



## Young Boy Receives Valuable Lessons

*We'd like to share a story from Allen Denver, a foster dad we know which underscores some insights into serving children.*

My wife and I have been foster parents to several children over the years. I can say that, often, being a foster dad is not easy. Kids come to our home missing loved ones, having experienced some kind of trauma that no child should. We work hard coping with the children's defense mechanisms and survival skills which ordinary children in loving homes do not develop. Even so, we approach each placement optimistically with hope to make a meaningful difference.

We pour our love, good food, sensitive nurturing, warm house and laughter into these kids. Sometimes the fruit of our labor is difficult to see, especially early on. We know that our impact may only be seen in some children as we look back from a future point of view. However, the labor is well worth the effort knowing we are dealing with children and youth who need someone to care for them.

After serving as a coach and manager in little league, I am

now serving as a volunteer umpire. I've learned that baseball can help young boys in many ways.

A few months ago, my wife and I took two eight year old boys into our home. They had never played baseball before and had also never been a part of any team sport. One of the boys suffered from anxiety and insecurity. We signed them up to play baseball and hoped the experience would be enriching.



In the first game they played, the boy who has anxiety was coming up to bat at the end of the game with two outs in the 9<sup>th</sup> inning. The first two pitches were high, but he swung at them anyway, missing them each time. On the next pitch, it was also high, but he connected and made it to first base. The other batters after him each got singles and he eventually was able to run to home plate for the team's next score. It was exciting and encouraging to the boy. I was brought to tears.

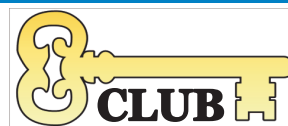
This will help him in overcoming his fear, doubt and failure. We continue to love these boys as we mold their lives!



Hank Lawson

## Take A Big Step With Us!

By Hank Lawson, Director, Church Relations



*Sometimes* in our development as a person, *sometimes* in our growth as a child of God, we come to a place in our lives when it is important for us to step out in our faith and "TAKE A BIG STEP FORWARD."

In 1 Sam. 17 we read where David faced Goliath. He had no experience in battle...Don't kid yourself, he could see how BIG this giant was. But something needed to be done.

We all come to these places in life. *Something* needs to be done. It is not always physical and it is not always easy. But that does NOT change the condition. Something needs to be done.

For you and for me, from where we are, what NEEDS TO BE DONE often requires us to take a BIG step. And, to take that step, it is going to test our faith.

Are you ready for some BIG steps?

1.) We are looking and we need those willing to TAKE A BIG STEP and become a foster parent (resource parent)...Those willing to be the one to *change lives*, yours and theirs.

2) We are looking for those who are willing to sacrifice financially. We have a new **KEY CLUB** initiative. The KEY is to help us in our recruiting and training foster parents. We are seeking those willing to sacrifice **\$50.00 a month, every month**, to be part of the KEY.

Yes, this can be a big step for some. We are looking for those BIG shoes willing to take a BIG STEP to accomplish a great work. Join our effort – be part of the solution. GOD BLESS!

See page 3 for a response card to participate in this opportunity!

# More Stories

## From our Foster Care Program

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

### Parental Failure, Again, Takes its Toll

By Courtney McAlister, MSW, Agape Social Worker

After being in foster care with another agency, Alice, who is 4 years old, was reunified with her mother in March of 2016. Alice had to be removed again from her mother's care because of her mother's issues not allowing her to follow the safety plan. When the county worker stopped by the mother's home unannounced, her mother was drunk (despite saying she only had 2 glasses of wine) and the biological father was present who is a registered sex offender. She came back into foster care in July of 2016 and was placed in an Agape foster home with a single foster mother.

Coming back into care, Alice was very quiet, cried a lot (especially to see her mother), and would eat very little. Since she has been in the foster home for several months now, she is showing signs of being happy. She loves being in her foster home and is gaining weight. She calls her foster mother "grandma." Agape Social Worker Courtney McAlister was able to get counseling services set up for Alice which has helped her deal with the sadness and trauma in her life.

### Engaging Birth Parents Helps Placement

By Courtney McAlister, MSW, Agape Social Worker

Kevin, who is 3 years old, was removed from his parents as

they were both addicted to "Meth" and were not properly supervising him. Kevin was injured picking up one of the items they used for smoking Meth. He was first placed in a foster home with another agency. However, the biological parents felt he was not being taken care of properly and requested he be moved. Since being placed in an Agape home, the parents are now very pleased. The resource mother texts pictures of Kevin to them and keeps them updated on how he is doing. With the help and support of Agape's social worker, they are working well with us as a team right now as they try to make the necessary changes in their lives.

### Reaching a Difficult Academic Goal!

By Jennifer Jackson, MSW, Agape Social Worker

Megan almost didn't graduate from Junior High because she was so behind in her reading. Agape Support Counselor, JoRita Isola, began to read with her a couple times a week. At first, Megan was uneasy with this, but then began to like reading with JoRita. Megan felt supported in her reading goal and has been able to read many books she is interested in with the help of JoRita. Soon Megan caught up with her reading goal, and she graduated from Junior High. Megan also responded well to the encouragement of her resource parent. Because of all this help, Megan graduated on the Honor Roll! Many from Agape came to her graduation and cheered her on. Congratulations, Megan!

Love unconditionally and freely.  
Only then will your heart  
learn what love is.

## 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!

The volunteer spotlight this month is on **Gianni and Melanie Bartoletti**. They are the owners of Gianni's Italian Bistro in San Ramon (Bay Area). They are both community-minded and besides helping Agape in various ways, they open up their restaurant on nearly every Monday evening, and let charities come in and volunteer as servers. The charity invites their friends and family, hoping to fill the house! All the tips and 10% of the sales go to the charity. This year so far, more than \$88,000 has been raised for charity. Agape has been the charity twice. Thank you, Gianni and Melanie, for all you do, to help Agape and the community.



*Gianni & Melanie  
Bartoletti*

### 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.

# Take A Big Step With Us!

Continued from front page...

## Key Club – Helping us Fund our Foster Parent Recruitment and Training Program



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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank You*

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

## Manteca Golf Tournament

We had our 12<sup>th</sup> annual Agape Villages "Fairways Fore Foster Kids" Golf Tournament in Manteca on Friday, September 23, 2016. We had an amazing turnout and raised a significant amount of money! We would like once again like to thank our major sponsors: Kevin Youngblood of USGA and Brandon Teeples of A Teeples Plumbing! Our sponsors for the event were the following: shirt sponsor: **USGA, Inc.**, breakfast sponsors: **Starbucks, Resendiz Farm, and Main St Bakery!** We also thank all of our other sponsors, golfers and



Kevin Youngblood (at right), USGA, Inc and Shirt Sponsor with good friend and fellow golfer Dan Wasielewski.

volunteers who each contributed to the event's success!

## New Agape Employees

Agape announces new additions to our team of professionals, **Kourtney Chevalier** and **Marissa Cline**. Kourtney did her graduate internship with Agape and now is a Master's Level Social Worker, working as one of our caseworkers. We are also pleased to welcome Marissa Cline who has joined our San Leandro office as a support staff person.

We are sad to announce that Katy Partan has left Agape, but we are happy for her as she is now a stay-at-home mom. **Michael Contreras** is replacing Katy as Community Engagement Director in the Central Valley. Welcome, Michael!



Agape kids and foster parents continue to be thankful to Sleep Train, most recently for the school supplies they needed for going back to school. Thank you, Sleep Train!

## Agape Picnic and Training Event

Once again, our families, kids, staff (pictured below) and volunteers had a great time at Agape's 6<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!



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

## Everyone Welcome

A Luther Vandross

## Holiday Tribute Show

Friday, December 9, 2016

— Featuring —

**The Amazing Ray McCoy  
&  
The Incredible Ray McCoy  
Tribute Band**  
*Benefitting Agape Villages*

Yoshi's Oakland

510 Embarcadero West,  
Oakland, CA

Cost: \$29 for advance tickets  
Call Annemarie @ 510-932-9312, or  
Visit [www.yoshi's.com](http://www.yoshi's.com), or  
Call box office @ 510-238-9200

# Thank You For Loving Me

By David Lee, Chair, Board of Directors



With Thanksgiving Day approaching, our thoughts begin to be reminded of the many blessings in our life. Most of us can say we have a life filled with an overflow of blessings. We are surrounded with the love of family and friends, good jobs, reasonable health, and many of the comforts of life. God has truly blessed us. Sometimes when things are so going so well for us we forget there are those around us that do not share in

our abundance.

Unfortunately, the most vulnerable victims of these life's tragedies are innocent children. If you are reading this, you most likely are already aware of the plight of these children. You are one of the many generous, loving people who regularly contribute to Agape Villages to help give these kids a healthy, happy, normal life. For the kids, "Thank You-Thank You-Thank You!" One request I have is that you spread the word with your friends and neighbors about the great things Agape is doing and let them share in the blessings received by helping others. Remember God Loves you!

## We Are Using New Term to Replace "Foster Parent"

Effective January 2017, the State of California is using the term "**resource parent**" instead of foster parent. While the new law brings many changes to Agape and all childcare agencies in California, one thing is unchanged – our commitment to superior care to the children we serve.

## Annual Sacramento Dinner

As we seek various ways to secure the financial support to keep our programs going, we continue to host fund raising dinners around northern California. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year for us to hold a dinner in the Sacramento area. It took place at the Roseville Church of Christ on May 13<sup>th</sup> and raised \$20,000. We are grateful for the efforts of our volunteer, Danah Nelson, and the many others who came together to make this a great event. Waves of grace surrounded us!

## Another Grant Received from the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Foundation

Agape received a grant in the amount of \$20,000 this year from the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Foundation. This is after receiving a \$70,000 donation in 2014 in their "Fund-a-Need" auction event. We are very grateful for the growing relationship we are establishing with this generous group!



Attention:

## Change to our Grocery Shopping Program!

The following grocery stores have a donation program which will send a percentage of the total receipt to Agape:

**SaveMart, Lucky, Food Maxx.**

Each shopper needs to **sign-up online** to participate now. The stores are no longer using the cards. To sign up online, go to the website **escrip.com/shares**. Or, you can call us at 866-922-4273 and we will help you sign up. After you sign-up, all you have to do is put in your phone number when checking out.

Please know that we appreciate your support in this way and we hope we can count on it in the future.

**\$1,866 was received through the 3rd quarter of 2016.**



## "It's A Family Affair"

### Festival and BBQ Competition

Our second annual "It's a Family Affair Festival and BBQ Competition" was held on May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Village Green Park in Rancho Cordova. It was a day of great BBQ, vendors, live music, and fun activities for the kids. Our thanks to everyone who attended and to those who volunteered. It was a Family Affair, indeed!

## Agape Youth Attend Bible Camp

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



Results Are In...

## Jail 'N Bail 2016

We had three Jail 'N Bail events this year...in **San Ramon**, in **Manteca** and in **Pleasanton**.

We are grateful for all the caring "jailbirds" and judges who participated! All total, nearly \$20,000 was raised from these events. We appreciate everyone, including our caring supporters!



Pictured above is jailbird **Melanie Sadek**, Executive Director Valley Humane Society with several Pleasanton firemen.

# So much to be THANKFUL for!

## Annual Golf Tournament

**Bregante and Co.** once again hosted their annual golf tournament, to benefit Agape Villages. Nearly \$10,000 was raised! We are so thankful to Steve Fineran and Bregante.



## More Grants Received

We are thankful to the **California Foundation for Stronger Communities** for another grant this year in the amount of \$10,000.

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.

We are thrilled again this year to receive a \$5,000 grant from the **United Way of San Joaquin County Community Impact Fund** for 2016-2017. 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 Girl's Group.

## New and Renewing Sponsors

Over the last six months, the following companies have given \$2,500 or more to be one of our sponsors: **USGA, Inc, Zoho, Vanguard Construction, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Whipple, Mercado & Associates, LLP and A Teeples Plumbing.** See our website for more information.

## Our Professional Service Statistics

### Current Year Statistics (From 1/1/16 to 10/31/16)

169 – Foster Children Served Year-to-Date  
91 – New Children in Care this Year  
87 – Foster Children Currently in Care  
59 – Certified Foster Families

### Since We Began in 1958

6,081 – Foster Children Served  
♦ 4,000 – Through Sierra Children's Home  
♦ 2,081 – Through Agape Villages  
470 – Foster Families who have Partnered with us in Foster Care

## “Give Local America” Results

Give Local America, a 24 hour on-line giving challenge, was held on May 3rd. We raised nearly \$7,000. We want to say thanks to everyone who participated, especially to those who are brand-new donors to Agape!

## Roseville Church of Christ

Many thanks to the Roseville Church of Christ for holding a rummage sale for us on April 23rd which raised \$1100. We appreciate all of the ways caring people support our important work!

## Fireworks Booth

Agape Villages was fortunate to be selected as one of the 15 nonprofits allowed to run a fireworks booth in the City of Manteca this year. The booth ran from June 28<sup>th</sup> through July 4<sup>th</sup>, and we were thrilled to see a substantial increase in our profits over last year. The fundraiser netted Agape Villages over \$10,000. Thank you so much to the volunteers who showed up and worked in the often stifling heat!



## Corporate and Foundation Support

Over the past six months, we have received financial support from the following: **Rotary Club of Pleasanton Foundation, BTS Consulting, Shir Martial Arts and United Lending Partners!** Thanks to all!!!

**amazon**smile

Get started

## Can Benefit Agape Villages

AmazonSmile is a way Amazon.com offers caring people to purchase items and support their favorite charity at the same time. To participate, just go to their web site, [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), and start buying! A portion of the purchase price will then go to Agape Villages. For more information on this program, go to the following link:

<http://smile.amazon.com/about>

# Memorial & Honor Gifts

March 31, 2016 through November 2, 2016

## In Loving Memory

### ERLINDA ACOSTA

Gene & Mary Copeland  
Hank & Betty Lawson

### CARMEN ADAMES

Jerry & Karel Baxley

### ROY & BETTY BARTLETT

Christopher Nunes

### DICK BLYTHE

Mr. & Mrs. Dwain Bruner

### BEN BROCCO

John & Nadine Greff

### JAMES "SCOTTY" BROOKS

Richard & Judy Deatherage

### MILLIE & BRADLEY

### BROOKS

Tom & Merla Avery  
Olga Brazzel

### CHARLES LEROY BRYAN

Howard & Kathleen Costner

The Jaffe family

Janet Kleyn

Sue Latham

### EARLIE BUSTER

Gene & Mary Copeland

### TRACY BUSTER

Gene & Mary Copeland

### RYAN JAMES CREE

John & Nadine Greff

Janet Kleyn

Hank & Betty Lawson

Gregg & Stephanie Pino

### ANDY ELLIS

Norman & Rebecca Cole

John & Nadine Greff

### GARY GARDNER

Gene & Mary Copeland

Hank & Betty Lawson

Gregg & Stephanie Pino

### RUTH GIBSON

Murline Bond

Ernest & Jackie Hillman

Janet Kleyn

Hank & Betty Lawson

### FOY WALLACE GREEN

Jim & Patsy Clark

### SANTOSH GULATI

Sarika Gulati

### IRA & EDNA HAMES

Betty Hall

### JOE HANNAH

Doris Beard

Norman & Rebecca Cole

Ron & Peggy Fullen

Sue Latham

Don & Judy Price

Norman & Mary Wilson

### KENNETH HIENDS

Murline Bond

### GEORGE HOUSE

Bonnie Bruner

Jon & Nadine Greff

Janet Kleyn

Hank & Betty Lawson

Gregg & Stephanie Pino

Steve & Deanna Sharp

### ORVILLE HOUSE

Louis & Jody Mendonca

### NITA JAMES

Richard & Judy Deatherage

Norman & Mary Wilson

### MADALINE JOHNS

Ruth Barnett

Ann Butler

JoAnne Byrne

Glen & Sandy Cobb

Jerry & Kathleen Dotson

John & Dana Dudley

Donald & Mary Ann Dunn

Fred & June Followill

William & Denise Griffin

Rose Marie Hunt

Dick & Dodie Jones

Janet Kleyn

Hank & Betty Lawson

Joe & Joy Mears

Don & Gwen Minor

Valerie Moniz

John Rogers

LaVonne Sibert

Phyllis Tackett

Wesley & Diane Wolford

Lisla Damoulos

### JEAN KELLEY

Raymond & Linda Nelson

### WILLIAM & VAUGHNCELE

### KISER

Mark & Dianne Kiser

### FRED KLEYN

Beverly Kleyn

### GINGER LAWSON

Gene & Mary Copeland

Hank & Betty Lawson

Jo Lawson

Ray & Celia Lawson

Debra Miller

### BESSIE LEE

Doris Beard

Norman & Rebecca Cole

Richard & Judy Deatherage

Melvin & Iona Dutra

Wilma Flach

Ron & Peggy Fullen

Janet Kleyn

Norman & Mary Wilson

### ROBERT J. LETFORD

Marie Letford

### DON MAYO

Henry & Edith Cathey

Sue Latham

### GENEVA MOATES

Dean & Starr Baxley

Jerry & Karel Baxley

### MAXINE SMITH OLGE

Norman & Rebecca Cole

### BOB OLIVER

Sarah Rockey

### ANDRE PARRILLA

Ernest & Jackie Hillman

### BILL PERKINS

Jim & Patsy Clark

### HUBERT POTTER

Norma Potter

### EVELYN JUNE POWER

Tim & Tonya Power

### GENEVA PROUT

Elmer Prout

### RAY REYNOLDS

Danah Nelson

### DEBRA LYN RODGERS

Burl & June Rodgers

### TRUMAN SCOTT

Dorine Warren

### RAYMOND SIBERT

Dwayne Williams

Joanne Wyatt

### DR. JIMMIE SMITH

Doris Smith

### BOBBY LEE SPARKS

Richard & Sharon Bennett

Ann Butler

JoAnne Byrne

Kim & Gary Carroll

Glen & Sandy Cobb

Cindy & Fred Costa & family

Lisla Damoulos

John & Dana Dudley

Tom & Sue Hardy

Kevin & Dayna Haugh

Dick & Dodie Jones

Janet Kleyn

Hank & Betty Lawson

Joe & Joy Mears

Daniel & Ruth Mros

Don & Judy Pemberton

John Rogers

LaVonne Sibert

Jimmy & Lisa Sparks

& family

William & Dixie Sparks

Tri-Valley Church of Christ

Wesley & Diane Wolford

### FRANK THOMAS

Jim & Patsy Clark

### JAN TURNER

Bill James

### LINDA ELIZABETH TREAT

### VAUGHAN

Karen Treat

### JESSE VIELINA, JR.

John & Nadine Greff

### ISAAC WILLIAMS

Elmer Prout

Remember Agape Villages in Your Will  
or Estate Plan!

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

*Receiving Valuable Life Lessons at Agape*

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

## In Honor And Respect

Happy Mother's Day

**ALL MOTHERS**

Guisepe & Laura Raneri

Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

**DOROTHY ALLEY**

Jerry & Karel Baxley

Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary!

**JACK & CAROLYN**

**HAIRSTON**

John & Nadine Greff

Happy Birthday!

**MICAH & IZZY HOVATER**

Thomas & Elaine  
Scheppegrell

With Love and Respect

**JANET KLEYN**

JoAnne Glock

Happy Mother's Day

**CELIA LAWSON**

Michaela Lawson

A Great Dad!

**HANK LAWSON**

Jo Lawson  
Ray & Celia Lawson

With Love and Respect

**HANK & BETTY LAWSON**

JoAnne Glock

With Love and Respect

**DAVID LEE**

Dorine Warren

Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary!

**JOE & JOY MEARS**

Ann Butler  
JoAnne Byrne  
Glen & Sandy Cobb  
John & Dana Dudley  
Fred & June Followill  
Martin & Betty Harvey

Dick & Dodie Jones  
Wayne & Theresa Kennedy  
Janet Kleyn  
Hank & Betty Lawson  
Norma Petrie & family  
John Rogers  
LaVonne Sibert  
Al & Jane Thornell  
Dwayne Williams  
Wesley & Diane Wolford  
Joanne Wyatt

Congratulations on becoming the  
preacher at Davis Park Church of  
Christ

**NICK PEREZ**

John & Nadine Greff

With Love and Respect

**GLEN & LOUISE PULLIAM**

Wyba Nienstadt

With Love and Respect

**RIPON CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Wyba Nienstadt

Congratulations on being elected  
to the Agape Board of Directors

**SARAH ROCKEY**

Bond Cashmere  
Michael Ditmore  
Adam & Susie Grubb  
Larry & Susan Grubb  
Marina Grubb  
Barbie Rockey

With Love and Respect

**LAVONNE SIBERT**

Dwayne Williams  
Joanne Wyatt

With Love and Respect

**ANGIE VAN DER PAARDT**

Wyba Nienstadt

Happy Birthday!

**LORRAINE WILFEY**

Ron & Peggy Fullen

Love you, Sister!

**ALMA O. WILLIAMSON**

Wyba Nienstadt

## Commissioned Painting Made

The Agape Board of Directors commissioned local artist **Jessica Moul** to paint a picture representing the work of Agape – the diverse areas we serve and the diversity of children we serve. We are thrilled by the painting she did! See below. We plan to have note cards made of the painting.

Thanks again, Jessica!



## Cheryl's Corner

**We Are Growing...  
Much More to Do!**

— Join With Us! —

Great things are happening at Agape! We are continuing to recruit and serve many new resource parents in all areas of the Central Valley, Sacramento Area, and in the Bay Area.

As the agency continues to grow, we are truly grateful to all who help support Agape. We appreciate anything anyone is willing to do, such as donating your time, talent or monetary contribution.

You will see in this newsletter we are changing the term **“foster parent”** to **“resource parent”** to comply with the policy of the state. The thinking is that families serving children are providing a resource to them, whether it be as regular foster parents or parents entering the system with the intention of adopting a child in foster care.

We realize that it's not possible for all families to be resource parents, so if you or anyone you know is interested in being a volunteer, providing a service to our families and children, or making a monetary donation please keep our families and children at Agape in mind and give us a call. If anyone knows of a family interested in becoming a resource parent, please contact one of our various numbers on our website or on the back page of our newsletter.

We want to give a special thank you to **Terese Gjernes** for providing in-depth trainings that have been instrumental in educating our social workers with the latest information and modalities. We believe that our kids and families deserve the best possible support, treatments and interventions, and that's why our social workers complete 3 times the amount of training hours than is required.

Cheryl Youngblood, LCSW



Agape Villages'  
Program Director

## Sarah Rockey Joins the Agape Villages Board of Directors

Sarah is an English teacher at Tracy High School. She has her Master of Arts in Educational Technology and Bachelor of Arts in English, both from Pepperdine University. She is a member of the Lathrop Church of Christ. She tells us her objective is *"To use the blessings and abilities God has given me to improve the lives of all children whose paths I cross. As it says in Matthew 10:8, '...freely ye have received, freely give.'"* Welcome, Sarah. We are delighted you're on board!



## Agape Villages

3160 Crow Canyon Place  
Suite 120  
San Ramon, CA 94583  
925-866-3020  
866-922-4273

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

**Janet Kleyn**  
President and CEO

**Cheryl Youngblood, LCSW**  
Program Director

## Other Admin. Staff:

**Bangon Badial**  
Administrative Director

**Hank Lawson**  
Director, Church Relations

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

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

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

## Board of Directors

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

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

## 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."

**58 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

### **1 Timothy 6:11**

*"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds and to be generous and willing to share."*

**Remember, Online Giving is Available on our Website**

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

## From the President

# Guardian Angels

I recently heard of the story of John Shear, a 92 year old former horse jockey who had worked for over 50 years at the Santa Anita Park horse racetrack in Arcadia, California. At one race event in 2011, when the horses were being led to the starting block before the race was to begin, one horse became restless and out of control. The horse turned and headed back into the open gate leading out of the track where people were standing. John Shear saw that the horse was just about to trample over a little girl (she was 5 years old) and so he jumped in front of her to protect her. He suffered serious injuries in that act, but the girl was okay. The girl's parents call John their daughter's guardian angel and I think that is very fitting.

For those of us who are parents, we know there are times when we would gladly change places with our children when they are in danger or in pain and suffering. As much as we would like to do this, the reality is, we know

most often we can't. It's just not possible. However, we can do the next best thing. We can be there for them.

One of the sad realities of our world is that there are children and youth who are abused, neglected and put into harm's way by the very ones who should be trusted to love and protect them. This is when Agape is called. This is when we step into the picture.

When we take children and youth into our foster care program, our foster parents become their guardian angels. They put themselves in front of children, so to speak, to protect them from further harm and danger. They love the children dearly and nurture them to health. They are there for the children.

Agape is doing much good in the lives of children and youth. This is a work that has a God centered mission...a work that is close to the heart of God. I'm proud to be a part of it!