

I Was Adopted. It Takes A Village!

By Jamie Cameron, Agape Foster and Adoptive Parent

I always knew I wanted to adopt a child at some point in my life. It was my passion. My husband and biological children were in complete agreement and, in fact, my husband filled out the paperwork for us to be certified as foster parents with Agape.

Very soon after being certified as foster parents with Agape, we received a call. An 8 month old baby girl needed a home. Would we be able to take her? Of course we would. My husband, three sons (the youngest was 16) and I were delighted to welcome a little girl into our home.

Ryann came from a situation of neglect. She had cradle cap, some rashes and had none of the required shots for her age. The house she was living in had no water, gas, or electricity. There was no dad in the picture. In fact, when we gave her a bath, she seemed terrified and screamed her little lungs out. Today, she is a natural swimmer and loves the ocean. For a while there were visits with her Bio mom which were very traumatic for Ryann. Mom was in rehab but never finished. Eventually, the visits were terminated and we were able to adopt. The adoption was finalized on December 3, 2021.

Ryann is now 4 years old. She is beautiful, intelligent, and has brought so much joy and laughter to our family. She loves the beach. In fact, her middle name is Kai which means ocean in Hawaiian. She loves Disneyland and just took her first riding lesson as her favorite show is Spirit. (This is an animated show



about a little girl and her horse.) She loves the Agape Christmas parties, the presents from Santa being her favorite part, of course. She loved Manteca's Shop with a Cop, walking around the store with that big, tall man!

It does take a village! Yes, Mark and I are Dad and Mom, and provide a house as well as a loving safe environment, but there have been many selfless acts by our family members and friends. Agape has played a critical role. Social worker Brian Bossemeyer has been wonderful in his support, always communicating what was happening and helping us understand the system of foster care. Manteca staff Lisa Foster and Nina Payne have been exceptional in their timely, over the top support of us. We try to remind them constantly how crucial they are to changing kids lives for the better, as doing this day after day can sometimes dumb down the importance of the role they play.

When we began the foster care journey, we didn't know we would end up with a daughter. Our initial thought was to just help kids wherever we can. We are thankful that is how it worked out.

Now we are fostering a baby boy. Who knows what will happen? We are loving our time with him and grateful to Agape for helping make all this possible. If you are reading this article and on the fence about becoming a foster parent, I implore you to take the leap of faith needed. These kids don't need perfect parents. They need you, imperfect but ready to help change their lives for the better, one day at a time.



Children are NOT a distraction
from more important work.
They are THE MOST important work.

- C.S.Lewis



Stories From Foster Care

Remarkable Progress Being Made

We recently took into our foster care program a baby who was just a few weeks old due to risk factors to the child's health. A loving Agape family was excited to serve this child. Proper home care and medical care have been secured.

As time has gone on, our foster parents have been able to establish a very supportive relationship with the birth mother. She has been cooperative in following her case plan and working hard to make improvements in her life so that her baby can be returned to her. Reunification is looking very likely.

The birth mother has asked our foster parents to be the baby's godparents. It certainly is wonderful when everyone

works together for the sake of the child. Hopefully, things will go very well and our foster parents will have a long term supportive relationship with the birth mother and child.

The Joy of Helping a Child

About six months ago, we took a 2 year old child into our care who was speech delayed due to trauma in her birth family. Our resource parents are thrilled to be able to step into this child's life and do what they can to meet her every need. This little girl attached quickly to them and is dearly loved.

Speech therapy was secured and in just 6 months, she was rapidly catching up. She now talks all the time!

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 925-866-3020. Also, see our website at AgapeVillages.org



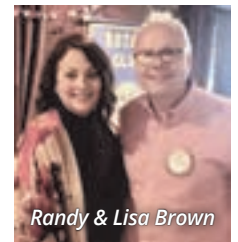
We are so grateful for our generous donors who met our matching gift challenge of \$50,000 by December 31st. It was a dollar-for-dollar match. Thank you all!

Resource Parent Training

Our prospective resource parents receive comprehensive training before being certified. There is also ongoing continuing education for all parents. Recent topics include Dealing with Grief and Loss (foster children, resource parents and biological parents all experience grief) and Social Media – Keeping your Kids Safe Online. We seek to equip parents for their challenges.

VOLUNTEERS IN THE Spotlight

Randy and Lisa Brown are outstanding community citizens and volunteers in the Tri-Valley region. They were recipients of the 2016 Distinguished Community Service award and are longtime Agape Volunteers. They are also former foster parents. Both Randy and Lisa have contributed so much to Agape Villages. They've helped with every fundraising event whether it be acting as Emcees, helping coordinate the activities and/or dedicating many hours to the cause. They have always being willing to donate auction items whenever asked. We never hear them say NO. It's simply not in their vocabulary! Agape is truly blessed to have these two as dedicated volunteers helping us raise funds for critical foster care programs.



Randy & Lisa Brown

WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS!

If you would like to be a volunteer, please let us know via our website: www.AgapeVillages.org and use the "Get Involved" button, or call us at [925-866-3020](tel:925-866-3020).

A Tribute to Board Members We've Recently Lost



HANK LAWSON

Hank Lawson passed away on Sunday, February 20, 2022. Hank was a member of the Agape Villages Board of Directors since 2008. He was Chairman of the Board for six years. He took on a newly established position in 2015 to help us raise funds and enhance our public relations work. We called this position our Director of Church and Community Relations. A word often used about Hank was tireless. Even at his increasing age (in the mid 80's), Hank was tireless in his loving service to the children at Agape and in using his many talents ministering to others as possible. There aren't words for what Hank meant to Agape. Hank was everywhere. If there was an event, he was involved, inviting people to attend, and helping at the event. If a preacher was on vacation, Hank was often asked to fill in. He talked with donors frequently, sharing the good work of Agape and the difference Agape makes in the lives of children. Hank was active in the communities in the Central Valley, especially Manteca, where he was an ambassador with the Manteca Chamber of Commerce. Hank went wherever he could talk about Agape and foster children. We are grateful to Hank for his years of service to the children at Agape. He will be incredibly missed.



DON THOMAS

Don Thomas passed away on January 22, 2022. He was a current member of the board, having served for nine years at the time. Don had a soft heart for the children at Agape, seeing his service as a way to also serve God. His family and the Hilltop Church of Christ where Don preached were frequently involved in various projects to benefit the kids at Agape, including drives to purchase back packs, school supplies, face masks and coats. We are grateful to Don for his years of service to the children at Agape.



DENNIS CREE

Dennis Cree passed away on November 6, 2021. Dennis served on the Agape board from 2006 to 2012. During that time, he was Chairman of the Board for three years. Dennis' heart and passion for children were clearly evident. He led Agape through some challenging times and was deeply committed to helping make the lives of children and youth better. His dedication to Agape continued after he was no longer on the board, as his health permitted. We are grateful to Dennis for his years of service.



STEVE ORDUÑO

Steve Orduño passed away on November 12, 2021. Steve was on the Agape board from 2008 to 2011. Steve was committed to serving children, wanting a better life for them, and wanting to be part of making that happen. Even after Steve was no longer on the board, he continued to be an ambassador for Agape. We are grateful to Steve for his years of service to the children at Agape.

Memorial or Honor Gift

The enclosed gift of \$ _____ is given in

Memory of, or in Honor of:

PLEASE NOTIFY:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Relationship to deceased/honoree: _____

Email Address: _____

Helping Kids Wherever We Can

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

TRI-VALLEY JAIL *n* BAIL FUNDRAISER

Our annual Jail n' Bail event took place on Wednesday October 21st at the SideTrack Bar + Grill in Pleasanton and was a big success. While following all health and safety protocols, we had jailbirds dressed up calling family and friends to help "bail them out" of jail. Our wonderful judges, Kathy Narum and Randy Brown, sent down some stiff sentences to our jailbirds and they definitely had their work cut out for them! Thank you to SideTrack for your wonderful hospitality. More than \$16,000 was raised!



Memorial & Honor Gifts

OCTOBER 11, 2021 THROUGH MARCH 5, 2022

IN LOVING MEMORY

ERLINDA ACOSTA

Gene & Mary Copeland
Hank & Betty Lawson

JD & BERNICE ALLEN

Darlene Peek

DOROTHY ALLEY

Jerry & Karel Baxley

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Dana Peterson

ROY & BETTY BARTLETT

Christopher & Brittney Nunes

CHLOE BEAR

Michelle Sudina

WAYNE & JOAN BELL

Richard & Penny Price

DAN BIGHAUS

Fulton Road Church of Christ

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Isabelle Gipson
June Johnston
Janet Kleyn
Frank & Linda Lunghi
Donald & Gwen Minor
Bill & Dalena Samuel
Tom, Nia, Trey & Summitt
Wright

RON BOGGS

Tom, Nia, Trey & Summitt
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GLEN & JEAN BROCK

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Reta Kyle

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Bronall & Linda Heaslet

IN HONOR AND RESPECT

THE KIDS AT AGAPE VILLAGES

Merry Christmas!
- Jim & Mona Carper's Grand-children

ARSENE BARRIENTOS

Son, You Are My Inspiration!
- Erick Barrientos

DANIEL CALLAHAN

Happy Birthday!
- Darlene Peek

MARYANN CLONTZ

With Love & Appreciation!
- Julia Denton

STEVE FINERAN

With Appreciation and Respect!
- Anthony & Angela Bilich

BECKY HODGES

With Appreciation For All You Do!
- Vernie & Novella Vignolo

"JENN"

Praying for You!
- Ronald Brooks

LARRY & JOAN JOHNSTON

With Love & Appreciation!
- Jessica Johnston

BEVERLY KLEYN

With Love & Appreciation!
- Janice Mattoon

JANET KLEYN

With Love & Appreciation!
- Michele Nannini

JACLYN KUENZINGER

Merry Christmas! I Love You!
- Kari Carper

LENAE KUENZINGER AND JOSH

Merry Christmas! I Love You!
- Kari Carper

RYAN & BRITTANY LIBBY

Merry Christmas! I Love You!
- Kari Carper

TOM & CHARLOTTE LOWE

With Appreciation and Respect!
- Frances Reid

ROGER & LINDA MARLEY

With Appreciation!
- David & Lisa Harris

THELMA MEAD

Merry Christmas, Grandma! We Love You!
- Evan & Lauren Mead

MICHELLE OLSON

With Appreciation & Respect!
- Angela Willis

REBECCA PATTERSON

With Love & Appreciation!
- Katherine Patterson

RIKI RAFNER

With Appreciation & Respect!
- McNabb Foundation

BRETT RICHARDSON

With Love & Appreciation!
- Robert & Bonnie Murphy

HANK RICHARDSON

With Love & Appreciation!
- Robert & Bonnie Murphy

MR. & MRS. D. RODRIGUEZ

Merry Christmas!
- JoRita Bonneau

MR. & MRS. MICHAEL RODRIGUEZ

Merry Christmas!
- JoRita Bonneau

GINGER SPARKS

With Love & Appreciation!
- Royce Dansby-Sparks

GABRIELLA SPOSETO

Happy Birthday!
- Brooke Lofy
- Sadie Siedel

BARBARA STOFFLE

Happy Birthday!
- Darlene Peek

TOM WILSON

With Appreciation & Respect!
- Vernie & Novella Vignolo

Supporting Churches in 2021

We are very thankful for the support we receive from congregations all over California and beyond. Below is a listing of the 37 churches providing support to Agape Villages in 2021 and we are thankful!

- ✓ Alisal Church of Christ (Salinas)
- ✓ Anderson Church of Christ
- ✓ Central Church of Christ (Sacramento)
- ✓ Chico Church of Christ
- ✓ Chino Church of Christ
- ✓ Christ's Church in the Tri-Valley (San Ramon)
- ✓ Church of Christ of Murphys
- ✓ Church of Christ of Ripon
- ✓ El Portal Church of Christ (Richmond)
- ✓ Empire Church of Christ
- ✓ Exchange Community Church (Walnut Creek)
- ✓ 1st Century Church of Christ (Nevada)
- ✓ Fulton Road Church of Christ (Santa Rosa)
- ✓ Graton Church of Christ
- ✓ Healdsburg Church of Christ
- ✓ Hollister Church of Christ
- ✓ Hughson Church of Christ
- ✓ John Knox Presbyterian Church (Dublin)
- ✓ Kentucky Avenue Church of Christ (Woodland)
- ✓ La Puente Church of Christ
- ✓ Lathrop Church of Christ
- ✓ Lewisville Church of Christ (Texas)
- ✓ Los Banos Church of Christ
- ✓ Martinez Church of Christ
- ✓ Mission Viejo Church of Christ
- ✓ North Metro Church of Christ (Sacramento)
- ✓ Oakdale Church of Christ
- ✓ Parkway Church of Christ (Sacramento)
- ✓ Rincon Valley Church of Christ (Santa Rosa)
- ✓ Riverdale Church of Christ
- ✓ Roseville Church of Christ
- ✓ Tri Valley Church of Christ (Livermore)
- ✓ Turlock Church of Christ
- ✓ Tyler Street Church of Christ (Sacramento)
- ✓ United Lutheran Church (Manteca)
- ✓ Valley Christian Fellowship of Manteca
- ✓ Waterford Church of Christ

SO MUCH
TO BE

THANKFUL

FOR!

Two Villages are Better than One!

In December, we teamed up with another non-profit, Goodness Village (who provides tiny homes for the homeless) and put on an amazing joint fundraiser at the Cellar Door in downtown Pleasanton. We had a raffle with so many awesome items. In total, we raised over \$20,000!

Trunk or Treat

The City of Manteca asked Agape Villages Foster Family Agency to take part in the Market on Maple Trunk or Treat. On Thursday, the 28th of October from 5:30 pm to 7:30pm Lisa, Joey, Victor and Isabella Foster represented Agape Villages. They participated in passing out candy and information about the great agency. There were more than 500 trick or treaters and their families. It is a blessing to take part in such community fun.



Gift Cards

We are grateful to the Ticket to Dream Foundation for their ongoing generous support to Agape. We received \$4,250 in funds to purchase gift cards just in time for Christmas. Thank you all!

Financial Support

Our thanks to the BNI Crossroads Business Network (Pleasanton) for their very generous gift of more than \$1,600 to support our work.

Many Gifts Received

Our thanks to the Midtown Church, Elk Grove for the gifts and gift cards for Agape children and youth. There were so many gifts! The kids were thrilled!



“Elfing” for Agape...Again!

We are grateful to the Youth Group at the Tri-Valley Church of Christ (Livermore) for conducting another Elfing fund raising event for Agape. The event raised more than \$1,100. Thanks to everyone and especially Brittany Wallage for her leadership.

Christmas Gifts

Tyler Johnson of WiZiX Technology Group had another toy drive this year for Agape. He received many more gifts! Thank you Tyler and everyone who participated! Thanks for helping make Christmas all the more special for our kids!



Christmas Gifts

Agape Villages was truly blessed this holiday season. One of the blessings that we received was from the kind-hearted Prasad Family. The Prasad family donated 6 bags filled with groceries and 2 tins full of flavored popcorn. This wonderful family wanted to help make dinner a little easier for our resource families during this holiday season knowing that it was a difficult time for everyone. We thank them for their generosity, kindness and delicious meal preps.



Christmas Gifts

Our thanks to MVH Insurance Agency in Elk Grove for donating many gifts for our foster kids. We appreciate you all very much.

From left to right: Susi Jacobo-Vice,
Taji Sperber, Marissa Snyker
Not pictured: Barbara Erwin



MOTHER'S DAY — MAY 8

Honor your mother with a gift to Agape. For each gift received, we will send a specially worded letter fitting for the occasion with thoughts of love and appreciation.

SO MUCH
TO BE

THANKFUL

FOR!

Giving Tuesday 2021 Benefits Agape

Giving Tuesday occurred on November 30th last year, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Agape received \$14,000 in donations that day. We are very thankful for everyone who participated in this event. We hope many more will take advantage of this opportunity next year!

Combined Effort

We received \$450 from Amazon Smile in 2021. Thank you to everyone who has signed up for a portion of their purchases to be donated to Agape!



Gift From Rotary Club

Our thanks to the Rotary Club of Danville/Sycamore Valley for their very generous gifts in 2021 which totalled \$5,000. Such a blessing to young lives. Thank you!

Every Child Deserves A Family



SUPPORT AGAPE DURING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH

May is national foster care awareness month! Each May, we take time to acknowledge foster parents, family

members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals, and other members of the community who help children and youth in foster care find permanent homes and connections. We also take this time to seek donations in support of our foster care programs.

During the month of May, our goal is to raise \$100,000 in this endeavor. Recruiting and training foster parents. Having a master's level social worker in every home every week. Living Skills Program. Girls Group. Extra-curricular activities. Everything that is needed to help foster children and youth heal and thrive. Thank you for your support!

(PS. It's OK to give before May!)

Another Generous Grant Received

We are overjoyed by another \$10,000 donation from the Rite Aid Foundation. We appreciate their dedication to foster kids in the local community.



Thoughtful Gift

Our thanks to Shelley Goldblum of Boisset Wines for her very generous gift of \$2,000. What a blessing!

Fostering Wishes

Fostering Wishes has gone above and beyond for Agape Villages. We are truly grateful for all they do for our youth and agency. Fostering Wishes has donated over 80 duffle bags to our incoming youth. The duffles are filled with stuffed animals, crayons, color books, school supplies, blankets, and toiletries. We thank you Fostering Wishes for all your support, dedication and kind hearts.

Shop With a Cop

The Manteca Police Chief's Foundation once again came through with gifts for our kids. Covid restrictions cancelled the in-person event. All total, \$2,600 was donated and used to purchase gift cards for our kids.



More Christmas Gifts

Agape created a Wish List on Amazon comprised of gifts children requested. These are a few of the gifts that we received. Thank you so much! We had some very happy kids!



Kiwanis Club

Agape is grateful to receive a \$2,400 check from Manteca Sunrise Kiwanis. Pictured left to right are Morris Lacy, Nina Payne, Lisa Foster.

Fairways Fore Foster Kids 2021

We have been holding our "Fairways Fore Foster Kids" golf fundraising event in Manteca for 17 years now. Again this past year, we made some modifications on the format due to COVID. We limited the number of players on the course and split the event into three days of golf. We also named each event according to the sponsor of the event.

We had 164 golfers, the most ever, and raised over \$30,000 (net) in support of our foster care program. A special shout out to Kevin Youngblood who brought in 21 foursomes, raised \$12,000 in sponsorships and, at the event, passed the hat and raised another \$1,600! Kevin is truly a Champion for Children. Thanks to the Mission Viejo Church of Christ led by Ray McPeak and the Oakdale Church of Christ led by Bud Metcalf for raising close to \$5,000 each.

The Teeple's Tournament took place on October 15th with 40 players. First place team for the overall gross score was the Lodi Church of Christ team: Ernie Yoshino, Tim Johnston, Evan Yoshino and Jose Rodriguez. The first place team for overall net score was the State Farm Team: Jacob Naven, Don Leigh, Vince Haro and Ryan Cardoza.



The October 22nd tournament had 40 players. First place team for the overall gross score included Allan Rodriguez, Jason Gutierrez, John Gutierrez and Bill Stone. The first place team for overall net score was the SSJID team: Peter Rietkerk, John Holbrook, Forrest Killingsworth and Brandon Nakagawa.

The USGA Tournament was on October 29th with 84 players. First place team for the overall gross score was the Colliers International Inc. team: Nick Ousman, Nick Mascheroni, Alex Hoeck and Wes Windmer. The first place team for overall net score was the Robert Obayashi Corp. team: Pat Parker, John Fissore, Tony Gilmore and Jason Duran.

We appreciate all our sponsors and those who came to participate. Let us hear from you if you'd like to participate in any way!

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A Teeple's Plumbing USGA, Inc.

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USGA, Inc.

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— TEE SPONSORS —

AMPWRX
Solar Solutions
Hackworth Real Estate Professionals
Hulls' Millwork, Inc.
Jacob Naven with State Farm
Agape Board Members—Janet Kleyn, Hank Lawson
and Mark Anglin
Community Support—Church of Christ Lathrop

Our Professional Service Statistics

Year End Statistics

(1/1/2021 to 12/31/2021)

- 149 – Foster Children Served Year-to-Date
- 68 – New Children in Care this Year
- 79 – Foster Children Currently in Care
- 66 – Certified Foster Families
- 13 – Adoptions Facilitated

Since We Began in 1958

- 6,563 – Foster Children Served
 - 4,000 – Through Sierra Children's Home
 - 2,563 – Through Agape Villages
- 569 – Foster Families who have Partnered with us in Foster Care

THE FOLLOWING ARE GROUPINGS OF THE SPONSORS WHO PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO AGAPE. WE APPRECIATE EACH ONE!

Platinum Sponsors

USGA, Inc.

*Specializing in
Contract Glazing &
Architectural Metals*



MORE SPONSORS OF AGAPE VILLAGES ON THE NEXT 2 PAGES



Donate Your Car Today!

Our car donation program provides vital support to our work. Call CARS toll-free, seven days a week at 1-855-550-4483. Or, go to our website below to reach them. Every donation makes a difference!

WWW.AGAPEVILLAGES.ORG

Living Skills Program

The Living Skills program, which focuses on preparing Agape foster youth for successful adulthood, has continued to present timely, relevant topics. Recent topics include Building Up Education and Employment, and Living on Your Own and Doing It Well. We are grateful to Laurie Erceg for speaking to our youth. Laurie is a parent and an educator, and is able to relate to our youth in a positive way.



Program Activities

A Remarkable Christmas for our Children and Youth



Christmas was absolutely remarkable for the kids last year! Agape recognized that getting back to normalcy was most important to our children! We were delighted to be able to host Christmas in person once again, and we had not one, but three Christmas parties for the children and youth in care.



*Cheryl Youngblood,
LCSW*

Program Director

The children sat with Santa, ate a variety of holiday treats, interacted with their friends, bowled, played games and received a generous amount of beautifully wrapped Christmas gifts. No child went without! It was truly a Holiday Season to remember, and it was such a blessing to be a part of the holiaday festivities and bring

some holiday cheer to the children and teens.

Special thanks to Tyler Street Church of Christ (Sacramento), Fostering Wishes, Manteca Bank of Stockton, Gohar Jaffere and friends, The Alliance (Roseville), Carol Massey-McCants and Midtown Church (Elk Grove), Safety Compliance Management, MVS Insurance Agency (Elk Grove), the people who purchased off our Amazon gift list, and the people who brought gifts by the offices.



A Legacy Gift

*Remember Agape Villages
With The Ones You Love!*

WILLS AND ESTATES

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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."

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



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Janet Kleyn, President

EPHESIANS 2:10:

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Remember,
Online Giving is Available
on our Website
AgapeVillages.org

A Personal Tribute to Hank Lawson

From the President, Janet Kleyn

I wanted to share some special thoughts about Hank Lawson as he and I worked together at Agape for 14 years. I don't know of anyone else as loving, giving and gracious as Hank. He took on very challenging roles with Agape, beginning with serving as the Chair of our Board of Directors in 2008. Hank was a worker. He got very involved with our work, even taking trips to go to professional conferences to learn as much as he could. Hank began doing public speaking at churches in 2009. All of this was volunteer time. He then began working for Agape in 2015. He did this at his age solely because he truly loved children and the work we did to help them.

Hank is one of a kind. He will be greatly missed. He began writing articles for our newsletter in 2009. I'd like to share some excerpts from these showing his caring heart.

•The work we do writes a beautiful story. Each week, each year, new chapters are written...

they are written in the lives of the children in our care.

- We cannot live in the past. Our life is in the future. Let's do great things!
- Effort + blessing = success. This is a simple yet profound formula.
- Greatness is born out of sacrifice.
- When people do good things, good things happen. The best is yet to come.
- Our foster parents do this work as angels of mercy.
- As we together do the work of Agape, we are laying up treasures in heaven.
- Regarding a donor who had passed, Hank said the good work she was so interested in will advance in her memory. (The same is true for you, dear friend. Your life is an inspiration for us all.)