

Foster Care Turns Into Adoptions

By Jordan Higby

When the Higby family embarked on their journey as a foster family in early 2020, they didn't set out with the dream to adopt. They simply wanted to play a part in helping vulnerable children. But God had other plans!

Their first placement was an emergency placement for 2 brothers who returned to a family member the following day.

A couple weeks later on February 28, 2020, Skylar came home from the hospital with Tonya. A reunification case that relatively quickly turned into an adoptive case.

Then on June 10, 2020, Kenny came home after his current placement had a change of circumstances. Also a reunification case that quickly turned into an adoptive case.

Then on March 31, 2021, Skylar had a half brother born who needed a placement. So on April 5, 2021, Joey came home. An adoptive case.

Before they knew it, the Higby's were faced with the choice of choosing to adopt or not adopt their 3 beautiful foster children. And while it was not what they had envisioned or planned, God put the calling on their hearts to adopt these precious children.

On June 8, 2022, Joey was adopted by the Higby's, followed shortly by Skylar on June 24, 2022, and then Kenny on October 21, 2022!

As parents to 2 adult children (Seth currently age 26 who is married to his wife Claire, with a baby boy of their own, and Jordan, currently age 24), they thought that phase of life was over. But how wrong they were!

Tonya had always felt a pull on her heart to foster, but had hesitated, even though she had the support of her husband Doug on the journey. It wasn't until God kept placing other foster parents in their path that it became clear that the time was now. At an event hosted by a mutual friend, Tonya met

Leanne (Agape foster mom), and the subject of foster care came up in conversation.

Then their biological daughter Jordan befriended Cassidy (another Agape foster mom) through church, who then connected with Tonya. Tonya and Leanne remain best friends, and Cassidy is now quite literally considered family as she has adopted one of Kenny's biological half

sisters, and is the foster mom to his other biological sister. The Higby family and Cassidy's family love spending family time together! They've decided that family trees are too messy, so they celebrate their "family bush" because it's unclear where the branches stem from, so they just celebrate family!

Joey, Skylar, and Kenny have changed the lives of the Higby family for the better in more ways than they can say. They bring joy, laughter, and light into the lives of everyone they meet. They've taught the Higby's a new level of patience, compassion, and understanding. They've opened their eyes to just how much hurt there is in their community, but also how much healing that can take place as well. These children have shown the Higby's the goodness of God in many ways that they never expected and for that they are so grateful.



Seth, Jordan, Joey, Tonya, Skylar, Kenny and Doug

Stories From Foster Care

New Year's Eve Placement

A 3-day-old baby girl was placed with Agape on New Year's Eve. Sadly, Lucy's story is all too familiar. Mom tested positive for drugs in the hospital. CDSS got involved and Lucy was placed in a safe, loving Agape home directly from the hospital. Family visits are permitted but no family has visited. We don't know what the future holds for little Lucy, but we do know that she is safe and all her needs are being met. We will continue to collaborate with CDSS to ensure a bright future is in store for this precious child.

Raymus Foundation Providing Practical Help

Thanks to the Raymus Foundation grant we received, we were able to purchase clothing and shoes for a number of our children. There were 3 children in the same home. We purchased several shirts and 2 pairs of shoes for each of them. They weren't for Christmas. Just things they needed. They chose to wait till they were all home and then opened their bags together. They were so excited about what they received!

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, including 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



VOLUNTEERS IN THE Spotlight

Featuring "Fostering Wishes"

Wishes for 3 years. Fostering Wishes is a nonprofit organization that partners with foster family agencies to help improve the children's lives. Fostering Wishes is 100% volunteer driven and all the proceeds directly support the children!

Fostering Wishes was inspired by Sabine Lemmo, who was a long-time foster parent. Sabine started a holiday gift giving program called "Fostering Wishes" in her garage. In 2020, Fostering Wishes added staff and expanded their programming. Fostering Wishes serves almost 500 foster children a year. That is so amazing.

Agape Villages is one of the lucky agencies that partners with Fostering Wishes. Sabine and Fostering Wishes have gone above and

beyond to help the agency and our children. We were first blessed with amazing duffel bags. When a child enters foster care, most come with large garbage bags and only have a few of their belongings. Fostering Wishes provides our new placements with duffel bags filled with toiletries, water bottle, blanket, stuffed animal and school supplies. This is such a comforting gesture for children entering our program. The children and resource parents love the duffles.

During the holiday season, this one-of-a-kind organization provides gifts for our children to help put a smile on their faces. Sabine partners with businesses that surround the area. Fostering Wishes provides a beautifully decorated tree with gift tags. The gift tags have a desired gift for each of the children. The businesses and

community work together and the results are absolutely jaw dropping. We have been blessed to provide our children and youth with these amazing gifts.

Not only is Fostering Wishes amazing but Sabine and her wonderful volunteers are truly wonderful and kindhearted people. The time and dedication they provide is priceless. Thank you so much, Fostering Wishes! We appreciate the time, effort and all you do for the children in our care. We cannot thank you enough for everything.



*Sabine Lemmo, Agape worker Lisa
Foster with her husband Chris.*

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).



My New Journey as the Chair of the Agape Board of Directors

By Cinda Hull, Board Chair

As the New Year begins, I embark on a new journey as Chair of the Board of Directors. This position is an honor, exciting but also a little terrifying. I hope that I will competently fulfill my duty to Agape. I hope my life experiences will be a benefit to our organization. Please pray for me as I learn to do so.

My journey with fostering and adoption has been growing over many years. As a child, my family helped children who needed a place to lay their heads. As I had a family of my own, we also tried to help children and their parents who were on the edge of entering the government foster care system.

I was completely sold out on the need to care for these little ones when my daughter and son-in-law brought my newborn grandson home from the hospital into care at their home. He was the boy who made me a grandma, and his needs and trauma were great. Five years later, his biological sister joined our family. I see firsthand the joys and struggles of children who for some reason, that is not their fault, cannot live with their family.

As we walk forward together it is my hope that the children who have been placed in our care will heal, and thrive, and that we can together rebuild the families where they belong. My door is always open. If you have any questions I can answer please contact me. Thank you for your support as we journey together.

We Want to Acknowledge our Following Sponsors!

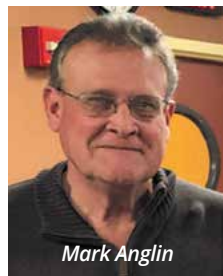
- A-Z Loan Services
- Central Valley Association of Realtors
- MD Electric and Solar

THANK YOU!

Church Enjoys Giving in More Ways Than One!

The Anderson Church of Christ found a creative way to help the kids at Agape. For the past 10 years, during their fellowship time people bring in cookies.

There is a basket for people to make donations to Agape for the cookies. In 10 years, those donations have totaled more than \$33,000! Wow! Thank you all for your sweet teeth and generosity!. What a difference you are making in the lives of foster children.



Thanks for Your Service, Mark!

Mark Anglin has decided it is time for him to step down from the Agape Board of Directors. As Mark wrote to the board, "Patty and I have enjoyed being a part of Agape but it is time for us to move on. We believe in the mission to serve foster youth and will continue to support the cause as we can." Thank you, Mark, for the leadership and counsel you provided. We wish Patty and you all the best.

Meeting \$75K Matching Gift

Several donors joined together to offer a matching gift, dollar for dollar, up to \$75,000 total in the last two months of 2022. It was truly a stretch goal and we are thankful to everyone who made gifts.

To Request Memorial Gifts

Instruct the funeral director to insert the following information into the funeral notice.

The family requests contributions be sent to

AGAPE VILLAGES, INC.

which is a licensed Foster Family Agency providing foster care and adoption services to children and youth in California.

Agape Villages, Inc.

3160 Crow Canyon Place, Suite 120
San Ramon, CA 94583
(833) 221-1061
www.AgapeVillages.org

Our Professional Service Statistics

Year End Statistics

(1/1/2022 to 12/31/2022)

- 130 – Foster Children Served Year-to-Date
- 51 – New Children in Care this Year
- 67 – Foster Children Currently in Care
- 57 – Certified Foster Families
- 14 – Adoptions Facilitated

Since We Began in 1958

- 6,614 – Foster Children Served
 - 4,000 – Through Sierra Children's Home
 - 2,614 – Through Agape Villages
- 583 – Foster Families who have Partnered with us in Foster Care



Memorial & Honor Gifts

OCTOBER 8, 2022 THROUGH FEBRUARY 22, 2023

IN LOVING MEMORY

ERLINDA ACOSTA
Gene & Mary Copeland

DOROTHY ALLEY
Jerry & Karel Baxley

ALLEN ASHLEY
Billie Ashley

H. M. BARNES
Don & Barbara Barnes

ROY & BETTY BARTLETT
Christopher & Brittney Nunes
Judy Teeples

BILLY BRAUTIGAM
Judy Price

TAHJ BRUCE
Rich & Malia Bruce

EARLIE & MARY BUSTER
Gene & Mary Copeland

ANDRE BUTLER
Tasheela Haynes

MAXINE BUTLER
Tasheela Haynes

DAORTHY CALLAHAN
Daniel Callahan

SHERMAN & ELMA CANNON
Dale & Becky Cannon

JOE & JOYCE CORCORAN
Kathleen Jones

JOE CORONADO
David & Terry Favre

ZENOLIA CUMMINGS
Kathy Davis

KAY HOMER DANIELS, SR. AND LORENE DANIELS
Brenda Thomas

NANCY GARRAD
Judy Teeples

LARRY GIPSON
Isabelle Gipson

PAT HALL
Betty Hall

EDNA HAMES
Betty Hall

ERNIE HARDMAN
Sue Kingsbury

FRANCES HENSON
Pierpont & Rachel Dutcher

BERNICE JACKSON
Agape Villages Board of Directors

BETTY IRWIN JOHNSON
Norman & Rebecca Cole

WILLIAM & VAUGHNCELE KISER
Rita Blue
Mark & Dianne Kiser

FRED KLEYN
Robbie Bentley

TERRI LYNN (PEARCY) KUKODA
Norma Falk

HANK LAWSON
East Side Church of Christ (Stockton)

HANK & GINGER LAWSON
Gene & Mary Copeland
Jo Lawson
Ray & Celia Lawson
Debra Miller

LORETTA LEE
Rick & Janet Blanchard

HEATHER ANN LIRA
April Madden

ROMAINE LONG
Jill Barger

BILL MITCHELL
Linda Mitchell

DON MITCHELL
Kai & Brenda Mickey

ROBERTA MORGAN
Elmer & Doris Prout

DAVID L. NELSON
Danah Nelson

ORA BETH NELSON
Church of Christ of Murphys

WYBA NIENSTADT
Church of Christ in Ripon
Edna House
Janet Kleyn
David & Jeanette Lee

BOB OLIVER
Sarah Rockey

DALE PECK
Gene & Mary Copeland
Donald Hopper

JIM & CAROLYN PERSALL
Kenneth & Jan Duvall

EVELYN JUNE POWER
Tim & Tonya Power

JOAN POWER
Jane Dyer
Ann Matthews
Jan Nee
Kay Richmond

KATHERINE PRESTON
Janet Hames

JERRY ROBINSON
Betty Frazier

DEANNA SENFT
Jerry & Karel Baxley

LORENE SMITH
Sarah Rockey

BOB WALKER
Sid Walker

ELLA DORINE WARREN
Ozella Meaders

STEVE WATTS
Austin Watts

DOROTHY WILSON
Jerry & Phyllis Hobson
Terry Wilson

RAY & LENORA WILSON
Eugene & Mary Maddox

IN HONOR AND RESPECT

LORI BRYANT & MARK THORNBURGH
With Love!
- Charles & Annette Bryant

BEVERLY KLEYN
We love you, Mom!
- Rod & Shirley Moore

ROGER MCCARTHY
Happy Birthday!
- Judy Price

JOE & JOY MEARS
For the Christian inspiration you have given our entire family for over 40 years!
- Don & Gwen Minor

MY FAMILY
Merry Christmas! I love you!
- Kari Carper

DANAH NELSON
With Love!
- Michael Nelson

SAWYER NORRIED
With Respect!
- Michael Oddo

OUR GRANDCHILDREN
Merry Christmas from Momie and Popie! Your willingness to share is helping a less fortunate child have a merrier Christmas!
- Jim & Mona Carper

SECRET SANTA/ EAST IDAHO NEWS TEAM
Your generous spirit is inspiring!
- A Grateful Elf

GINGER SPARKS
We love you, Grandma!
- Royce Dansby-Sparks

GABRIELLA SPOSETO
Happy Birthday!
- Chloe Cain
- Heather Congo
- Brooke Lofy

NANCY & JOHN WELTY
Because of your genuine caring for others!
- Deborah Davis

ANNE WHEALIS
Thank you for your loving acts of service!
- Nancy Hohstadt

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: _____

Securing Brighter Futures

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

Christmas Parties for our Children and Youth

Christmas was great for the kids at Agape. We had 3 parties in total and everyone had a great time.

The children sat with Santa, ate a variety of holiday treats, talked with their friends, bowled, played games and received a generous amount of beautifully wrapped gifts. No child went without! It was truly a time to remember, and a blessing to all who were part of the festivities. Bringing holiday cheer to these children is a joy!



A special shout out to Santa Pat and Mrs. Claus at our Bay Area party and Santa and Mrs. Claus at our Valley party. They took the time to interact with all of the children individually and were a big hit!

Special thanks to Turlock Church of Christ, Hughson Church of Christ, Tyler Street Church of Christ (Sacramento), Bayside Churches (Sacramento), Midtown Church (Elk Grove), Bank of Stockton, Ford-UAW Local 76, and The Way Church (Manteca). Thanks also to the people who purchased gifts off the Amazon gift list, and the many people who dropped gifts by the offices.



A Legacy Gift

*Remember Agape Villages
With The Ones You Love!*

WILLS AND ESTATES

For more information:
jkleyn@AgapeVillages.org

News From

Amazon had a program of donating a percentage of all purchases for those who signed up for the Amazon Smile program. Amazon recently decided to end this program. We thank everyone who participated, and wanted you to know about the change.

Erik's Toy Drive

Our thanks to Erik's DeliCafe San Ramon, The Specific Chiropractic Centers and Jessica's Shredding Team for the wonderful toy drive they organized. And to the volunteers who helped organize the gifts. The kids at Agape were thrilled.



Gifts from Family in Community



We were blessed with a great little family. Rachel, Everett and Parker showered our children with bags of toiletries. Everett and Parker were so excited and gave what they picked out with huge smiles on their faces. Thank you so much for your support and generosity. We appreciate you.

Access Hardware Supply

We are so grateful to Access Hardware Supply in San Leandro. They held a golf tournament to raise money for Agape Villages. Including matching dollars from Access Hardware Supply, \$6,500 was raised! Thank you, Access Hardware Supply!



Supporting Churches in 2022

We are very thankful for the support we receive from congregations all over California and beyond. Below is a listing of the 30 churches providing support to Agape Villages in 2022 and we are thankful!

- ♥ Alisal Church of Christ (Salinas)
- ♥ Church of Christ (Washougal, WA)
- ♥ Martinez Church of Christ
- ♥ Anderson Church of Christ
- ♥ East Side Church of Christ (Stockton)
- ♥ Mission Viejo Church of Christ
- ♥ Buena Park Church of Christ
- ♥ Empire Church of Christ
- ♥ Parkway Church of Christ (Sacramento)
- ♥ Central Church of Christ (Santa Maria)
- ♥ Fulton Road Church of Christ (Santa Rosa)
- ♥ Rincon Valley Church of Christ (Santa Rosa)
- ♥ Central Church of Christ (Sacramento)
- ♥ Healdsburg Church of Christ
- ♥ Roseville Church of Christ
- ♥ Chico Church of Christ
- ♥ Hughson Church of Christ
- ♥ Tri Valley Church of Christ (Livermore)
- ♥ Chino Church of Christ
- ♥ John Knox Presbyterian Church (Dublin)
- ♥ Turlock Church of Christ
- ♥ Christ's Church in the Tri-Valley (San Ramon)
- ♥ Lathrop Church of Christ
- ♥ Tyler Street Church of Christ (Sacramento)
- ♥ Church of Christ of Murphys
- ♥ Lewisville Church of Christ (Texas)
- ♥ United Lutheran Church (Manteca)
- ♥ Church of Christ of Ripon
- ♥ Lodi Church of Christ
- ♥ Valley Christian Fellowship (Manteca)

Two Villages are Better than One!

Thank you to everyone who made this fundraiser a HUGE success! It was such a great night with a live auction, silent auction, tasty food and drinks, and amazing company. Together, we were able to raise over \$30,000 to help support the foster kids at Agape and our Goodness Village neighbors, a community of tiny homes for homeless people. It really is true that Two Villages ARE better than one. Pictured is Lisa Brown, Goodness Village Board President (she is also an Agape volunteer) with Agape's Community Engagement Director, Jen Oxe. Special thanks to our sponsors: John Muir Health, Poppy Bank, Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley, Summit Financial Group, Jeff & Kathy Narum, Horizon Wealth Solutions, Life.Home.Happy., Wallace Wong of Farmers Insurance and Law Office of James P. White.



Giving Tuesday 2022 Benefits Agape

Giving Tuesday occurred on November 29th last year, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Agape received \$13,300 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!

Christmas Gifts

Our thanks to MVH Insurance Agency in Elk Grove for again donating gifts. The stockings were filled with treats and a \$50 gift card for each teen. Pictured from left to right are: Susi Jacobo-Vice, Barbara Erwin, Taji Sperber, and Marissa Snyker.



Rite Aid Foundation Gift

The Rite Aid Foundation is committed to optimizing the health and wellness of the communities they serve. They aim to serve as a catalyst for positive change, with a particular focus on underserved and disadvantaged segments of society. Once again, Agape Villages is a proud recipient of a \$10,000 grant to keep our critical foster care programs going strong. A huge thank you to Rite Aid!



Midtown Church Elk Grove Donations



We are thankful to the Midtown Church Elk Grove campus for donating gifts to Agape children, making sure they had a great Christmas.

Grant Received

A huge thank-you to Sereno 1% For Good Charitable Foundation for a \$7,500 grant so that we can continue to fund our critical foster care programs. Sereno believes in "giving back to the places that they live in and love." We appreciate their investment in local non-profits and we are grateful for their support.



Mid Valley Chevy Club

Our thanks to the Mid Valley Chevy Club (Modesto) for their generosity to the kids at Agape Villages. Pictured is club member Orval Welch. Such a blessing to children. Thank you!

Sleep Tight Kits

We recently had a special donation from a young member of our community. Pleasanton resident Elizabeth W. decided to focus her 5th grade kindness project on helping foster kids in need. She reached out to Jennifer Oxe of Agape Villages to ask how she could help. From there, Elizabeth researched and raised awareness with her classmates about the foster system. She also raised money through various methods to ultimately build and deliver over 20 "Sleep Tight Kits" for kids. These kits were filled with new pajamas, toothbrushes and toothpaste for boys and girls of all ages. She hopes these kits will help a little in making someone's first night in a new home a little more comfortable.



Park Terrace Gifts



The Park Terrace Swimming and Tennis Club in Land Park (Sacramento) dedicated their annual toy drive to the children being served by Agape. From December 1 to December 18th, owners and friends of the club dropped off unwrapped gifts for children ages newborn-18 years and celebrated with a toy pick up and holiday party on December 18th. Two local Girl Scout troops donated all their extra cookie funds and went out and shopped for dozens of gifts. Park Terrace was able to collect and donate over 200 toys and over \$200 worth of gift cards. Thank you!

Grant Awarded to Agape

Saks Fifth Avenue Foundation has awarded Agape Villages a \$30,000 grant! These funds will provide mental health services for incoming foster children so they can have additional support as they come into care. We are grateful for this grant and the impact that it will have, and we are looking forward to working with the Saks Fifth Avenue Foundation in providing these much-needed services to our children.



Kids Bike Lane



Kids Bike Lane has assembled and distributed 500 bikes for this year's Big Bike Build. Agape Villages was invited to participate this year. We were blessed with 31 bikes ranging from 20" to 26". Pictured (L-R) are Dennis Elchesen, Alice Klingman and Beth Miller. We thank them for their hard work.

Gift From Local Family

Purah Lor, the daughter of PC and Goa Lor, wanted to donate toys to kids in need, so they brought in brand new toys for the kids. We are so thankful for the kindness of local families like this who help provide resources to kids in foster care through Agape!



Comfort Kits for Children



As part of Love Stanislaus County, Lisa Foster and her daughter Isabella have been blessed to take part in assembling comfort kits for 5 years. They look forward to this every December. They are amongst all walks of life and filled with joy to help. Agape Villages received 56 comfort kits for our children. Lisa and Isabella have enjoyed being part of such a life changing experience.

Ticket to Dream Foundation

We were so excited to shower our children and youth with the fun and comfortable Crocs and Croc socks. Agape Villages is so grateful to Famous Footwear, Crocs and Ticket to Dream Foundation for the wonderful donations. We are also very thankful for the \$5,000 grant which we used to purchase gift cards. Thank you all.



Shop with a Cop

The 2022 Shop with a Cop event was as special as ever. On Saturday, December 17, Agape children and youth had the opportunity to shop with a Manteca police officer and fill their shopping cart with whatever their hearts desired. Thank you to the Manteca Chief's Foundation for continuously allowing Agape Villages foster youth to participate. The gifts this year totaled over \$2,200.

Together We Rise

On November 4, 2022 Together We Rise, working with Goodera, built, tested, and donated 21 brand new, fully assembled bikes in various sizes with coordinating helmets. 16" bikes – for youth 3-6 years old with removable training wheels, 20" bikes – for youth 7-10 years old, 26" bikes for youth and teens 12-18+ years old. Thank you so much for the thoughtful gifts and the time and effort to put it all together!



Rutherford Management Company

Rutherford Management Company reached out to Agape Villages. They have a history of donating to foster agencies in the area and wanted to continue to give back to the children in need in the community where they work in. Employees organized a fundraiser and used donations to purchase baby items such as cribs, diapers, baby wipes, car seats, bottles, baby clothes and more to donate to Agape! We are so thankful for the Rutherford Management Company team who have a heart for kids in foster care.

Set To Thrive

We would like to thank Set To Thrive for their amazing support to our foster youth. Set To Thrive helps ease the transition for youth entering into foster care. What a great way to help by giving a bag full of essentials, like clothing, school supplies and toiletries. Thank you for all you do.





Fairways Fore Foster Kids 2022



We have been holding our “Fairways Fore Foster Kids” golf fundraising event in Manteca for 18 years now. Again this 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 152 golfers and raised over \$60,000 (gross) in support of our foster care program. A special shout out to Kevin Youngblood who brought in 26 foursomes, raised \$30,000 in sponsorships and, at the event, passed the hat and raised another \$2,000! Kevin is truly a Champion for Children. Thanks also to the Mission Viejo Church of Christ led by Ray McPeak for raising close to \$4,000.

A TEEPLES TOURNAMENT

Winners: Ernie Yoshino, Tim Johnston, Evan Yoshino and Brad Stephens (Ham Lane Church of Christ).

USGA TOURNAMENT

1st place gross: Frank Page, Raymond Horne, Chris Hernandez & Jeff Rhode (All Bay Area Glass)

1st place net: Sean Gunter, Eddie Chavez, Victor Gucuian & Zach Larson (USGA, Inc.)

D&C GLASS & ALUMINUM TOURNAMENT

Winners: Steve DeBrum, Jacob Naven, Steve Roland & Vince Haro.

We appreciate our sponsors and those who participated. You make it possible for Agape to better serve the children in our care. Let us hear from you if you'd like to participate in any way.

— EVENT SPONSORS —

USGA, Inc.

A Teeples Plumbing
D&C Glass & Aluminum

— PLATINUM SPONSOR —

USGA, Inc.

— GOLD SPONSORS —

USGA, Inc.

Certified Architectural

— SILVER SPONSORS —

A Teeples Plumbing
D&C Glass & Aluminum

— BRONZE SPONSORS —

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NCAT
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Rowe Fenestration
South San Joaquin Irrigation District
White Cap

— SIGN SPONSORS —

Apollo Architectural, Inc.
Bank of Stockton
District Council 16
Janet Kleyn

— TEE SPONSORS —

AMPWRX Solar Solutions
Hackworth Real Estate
Clear Drop Car Wash
Sheet Metal Workers International Association
Local Union #104
Hulls' Millwork, Inc.
PROPERTY I.D Corporation
Manteca Valley Christian Fellowship

— DONATED ITEMS —

USGA, Inc.—Golf Shirts
Safeway, Inc.—Gift Card
South San Joaquin Irrigation District—Golf towels and holders, flash lights
F & M Bank—Key chains, baskets
Chez Shari—Hot dogs, support
Lisa & Kamau Penn—Bloody Mary Table
Lisa Foster—5 baskets
Hull's Millwork—4 baskets
Carla Daugherty—3 baskets
Bank of Stockton—1 basket

Upcoming Foster Parent Support Meetings

Providing our foster parents with appropriate training is important to their ability to support the children in their care. Upcoming topics include Helping Kids Navigate through Grief and Loss; The Complexities of Foster Care's food issues; Strategies for Working with Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder; Practical Strategies for Connecting with and managing behaviors of children impacted by trauma; Interventions for challenging behavior.

Children are NOT a distraction from more important work. They are THE MOST important work.
- C. S. Lewis



May is Foster Care Awareness Month



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 \$50,000 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!)



Donate Your Car Today!

Our car donation program provides vital support to our work. Call CARS toll-free, seven days a week at 1-800-240-0160. Or, go to our website below to reach them. Every donation makes a difference!

WWW.AGAPEVILLAGES.ORG

Program Activities

We have a new program to introduce. See below.



Cheryl Youngblood,
LCSW

Program Director

Our non-profit, foster family/adoption agency, Agape Villages, works diligently to provide a safe and comfortable home-like environment for children and families in need of care. The success of our mission depends on the hard work and dedication of our resource parents, employees, community partners and donors. We couldn't do our work without all of you!

Sincerely, Thank you!

We are excited to introduce our new program, In-House, Interim Therapy. Agape will be providing therapeutic services for youth being placed in our care who are in need of initial therapy services, and for established youth in our care, who may be in crisis. We are pleased to introduce Joanne Cortes Lopez who is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, with over 25 years of experience. Ms. Cortes Lopez will be providing professional therapy services that will be such an asset to our children in care and will be of assistance in providing our youth with coping skills, anger management, emotional dysregulation, support, nurturance and a safe space where children, youth and non-minor dependents can share their life story, and begin paving the way for taking steps towards healing. The funding for this new program is from a grant received from Saks Fifth Avenue Foundation.

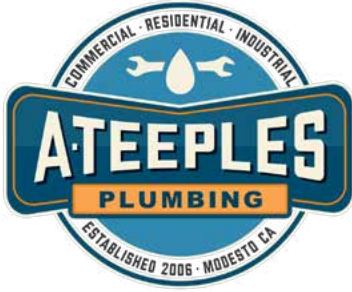
The following two pages feature groupings of our sponsors who provide much needed financial support to Agape. We appreciate each one!

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Agape Villages

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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.

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



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A Look at this Year

From the President, Janet Kleyn

Once again this past year, our country and the world have been dealing with fairly strict limitations due to the COVID pandemic. This has made it more challenging to do the work we need to do in all areas of our functions. Toward the end of 2022, there were signs that the pandemic may be coming to an end. We all hope we can get back to normal as quick as possible.

There are always two constants as we look at setting goals for Agape Villages each year. They are (1) to secure more foster parents to help us serve children and youth and (2) to receive the private financial support we need to operate our agency and programs. These two goals will enable us to be effective in all our efforts. We work hard on each one.

We had a good year in recruiting families this past year even with the pandemic. We will continue to focus increased efforts on this need.

We are so thankful for the charitable support we received from donors in 2022. This involves individuals, churches, corporations and foundations. We depend on this continuing in 2023.

We continue to be sure our daily operations are in compliance with the standards of the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitative Facilities (CARF). We are happy to do so as this keeps us aligned with national best practices for the work we do. We will have another re-accreditation in the first quarter of 2024.

We appreciate everyone who continues to partner with us! We need you!



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](https://www.AgapeVillages.org)



[AgapeVillages.org/Donate](https://www.AgapeVillages.org/Donate)