, especially as we take children into our foster care program. Children and youth are placed with Agape Villages because they need to be removed from their families for their protection. They come from situations where there is a great deal of dysfunction, drug addiction/abuse, physical abuse, all varieties of neglect, abandonment and mistreatment of many kinds.

When Agape Villages enters, it's a turning point. Hope has entered. The downtrend has ended. The future of children and youth now becomes brighter. The best is yet to come.

However, providing hope to the children and youth we serve often does not come easily. We invest a lot of effort and surround them with services to help them achieve their goals. This is a collective effort. We need a lot of hope-givers joining with us for us to be effective. This includes our foster parents, donors and our caring volunteers. Together, we are doing something very special!



### I Hope...

- To be free from the fear of being mistreated
- To be happy and secure
- To be accepted for who I am
- To be loved unconditionally

**Yes, Hope** CHANGES EVERYTHING.



## A Deep Passion for a Worthy Cause

By Doug Mead, Agape Villages Consultant

For the past 10 years, I've been volunteering as the editor and desktop publisher of Agape Villages' newsletter, *The Love Letter*. After 40 years of working with licensed child and family service organizations as a social worker and Executive Director, I recently retired and moved to Southern California where I continue my involvement as a volunteer with Agape Villages.

Most recently, I served 21 years as the Executive Director of Georgia Agape, a licensed foster care and adoption agency in Atlanta. Prior to my retirement, I led that agency in receiving its national accreditation through the Council on Accreditation. I am now consulting (pro-bono) with Agape Villages as the agency pursues its national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). Both are similar and cover all of the major areas of an agency's activities. Accreditation provides a seal of approval affirming that an agency operates according to best practices. You'll hear more on this soon.

As I dig deeper into the workings of Agape Villages with my

CARF work, I've come to appreciate and admire the passion and dedication which Janet Kleyn, Cheryl Youngblood, Hank Lawson and the Agape Villages staff bring to their work. As the saying goes, there is no greater thing you can do with your life and work than follow your passions.

My 40 years in this field has taught me one thing clearly: this work is not easy. One of the sad realities Agape faces on a daily basis is that there are children and youth who are abused, neglected, mistreated and put into harm's way by the very ones who should be trusted to love and protect them. The stories are heartbreaking. Another reality is that the child welfare system is challenging to work with, requiring ongoing advocacy and proactive efforts to defend the needs of the children. And then the challenge to keep the work going... "fighting" to find the financial resources needed each month and continuously seeking to secure families to partner as foster parents.

Yes, the cause Agape Villages serves is immense. This is why I stay so involved. This work requires the involvement of passionate people at every phase. This work merits such commitment. May our compassionate hearts rise to the occasion!

## Overcoming Obstacles and Finding a Better Future

By Courtney McAlister, Agape Social Worker

We've been serving an elementary age boy, Brandon, in our foster care program who has been in the foster care system for over 5 years now. That is way too long. It is not typical for most children, fortunately, as foster care is intended to be for shorter lengths of time.

For Brandon, his permanency goal was to return back home to his parents. His situation has seen times of elation at the progress being made by his parents and then deep disappointment at the setbacks.

Brandon originally came into the foster care system because of abuse and neglect. His parents struggled with drug issues among other things. Brandon was a very angry child early on...for good reason. He struggled with trusting the adults in his life.

Since being in care with us, he has been making remarkable progress. His foster parents have done a great job meeting his needs and establishing a loving relationship with him. Brandon has responded very positively to this.

His foster family is a Christian family who take him to church weekly and pray with him before meals and at bedtime. He is

learning a lot and feels secure with this family.

As I write this article, there are continuing changes in his situation with his birth parents. We'll share more on this in a future issue. For now, we are thrilled at the improvements Brandon is making and will help him find the permanency he needs in his life.

### Agape Youth Attend Bible Camp



Five Agape foster youth attended camp at Sierra Bible Camp this past summer. They enjoyed the mountains, trees, food and fresh air. Thank you to the Martinez Church of Christ for including them with your group!

## In The Volunteer Spotlight!

**Great achievement is often born out of great opportunities and of great sacrifice.**

## 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.



Retiring after 39 years as a business professional, Ann Willoughby knew she wanted to expand her work with non-profit organizations in the local community. She was familiar with Agape Villages and the breadth and depth of services it provides to foster families and children through her charitable giving and contacted our office in San Ramon to see how else she could contribute. Ann has found a niche volunteering with Agape's community outreach and fundraising events and assisting the office as needed. Working with Agape staff and volunteers and leveraging her business acumen to benefit Agape's mission has been a very personally satisfying experience for her. Ann also serves on the Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) Network Board of Directors, an organization that provides science and technology conferences for 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade girls throughout the nation, works at a local thrift store, and is a member of two local chapters of the American Association of University Women. Ann, we are thankful for your contributions in so many ways, always with a smile.



*Ann Willoughby*

### We Need More Volunteers!

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

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



Hank Lawson

# GREATNESS IS BORN OUT OF SACRIFICE

By Hank Lawson, Director, Church Relations

Let us consider our ways...so blessings can follow. It happened a long time ago in bible history. In chapter one of the book of Haggai, the Jews were busy. Those that were willing came back from captivity and had so much to do. Land had to be prepared and planted. Houses had to be constructed to live in. They worked hard and were tired. It was difficult to make ends meet. However, God still had one thing for them to do. Another sacrifice on their part was required. They were not to forget about God. He wanted his temple to be built.

This sounds similar to American life today. Everyone is busy with jobs, taking care of children, meeting needs and making time for entertainment. We are on the go 24/7. Many don't get the proper rest.

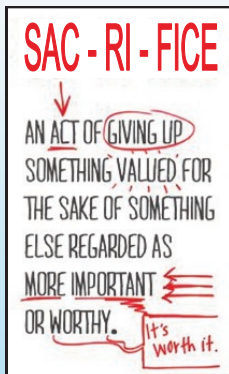
The message in Haggai 1:7-11 is that even with all of the busy schedules of the Jewish people, time for God was expected and demanded. Here is a lesson: "Sacrifice is expected be-

fore blessing." This principle remains true for us today.

In America, we also struggle to make time for God. We get so busy, we don't have much time for bible study, prayer at home and time for family devotionals. We often don't even have time to have dinner together.

These conditions require prioritization skills and sacrifice on our part. We must find the time for that which is truly important to us and not be controlled by our busyness.

As we consider our ways and what should be of importance to us, we must also consider the ways of God...what is important to Him. This may take sacrifice on our part to fit it all in.



Yes, blessings come as we sacrificially give of ourselves for what are God's priorities. The work we do at Agape Villages is close to the heart of God. We are thankful for all those who sacrificially participate in our charitable work.

## Join us in a Giving Opportunity!

**"Giving Tuesday — November 28"**

#BlackFriday #CyberMonday

Agape Villages is joining a national effort to combine charitable giving with the Thanksgiving holidays. What does buying more stuff at discounted prices have to do with Thanksgiving Day? The simple answer should be nothing! But somehow, our day of thanks has become inextricably linked to days of mad bargain hunting and mobs shopping. Agape Villages Foster Family Agency wants to offer an alternative, what is being called #GivingTuesday.

This Thanksgiving, spend time with your family considering your blessings and how those blessings could be shared. Then, on **November 28<sup>th</sup>**, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, join the millions of people in all 50 states and around the world who will be sharing their time, money, and talents with individuals and organizations in need in the name of #GivingTuesday. Giving to Agape Villages on this day will be a testament to your generosity and to the idea that working and giving together is the surest path towards making the world a better place.

## How You Can Participate

Go to our Website and click on our "Donate Now" button to make your contribution to Agape in this endeavor. We hope this will be a great day for our work!

## Our 5th Annual Dinner and Auction in Pleasanton

Our annual dinner and auction event was held at the beautiful Pleasanton Marriott on October 21<sup>st</sup>. The keynote speaker was **Curtis Zackery**, formerly a minister in the Bay Area and now living in Tennessee. He delivered a very inspiring message about "belonging." We all want to "belong," and children most of all.

**Betty Cousins**, an Agape foster parent for 11 years, spoke about being a foster parent. She talked about one of the children she cared for in her home, **Ally Baca**. She spoke about what Ally was like when she first came into Betty's home and what she is like now. One more thing, Ally is now Betty's daughter!

Ally then spoke, talking about her childhood before she came into foster care with Agape, and her life now – part of a loving family, female athlete of the year her senior year in high school, attending college now – a bright future. **Brock Roby** was again our MC for the evening and as always did a great job.

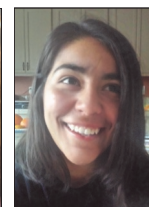
More than \$22,000 was raised in support of our efforts to serve children and youth. We are very grateful!



Curtis Zackery



Betty Cousins



Ally Baca

## 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.

**\$688 was received through September of 2017.**

# Agape Hosts First Carnival!

Agape Villages Foster Family Agency hosted our first carnival on September 17, 2017 at the Shinn Historical Park and Arboretum in Fremont, California. Wow! What a fun-filled day for all who attended. Children and adults participated in the assortment of activities that were offered such as: spinning tea cups, a train ride through the park, carnival games, balloon darts, ring toss, a photo booth and many other games and prizes for families and children of all ages. This magical day was complemented by a variety of tasty, delectable treats, like cotton candy, hot dogs, chips, snow cones, popcorn and ice cream.



We are proud to announce that we had over 120 guests come out, and support our resource homes and foster youth. Agape wants to extend a huge thank you to the curator of the Historical Park, **Joan Serafino**. Thank you, Joan, for opening up this amazing venue and part of history for all to experience, and for the educational tours of the park and home, and to our very own **Marissa Cline** and **Sean Youngblood** for

all of their leadership, ingenuity and enthusiasm.

**Keep an eye out because Agape plans to host a second fund raiser at the Shinn Arboretum next year – in October, 2018!! Hope to see you there!**



## Agape Picnic and Training Event

Once again, our families, kids, staff and volunteers had a great time at Agape's 7<sup>th</sup> annual picnic/training. Special thanks to Gordon Kennedy of GK Music for assisting us again this year with fantastic live entertainment. Thanks also to Kevin Youngblood of USGA, Inc. for all his help and support. And a big thanks to the Agape staff who go all out to be sure this event is wonderful, especially for the kids. The kids enjoyed playing in the sun, watching



Python Ron's Reptile show, the water feature, the bounce house, the games, prizes, face painting, burgers and other treats. It was a great day for all!



## Donate Your Car or Other 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 below.

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

## Mattress Firm & Foster Kids

Sleep Train stores are now Mattress Firm stores. Agape kids and foster parents continue to be thankful to Mattress Firm, most recently for the school supplies they received for going back to school. Thank you again, Mattress Firm! We are so grateful!

## Our Professional Service Statistics

### Current Year Statistics (From 1/1/17 to 10/9/17)

- 175 – Foster Children Served Year-to-Date
- 90 – New Children in Care this Year
- 84 – Foster Children Currently in Care
- 54 – Certified Foster Families

### Since We Began in 1958

- 6,190 – Foster Children Served
  - ♦ 4,000 – Through Sierra Children's Home
  - ♦ 2,190 – Through Agape Villages
- 486 – Foster Families who have Partnered with us in Foster Care

# So much to be THANKFUL for!

## Sharing the Work of Agape

Special thanks to the **Manteca Rotary Club** for inviting Agape to speak at their August 10 meeting. We were able to share about our program and how they can help us. Indeed, it takes a Village!

## Fundraisers Held for Agape

Our thanks to local volunteer Mary Bryan for organizing a fundraiser at 3 **Leatherby's Family Creameries** in the Sacramento area. More than \$300 was raised to help local foster children.

What a great excuse to eat ice cream! Thank you Mary, Leatherby's, and all who participated!



*Small opportunities are often the beginning of great achievement.*

## PG&E Provides Another Grant

We are so grateful to **Pacific Gas and Electric Company** for awarding Agape Villages a \$5,000 grant. This continued support year-after-year is a significant factor in helping us maintain our excellence in programs.

## Rummage Sale in Sacramento

Our **Sacramento advisory council** led by Courtney McAlister had a rummage sale on September 30. Nearly \$400 was raised which is very good for this kind of event! All proceeds are used to expand our resources for children and families in the Sacramento area. Our thanks to Leandra Bell, Michelle Sudina, Laramie Mills, and Cathy Urbanus for their support and assistance.

## Rotary Supports Agape

Thanks to the **Danville Sycamore Rotary** and Agape council volunteer **Mary Whipple** for a \$2,500 donation to Agape Villages. This will be a huge help to funding our various programs to help the kids!



Our thanks to **WISP (Women in Service and Prayer)** of Manteca who donated 36 bags filled with brushes, tooth brushes, puzzle books, journals, colored pencils and ear buds. Our kids were so happy to receive the bags!

## Upcoming Fund Raising Event

**Where:** Sizzler

2 locations:

1. 8471 Elk Grove Florin Rd, Elk Grove
2. 5815 Madison Ave., Sacramento

**When:** Tuesday, Dec 5 from 11 am to 9 pm

**What:** A percentage of your total bill will be donated to Agape if you mention "Agape"  
(15% -20% depending on location)

*Come out, have a great dinner, and support Agape kids!*

## Contact Us If You'd Like to Volunteer

**We need volunteers! Contact the person in your area below!**

### Bay Area

Pleasanton/San Ramon/Danville  
Jen Oxe  
408-930-9951

San Leandro  
Dave Roach  
510-835-2641

### Greater

**Sacramento Area**  
Sacramento  
Courtney McAlister  
916-470-7939

Elk Grove  
Janet Kleyn  
866-922-4273

### Central Valley

Manteca  
Michael Contreras  
209-992-8346

# Memorial & Honor Gifts

June 5, 2017 through October 16, 2017

## In Loving Memory

### ERLINDA ACOSTA

Gene & Mary Copeland  
Hank & Betty Lawson

### DON & PEGGY BASS

Norma Benson

### ROY & BETTY BARTLETT

Christopher Nunes

### BESSIE BLACHLEY

Pete & Pam Bogdanovic

### DICK BLYTHE

Mr. & Mrs. Dwain Bruner

### LENETTE BRYANT

Janet Kleyn  
Baron & Rhonda McDonald

### EARLIE BUSTER

Gene & Mary Copeland  
Hank & Betty Lawson

### MARY BUSTER

Gene & Mary Copeland  
Hank & Betty Lawson  
Dale & Marlene Peck

### DOROTHY CALLAHAN

Janet Kleyn  
Dennis Murphy

### JOHN DUDLEY

Ann Butler  
JoAnn Byrne

Craig & Elizabeth Campbell  
Glen & Sandy Cobb

Lisla Damoulos  
Don & Mary Ann Dunn

Fred & June Followill  
Steve & Robin Giles

Janet Kleyn

John Rogers

Rudolph & Mary Rozsa  
LaVonne Sibert

Tri-Valley Church of Christ

### DOYLE EUGENE FORD

John & Nadine Greff

### VERNON GARRETSON

Janet Kleyn  
Hank & Betty Lawson  
Gary & Freddie Qualls

### LAWRENCE GENTRY

Ann Butler  
Glen & Sandy Cobb  
Fred & June Followill  
Janet Kleyn

John Rogers

LaVonne Sibert  
Tri-Valley Church of Christ

### ESTHER HENDRIX

Hank & Betty Lawson

### JOE HODGES

Norman & Becky Cole

### JENELLE HUFFMAN

JoAnn Glock

### WILLIAM & VAUGHNCELE KISER

Mark & Dianne Kiser  
Murice Shelton

### FRED KLEYN

Beverly Kleyn

### SUE LATHAM

Norma Benson

### GINGER LAWSON

Gene & Mary Copeland  
Hank & Betty Lawson

Jo Lawson

Ray & Celia Lawson

Debra Miller

### ROMAINE LUKEY

Jill Barger

### DON MAYO

Norma Benson

### LAWRENCE McCULLOUGH

Lew & Rosell Wade

### MARVIN METTLER

Norman & Becky Cole

Melvin & Iona Dutra

Wilma Flach

Janet Kleyn

Elmer & Doris Prout

### JANIE RUTHERFORD

Janice Arnett

### VIRGINIA SKINNER

Norman & Becky Cole

Melvin & Iona Dutra

Wilma Flach

Ron & Peggy Fullen

Virginia Gordon

A. J. & Norma Gwin  
Janet Kleyn

Kai & Brenda Mickey  
Don & Judy Price

Norman & Mary Wilson

### DR. JIMMIE SMITH

Doris Smith

### BILLIE SULLIVAN

Norman & Becky Cole  
Elmer & Doris Prout

### NATHAN SUMMIT

Don & Gwen Minor

### MARY THODE

Bob & Mary Taylor

### KELSEY THOMAS

Dev & Donna Ogle

### EYVLIN TUCKER

Jerry & Karel Baxley

Larry & Lori Cheeves

Peggy Tucker

### TOM YORK

Olga Brazzel

Norman & Becky Cole

Melvin & Iona Dutra

Wilma Flach

Ron & Peggy Fullen

Virginia Gordon

Janet Kleyn

Hank & Betty Lawson

Kai & Brenda Mickey

Elmer & Doris Prout

Tia Revels

Rita Templin

Norman & Mary Wilson

## In Honor And Respect

*With love and respect!*

### PATSY RICE

Wyba Nienstadt

*Happy Birthday!*

### LaVONNE SIBERT

A. C. & Katherine Anderson

Joe & Joy Mears

Don & Georgia Springer

Joanne Wyatt

Dwayne Williams

*With respect and appreciation!*

### JULIA VAN KEUREN

Tim Stigers

*With love and respect!*

### GENETHA ADOLPH

Wyba Nienstadt

*With respect for your many years of service to the church!*

### DON & BETTY ANDERSON

Jim & Mary Holland

*A great Dad!*

### HANK LAWSON

Jo Lawson

*With love and respect!*

### HANK & BETTY LAWSON

Ray & Celia Lawson

*With respect and appreciation!*

### DANAH NELSON

Tim Stigers

*With love and respect!*

### BOB NIENSTADT

Wyba Nienstadt

## Expressions of Love

Memorial and Honor gifts are caring expressions of love and concern and are greatly appreciated by those so honored. For each gift we receive, we send a thoughtful letter to those you request us to notify.

We find meaning in life through the pain, suffering and struggles we face, not through the pleasures we experience.

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

*Providing Hope to Children and Youth*

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

# Manteca Golf Tournament

Our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual *Fairways Fore Foster Kids* golf tournament was held on September 15 at the Manteca Golf Course and



was a big hit this year with over 80 golfers in attendance. Everyone played valiantly and this year's top prize in the

tournament went to the foursome of Oak Valley Bank! We raised over \$10,000 that will directly go to funding a better future for our foster children at Agape.

Our sponsors included USGA, Inc. – shirt sponsor; Peerless Architectural Windows and Doors, and Oldcastle Building Envelope – co-lunch sponsors, and Swinerton Builders – long drive sponsor. Other sponsors include A. Teeples Plumbing, Crystal Downs State Farm Insurance, South San Joaquin Irrigation District, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Manteca Police Chief's Foundation, Apollo Architectural and Bank of Stockton. We thank our advisory board and staff members for the tireless work done to secure sponsors, round-up teams and tend to the many details in preparation for this year's event.

## Living Skills Program Update

On Thursday September 7<sup>th</sup> our Living Skills Program (LSP) group was pleased to welcome back **Gail Greer**, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Vice President, **Joanne Wink**, both from Golden Valley Credit Union. Ms. Greer and Ms. Wink discussed banking options and taught the youth about various types of savings accounts, bank accounts versus credit union accounts, checking accounts, credit cards, loans, and budgeting. Important information for independent living!

PLEASE REMEMBER  
AGAPE IN YOUR  
WILL OR  
ESTATE PLAN.



For more information:  
jkleyn@AgapeVillages.org

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

## Cheryl's Program Activities

Resource (Foster) Parents Needed!  
We are Grateful for Much!

We urgently need new resource (foster) families to serve the many kids we get calls for every month. We are thrilled that 10 new families have been certified this year, and many more are in the process.

Cheryl Youngblood, LCSW



Agape Villages'  
Program Director

A huge shout out to my fellow advisory committee members in the San Leandro (Bay) Area: Kevin Youngblood, Jorge Gomez, and our very own Dave Roach. Thanks so much for your dedication, guidance and financial support as well. Gratitude to Kevin and

USGA, Inc. for your generosity in providing funding for our advertising in the Bay Area. This helps make it possible for Agape to continue recruiting resource parents in this vicinity.

Further thanks to Kevin Youngblood, Jorge Gomez, Sean Youngblood and USGA, Inc. for participating in our annual golf tournament in Manteca. Your continued support does not go unnoticed!

Training remains a high priority. Social workers Dave Roach and Courtney McAlister recently provided training on Positive Parenting to our resource parents. Training has also been provided on dealing with anxiety and suggested interventions with teens.

Agape continues to expand our efforts. We are making a huge difference in the lives of the 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! If anyone is interested in becoming a resource parent or a volunteer please contact us at: 800-566-2225. Thank you!



## Children are a Blessing...Some Need Our Help

By David Lee, Chair, Board of Directors

*"These are the children God has graciously given to me."* (Genesis 33:5)

Children bring joy into our lives. When they throw up at a restaurant it teaches us humility. When sick with a fever, patience and concern. When they learn to walk and talk we are certain they are unusually gifted and brag on them.

*"Behold, children are a gift of the Lord."* (Psalms 127:3) Not all children get the care, attention and love they need. Some parents, for different reasons, may be abusive. Some have let drugs destroy their parental instincts. Some are simply selfish. That is when it becomes necessary to protect these kids by placing them in the kind of loving family environment provided by Agape Villages. A monetary gift from you could make the difference in a child's future. Please don't just think about helping...put your love into action! We need all the help we can get!

*"Grandchildren are the crown of old men, and the glory of sons is their fathers."* (Proverbs 17:6-7) By reaching out to the most vulnerable among us, we are not only enriching the lives of foster children, but are examples of love and generosity to our own children and grandchildren. Share with your family and friends how you are helping Agape Villages. This will be an inspiration to them!

## 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: Board of Directors

**Hank Lawson**  
Director, Church Relations

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

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

**Uyen Pham**  
Bookkeeper

David Lee, Chair  
Walter Bruce, Secretary  
Hank Lawson, Treasurer  
Theris Coats  
Charlene Cobb  
Janet Kleyn  
Carolyn Miller  
Gloria Robertson  
Sarah Rockey  
Don Thomas



## Healing Hearts and Building Families

**59 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

### Luke 12:48

*"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."*

Remember, Online Giving is Available on our Website

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

## From the President

# Celebrating 59 Years of Service

Wow! Agape Villages is 59 years old! I recently talked with Frank Curtis, the only surviving member of the original Agape Villages (called Sierra Children's Home back then) board of directors. He is 93 years old and so happy to know that Agape continues to serve kids, just as it was envisioned 59 years ago.

I asked Frank for any advice he has for us today. He said, *"If you see a need and don't do anything about it, your conscience hurts you. If you see a need and do your best, you have to let it go. I didn't want my conscience to hurt me!"* Sound advice to live by.

One of our wonderful volunteers recently sent me a copy of a letter she sent to a church, asking for their help. In the letter, she said, *"I started volunteering with Agape two years ago. I only wish I could have become more aware of the serious and oft*

*times very somber needs of foster children sooner. But in any case, I'm doing what I can now."*

Two different people, with very similar comments. Doing what they can. That's what we do at Agape Villages – we do what we can to help children and youth. To the best of our ability, with passion and commitment. Help us celebrate 59 years of service, by doing what you can. Thank you!

When children are involved, making plans for them is always the first priority.

