

## Adoption Has Brought Us Much Joy!

*By Heather Hash, Agape Foster and Adoptive Mom*

My husband, Joey, and I always knew we wanted to be foster parents. Joey was in foster care as a child. He was placed in a great home. His biological mother got off drugs and Joey was reunified with her. His mother went on to become a social worker. Joey wanted to give back and I was in complete agreement.

It was in 2019 that we got serious about becoming foster parents. We had three biological daughters, ages 2, 4 and 7 at the time. A friend referred us to Agape and we are so glad that she did.

Nina and Lisa (Agape staff) held our hands throughout the certification process. The training conducted by Cheryl was very helpful. We were certified as Agape foster parents in March 2020 and eagerly awaited our first child.

Agape social worker Dave called us in July. He did not have a child for us, he had twins! A boy and a girl, newborn, premature and in need of special medical help. I am a nurse! Joey and I spent a couple of nights in the hospital, learning how to take care of the babies' special needs.

Our biological daughters were so excited when we brought the babies home at 3 1/2 weeks old. We did not know what the future held, for the babies or for us. Their dad was quickly out of the picture but we assumed the babies would be reunified with their mom. We were very supportive of that if she worked her plan. Sadly, she did not. She did not come to court appearances. She did not learn how to take care of the babies. I tried to help the mom, support her but she wasn't interested. Despite all of this, it was nearly two years before we got the great news that we would be able to adopt the twins. Although adoption wasn't our goal in the beginning, we were open to it and immediately said yes!



*Myana and Myzelle Hash*

Our Agape social worker Brittany was so helpful and supportive throughout the entire time. She kept us informed as to what was happening regarding reunification. She helped us obtain the necessary resources, including physical therapy and occupational therapy. She was just always there for us.

Our son, Myzelle, has a rare genetic disorder. He is happy and healthy now. We aren't certain what the future holds for him. He is attached to our entire family and especially my husband. Our daughter, Myana, has metabolic issues and requires a special diet but is doing great.

The twins turned 2 on June 15th. The adoptions were final on June 20th. We then moved on June 21st to Bakersfield where we have family and could buy a larger house. The twins will start preschool in August.

We are now a family of five kids! Looking back on everything, it seems like it was meant to happen. The pieces just fell into place. The twins have brought our family so much joy! We are thankful.

### Congratulations Agape!

The Manteca/Ripon Bulletin newspaper received over 45,000 online votes in their 2022 Reader's Choice contest. Agape Villages is the winner for Favorite Non-Profit! We are extremely honored to have been chosen!



# Stories From Foster Care

## *Happy Ending For Baby David!*

David came to Agape as a baby. Agape foster mom Stacy took care of him and helped him. Reunification with his mother was the case plan. The mother completed her in-patient drug treatment and continued as an outpatient. Stacy played an important part through the reunification process. She was able to help with visits, overnights stays and help Mom ease her way back into motherhood. While with Agape, David was able to meet all developmental milestones and live a happy life within Stacy's home while establishing a relationship with his mother. With his move back home, this is another story with a happy ending!

## *Another Happy Ending for Baby Michael!*

Michael came to Agape at just 3 days old. The Agape foster parents were very supportive of reunification, adjusting to Mom's schedule as necessary and transporting Michael to visits even on weekends. Mom was in drug rehab and she was very motivated to do what she needed to do to get her son returned to her. She took parenting classes while in rehab and cooperated with the other aspects of her case plan. After just 2 months, she made so much progress that the courts allowed her to reunify with her son. Michael was able to live with Mom while she was in drug rehab.

## We Need Foster Parents!

*There Are Children Who Need A Home Right Now!*

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 (833) 221-1061. Also, see our website at [AgapeVillages.org](http://AgapeVillages.org)

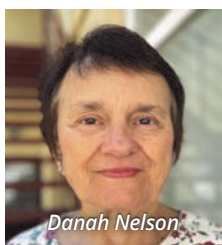


### A Legacy Gift

*Remember Agape Villages  
With The Ones You Love!*

#### **WILLS AND ESTATES**

For more information:  
[jlkleyn@AgapeVillages.org](mailto:jlkleyn@AgapeVillages.org)



Danah Nelson

## Danah Nelson Joins the Agape Board of Directors

Danah Nelson, an Agape volunteer and donor since the 1970's, was elected to the Agape Board of Directors at our May board meeting. Danah attends the Tyler Street Church of

Christ in Sacramento and the Roseville Church of Christ. Children have always been a focus for Danah. Danah taught at Pacific Christian Academy in Graton for seven years. Danah and her husband managed a YMCA camp in Gualala for eleven years. Danah and her husband were foster parents for one year, caring for a boy until his mother was able to care for him again. Since 2000, Danah has made many trips to Albania and other European countries, teaching the Bible to children and adults. Yes, Danah cares about kids. We welcome Danah to the Agape Board of Directors.

## VOLUNTEERS IN THE Spotlight

The Roseville Church of Christ is always there for Agape. They've opened up their building for resource parent training and for many in-person fundraising events over the years. They've held yard sales for Agape, raising thousands of dollars. They give financially to Agape every month. And for the last two years, when we couldn't have in-person events, they've opened up their parking lot and kitchen to host our Crab & Go drive-thru event, and provided many volunteers to help with the event. Thank you, Roseville Church of Christ!



Roseville Church of Christ Building

## **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 (833) 221-1061.



# How to Help Foster Children in Need: 'GET INVOLVED'

*By Mark Anglin, Board Chair*

Families experiencing crisis need your support. You can support children who have experienced trauma, strengthen families, and make a positive impact in your community by:

**Becoming a resource parent:** Resource parents play a critical role in assisting children and families during challenging times. If you can offer care and unconditional love to children and teens, work in partnership with birth family members and child welfare professionals, and complete ongoing education requirements, you could be a great resource parent. Learn more about becoming a foster parent on our website under *Get Involved > Become a Resource Parent*.

**Pursuing a career in social work:** Social work is a remarkably diverse career field encompassing distinct kinds of professionals who all serve individuals in need. Read about or browse our open positions on our website under *About Us > Careers*.

**Donating or sponsoring a fundraising event:** Children enter foster care with few or no belongings. Our agency happily accepts donations of new clothing, activity books, toys, and personal hygiene items. Corporate sponsors help subsidize our services and enable us to provide much-needed training to our clients. Visit our website in *Get Involved/Become A Sponsor*. Individuals provide critical financial support. Visit our website under *Get Involved > Donate*.

**Volunteering:** Volunteering at Agape Villages affords you the opportunity to meet others who are committed to aiding foster children and to build new skills. This includes volunteers to take part in our fundraising activities which we host each year. Visit our website in *Events* for upcoming events. If you would like to volunteer, please complete a brief volunteer application found at our website under *Get Involved > Volunteer*. One of our staff will contact you to further discuss your volunteer interests.

If you'd like to talk with someone, please call our San Ramon office toll free at 833-221-1061.



## Foster Care Awareness Month

*By Jen Oxe, Community Engagement Director, Tri-Valley*

May was Foster Care Awareness Month (FCAM) where we took time to celebrate all of the foster parents, social workers and support staff who love and care for kids who have been removed from their

biological families, often due to abuse and/or neglect. It truly takes a village and we are so grateful to everyone at Agape and beyond.

We created a giving campaign around FCAM and we were blown away by the response. You, as donors, stepped up big time! We had a \$50,000 match and you in total exceeded that number, putting us over the \$100,000 mark in total funds raised! These funds will allow us to recruit and train new foster parents who can provide wonderful homes for a lot of kids for years to come. The funds will also support the many other vital works of Agape including a master's level social worker in every home every week.

\$75,000 was raised by individual donors, our very loyal Agape supporters. Each and every one of you helped us reach our goal and we are very grateful for your support.

A special thank you to all of the sponsors who helped make FCAM successful: Safeway, Fremont Bank, Deanna Armario (Armario Homes), Rick and Marcella Silva (Dirt is Gold), Shelley Goldblum (Boisett Wines), Ricky Walters (LandMark Lending), Randy Brown (PMZ Real Estate), Kim Damiani (Summit Financial), Rich Campagna (Senior Helpers), Mary Whipple (Whipple and Mercado Law), Tom Dote (Farmers Insurance), Jeff Leuchi (ProForma), Taji Sperber (MVH Insurance) and Patti Manzi (Action 1 Properties). Over \$17,000 was raised!

We also developed a "Charitable Realtor" campaign. Participating realtors donated \$500 for every house that closed in May. This raised over \$8,000 for FCAM. A special thank you to the following realtors: Randy Brown (PMZ Real Estate), Katie Moe and Jenny Shibliq (Connect California Homes), Christina Rice (Keller Williams), Natalia Diryawush (J Peters Real Estate) and Stephanie Wedge (Rockford).

We had a wonderful event to celebrate FCAM at Zachary's Pizza in downtown Pleasanton on May 18th.

Thank you again to everyone - individuals, sponsors, realtors, everyone who helped make FCAM a huge success! We're already looking forward to next year!



# Memorial & Honor Gifts

MARCH 5, 2022 THROUGH JUNE 21, 2022

## IN LOVING MEMORY

### ERLINDA ACOSTA

Gene & Mary Copeland

### DOROTHY ALLEY

Jerry & Karel Baxley

### CLARA ALMAND

Norma Benson

### ALLEN ASHLEY

Billie Ashley

### ALMEDA AVEDIKIAN

Michael & Rena Avedikian

### H. M. BARNES

Don & Barbara Barnes

### ROY & BETTY BARTLETT

Christopher & Brittney Nunes

### PHYLISS BOGARD

Norman & Rebecca Cole

### BONNIE BROWN

Orval & Diane Welch

### TAHJ BRUCE

Rich & Malia Bruce

Joanne Lenigan

### EARLIE & MARY BUSTER

Irvin Buster

Gene & Mary Copeland

### TRACY BUSTER

Irvin Buster

### BOB CADENA

Jacki Hillman

### SANTIAGO CHANNEL

Norman & Mary Wilson

### JIM COLE

Orval & Diane Welch

### BILL FALK

Orval & Diane Welch

### LOUISE GARVIN

Billie Ashley

### VERNON GARRETSON

Shirley Garretson

### JAMES GYDESEN

Perry & Maria Hickman

### ERNIE HARDMAN

Sue Kingsbury

### ERNEST HILLMAN

Jean Royal

### CAROL HOPPER

Connie Amarillas

### ROSEANNE JANKOWSKI

Judy Price

### JOYCE JASPER

Connie Amarillas

### FRED KLEYN

Robbie Bentley

### HANK LAWSON

Connie Amarillas

Jerry & Karel Baxley

Wanda Bonney

Carol Campisi

Chino Church of Christ

Church of Christ of Murphys

Paul & MaryAnn Clontz

Norman & Rebecca Cole

Geraldine Evans

Jesse & Lois Evans

Alice Fall

Gregory Fischer

Fulton Road Church of Christ

Shirley Garretson

Stan & Barbara Gustafson

Thomas O. Hardy

Jack & Delia Hawes

Perry & Maria Hickman

Jacki Hillman

Jim & Mary Holland

Danny & Amy Holmes

Jeanne-Marie Jones

David & Jeanette Lee

Lewisville Church of Christ

Ivan Loebs & Connie Mihos

Manteca Chamber of

Commerce

Doug & Nancy Mead

Joe & Joy Mears

Danah Nelson

Jon & Cindy Norried

Parkway Church of Christ

Marlene Peck

Price Ford of Turlock, Inc.

Rincon Valley Church of Christ

John Rogers

Jean Royal

Laura Seaholm

Jessica Skrehot

Turlock Church of Christ

Janice Watson

Orval & Diane Welch

Irvine and Lynne Willson

### HANK & GINGER LAWSON

Ann Butler

Gene & Mary Copeland

Jo Lawson

Ray & Celia Lawson

Debra Miller

### WAYNE LITTLE

Robert & Joyce King

### JOYCE MACCRACKIN

Norman & Rebecca Cole

Richard & Judy Deatherage

Norman & Mary Wilson

### ZACHARY MCBRIDE

Perry & Maria Hickman

### JANICE MCCLAIN

Jean Royal

### MARLENE MEISSNER

Wayne & Nettie Meissner

### ETTIE MORGAN

Church of Christ of Murphys

### ANGELICA AMARILLAS MORROW

Connie Amarillas

### GEORGE MORTENSEN

Lois Robinson

### DENNIS NOPPE

Norman & Mary Wilson

### ANNIE O'CONNELL

Judy Price

### TOM OVERTON

Judy Price

### HUBERT & NORMA POTTER

David & Jeanette Lee

### WALTER & RUTH QUANDT

Kevin & Jane Haggerty

### DAVID RISTAU, CPA

Debra Ristau

### DEANNA SENFT

Dean & Starr Baxley

Jerry & Karel Baxley

### MARCIA STEWARD

Dana Peterson

### TONY TURNER

Larry & Janice Cain

### JODIE VAN SLYKE

Denis & Joan McGrellis

### VERNON "POPPI" VIGNOLO

Novella, Chantel & Reihanna

Vignolo

### TERRY VIRUS

Richard & Toni Ramos

### STEVE WATTS

Austin Watts

### RAY WILSON

Hollister Auto Parts, Inc.

Eugene & Mary Maddox

Jon & Cindy Norried

### RAY & LENORA WILSON

Agape Board of Directors

Alisal Church of Christ

Universal Audio

Ray Wilson will be missed. He passed away on March 3, 2022.



Ray was on the Agape board from 2008 to 2012. Ray loved children and was passionate about making a better life for them. Ray continued to be an ambassador for Agape even after he was no longer on the board. We are grateful to Ray 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: \_\_\_\_\_

*Agape Brings Much Joy*

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

## IN HONOR AND RESPECT

### RONIT BATRA

*With Honor & Respect!*  
- Sarika Gulati

### LYLA BENTLEY

*Welcome to the family, Lyla!*  
- Janet Kleyn

### CINDY BUCK

*For your continued love for people and being a beautiful example of serving in Jesus' name!*  
- Paul & MaryAnn Clontz

### JANUSHA KRISHNAN

*Happy Birthday!*  
- Ranjeet Kowel

### JERE MIMMS

*Happy Birthday!*  
- Novella Vignolo

### MY CASA KIDS

*With Honor and Respect!*  
- Dave & Cheryl Seberger

### MY CHILDREN

*With Love!*  
- Shelley Goldblum

### BUNNY NASH

*With Honor and Love!*  
- Novella Vignolo

### DANAH NELSON

*With Honor and Respect!*  
- Edward Weise

### THE ORPHANED CHILDREN IN UKRAINE

*Praying for You!*  
- Don & Barbara Barnes

### DORINE WARREN

*Happy Birthday!*  
- Novella Vignolo

### THE WORKERS AT AGAPE VILLAGES

*With Honor and Respect!*  
- Janet Hames

Hope **CHANGES EVERYTHING**

Someone has said, "when the worst is here, the best is yet to come." When children come into Agape's care, their future now becomes bright. Hope has entered. The best is yet to come.

# Legacy Giving – Consider Bequests to Agape

We at Agape Villages are grateful to those who make generous bequests in support of our efforts to fulfill the needs of disadvantaged children and their families throughout our service areas. Like these people, you can also create a future legacy of generosity. Through careful planning, you can provide for your loved ones, and leave a significant gift for the charitable causes you support.

## CHARITABLE BEQUESTS

We encourage you to consider one of three types of bequests, using the following language to ensure we will receive your gift:

"I give, devise and bequeath to Agape Villages Foster Family Agency, a nonprofit corporation of the State of California, located at 3160 Crow Canyon Place, Suite 120 San Ramon, CA 94583-1338,"

### Percentage

(The most flexible because it allows your gift to reflect the size of your estate)

\_\_\_% of my estate."

### Specific

(May include assets such as cash, real estate, stock, or collectible items)

Examples:

- 1) The sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_.";
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ shares of stock in \_\_\_\_\_ Company.", or;
- 3) My real property commonly known as \_\_\_\_\_."

### Residual

(Made after remembering relatives and friends)

all the residue, or, \_\_\_% of the residue, of my estate, including real personal property."

## RETIREMENT PLANS AND INSURANCE POLICIES

Simply list us on your beneficiary form, and the funds will come to us directly. Your gift of retirement fund assets or insurance proceeds may qualify for an estate deduction at current market value and your heirs will avoid recognizing any gain on your untaxed contributions. Contact your plan administrator or insurance company, or ask us for assistance.

When you create an estate gift commitment and notify Agape Villages Foster Family Agency, you will become a member of the *Circle of Hope and Love*, which honors those whose gifts will provide for the care of children in the future.

Should you have any questions, please contact Janet Kleyn, President & CEO of Agape Villages Foster Family Agency, at (833) 221-1061 or [jkleyn@agapevillages.org](mailto:jkleyn@agapevillages.org).



## Crafternoon at Ripon

On Saturday, June 11, 36 ladies attended our first ever Ladies' Crafternoon. In addition to planting mini succulent gardens in vintage teacups, each attendee created a garden wand to add some sparkle to their favorite potted plant. Games, raffles, and sweet treats added to the fun. A special thank you to the Ripon Church of Christ for graciously donating the use of their building. A good time was had by all and the event raised over \$1000 for Agape!



## Ticket to Dream Foundation

We are grateful for the many ways that the Ticket to Dream (TTD) foundation, which is associated with Mattress Firm, continues to support the children at Agape. We received \$3,000 in funds to purchase gift cards this year. Families use the gift cards to buy clothing and other items the children need. TTD partners with various companies to provide useful items to Agape kids. We received 450 pairs of new socks from Bombas! All sizes, colors, patterns! Project Glimmer sent an assortment of self-care and beauty items for teen girls. Finally, Allworth Financial provided gift cards to our graduating foster youth. Thank you, everyone!

## Safeway Supports Agape



Benny Aguilar, Safeway store manager at the San Ramon store, chose Agape as his charity this year. We were thrilled to receive a check in the amount of \$5,000

on the day of the store grand re-opening. Pictured at left are Karl Schroeder, Division President, Janet Kleyn, Jen Oxe, Benny Aguilar and Elena Arroyo, District Manager.

## Grant Received

Agape was thrilled to receive a grant from the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Association of \$3,500. We are so grateful for the creation of this fund supporting local non-profits. Pictured left to right Kathy Young, ED, TVNPA, Jen Oxe, Marti Sutton, TVNPA board member and Maria Mancini, Community Health and Education Foundation (CHEF).



## Big Day of Giving

Every year, the Sacramento Region hosts a Big Day of Giving which people all over the country can participate in, online. This was held on May 5, 2022. In less than 24 hours, more than \$1,800 was raised. Our thanks to everyone!

## San Ramon Valley Kiwanis Club

Once again the San Ramon Valley Kiwanis Club has chosen Agape as one of its grantees. This club has been so amazing and supportive of Agape's mission. We are over the moon by their continued support of our kids. A check for \$2,000 was received this year.

## Fallon Middle School

8th graders at Fallon Middle School in Dublin were challenged to find something they were passionate about and make a difference in the community. We are so grateful they chose to help children at Agape. We received many toys for all ages and handmade "goody" bags. The bags included notepads, pens, candy, stress balls, glow sticks and art supplies. Thank you!



## Crab & Go



Once again, we could not have our very successful crab feed in person this year, but thanks to the Roseville Church of Christ and their many volunteers, we were able to have a drive-thru Crab & Go event again this year. The food was terrific! Our thanks to the many people who

bought tickets. And our thanks to the volunteers who cooked, cleaned up, served meals, sold tickets. All were enthusiastic, glad to help kids. A special thanks to Goldrush Getaways for their very generous sponsorship of \$2,500. More than \$7,500 was raised!

## Resource Parent Support Meetings

Our prospective resource parents receive comprehensive training before being certified. There is also ongoing education for all parents. Current topics include "A Parent's Guide to Autism Spectrum Disorder" and "The Dark Side of the Internet" that may be affecting them and their children. We seek to equip parents for their challenges.

## Living Skills Program

The Living Skills program which focuses on preparing Agape foster youth for successful adulthood, continues to present timely, relevant topics. A tour of the Modesto Junior College (MJC) West Campus is planned. There will be information on the different resources available at MJC to support the foster youth in their transition to college and during college as well as how they can utilize them.



## 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](http://WWW.AGAPEVILLAGES.ORG)

## Combined Effort



We have received \$230 from Amazon Smile so far in 2022. Thank you to everyone who has signed up for a portion of their purchases to be donated to Agape!



## Fairways Fore Foster Kids

18TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

### MANTECA GOLF COURSE

Friday October 14, 21 & 28

\$400 – Foursome • \$100 – Individual

Team Sponsorship Competition (Team Captains)

Details:

6:30 a.m. Registration

8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

4 Person Team Format/Scramble

Includes:

Driving Range, Golf Cart, Prizes,

Breakfast and Lunch, Raffle

Continental Breakfast, Hot Dog Snack

Call 209-430-0323 to Register

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## Program Activities

### Foster Family Agency Annual Picnic



Cheryl Youngblood,  
LCSW  
Program Director

Agape was so pleased to host our 10th Annual Foster Family Agency Picnic on June 4th. Staff, families and children were enthused to have the opportunity to get together once again and enjoy the beautiful day and event. We had an exceptional turnout of approximately 150 people. We had the pleasure

of listening to some amazing live bands. Gordon Kennedy of GK Music brought his talented students who selflessly performed rock 'n roll hits all day long. They performed a variety of hits from the 70's, 80's, 90's, and some newer tunes as well that kept the entire crowd of all generations entertained.

We had a petting zoo, a sensory table, a train, photo booth, an obstacle course, and some good-old-fashioned carnival games, such as: Plinko, Tic-Tac-Toe, Corn-Hole and Golf! The families and kids had a tasty barbecue of hot dogs, hamburgers, and salad that were accompanied by some delectable treats such as cotton candy, cookies. An Ice Cream truck was there for the entire afternoon which was a welcoming treat on a warm, summer day and a fun game changer too.



An Ice Cream truck was there for the entire afternoon which was a welcoming treat on a warm, summer day and a fun game changer too.

I want to give a special shout out to my entire staff for their participation and support. Also, special thanks to Candy Windschitl, Chris Foster, Kevin Youngblood and our Bay Area advisory member, C J Hernandez. Some of the children have already asked us when the next picnic is!!!!

## Our Professional Service Statistics

### Current Year Statistics

(1/1/2022 to 6/20/2022)

100 – Foster Children Served Year-to-Date

21 – New Children in Care this Year

70 – Foster Children Currently in Care

60 – Certified Foster Families

5 – Adoptions Facilitated

### Since We Began in 1958

6,584 – Foster Children Served

4,000 – Through Sierra Children's Home

2,584 – Through Agape Villages

576 – Foster Families who have Partnered with us in Foster Care

## Agape Villages

3160 Crow Canyon Pl. #120  
San Ramon, CA 94583  
(833) 221-1061

**Janet Kleyn, MBA**  
*President and CEO*

**Cheryl Youngblood, LCSW**  
*Program Director*

## Board of Directors

Mark Anglin, Chair  
Walter Bruce, Secretary  
Cinda Hull, Treasurer  
Janet Kleyn  
Cheryl Lee  
Danah Nelson  
Gloria Robertson  
Sarah Rockey  
Stephen T. Webb

## Our Mission

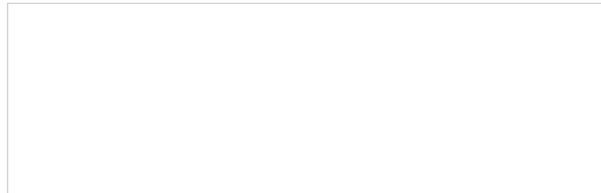
"Agape Villages mobilizes community resources to provide quality homes, innovative solutions and the highest of professional services to disadvantaged children and their families to meet their needs, maximize their potential and lead toward a better and brighter future."

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



**Return Service Requested**

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



*Janet Kleyn, President*

### HEBREWS 13:16

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

Remember,  
Online Giving is Available  
on our Website  
[AgapeVillages.org](http://AgapeVillages.org)

## The Power of 3 Words – "I Can Help"

*From the President, Janet Kleyn*

Recently we have been working on meeting our \$100,000 fundraising goal. We were so close to the goal. We sent out an email letting people know that we were "only" \$2,000 short. The next morning, when I woke up, I checked our website and found out that a couple had donated the \$2,000! I immediately called them to thank them. In talking with the man, he said, "I saw that you were so close to the goal and I thought, I can help!"

Whenever you make a donation, or choose to be a foster parent, or volunteer your time at an event, you are saying, "I Can Help." Actually, you are saying not only "I Can Help," but "I Will Help!"

Our Board Chair, Mark Anglin, has an article on page 3 listing several ways you can help Agape. I hope you will think about this and pray about it. We are so thankful to Mark and all our board members who volunteer their time and efforts to help Agape be effective in meeting the needs

of the children and families in the foster care system. This is sacrificial love in action!

When you help Agape, you are touching the lives of children whose needs are great. They are thrust into the foster care system for no fault of their own. They must rely on the good hearts of others to care about them and provide them a safe and nurturing home. They need us to insure a brighter future. Their lives are dependent on our efforts.

Yes, we need caring people to say those three words, "I can help." We also know that we must all acknowledge another four words that face us each and every day at Agape. They are, "We must do more." How heart wrenching it is to have to say "no" to children who are referred to us for care. We need to continue our efforts to recruit more loving families to partner with us to serve these children and youth. With your help, we will do our best!