

A King's Past and Future

By Annelies Zijderveld, foster mom and Jaylon King, foster son

The Agape Villages picnic two years ago was a turning point for our family. Two days before, we received a call from our Agape social worker about a new placement. And then, we met Jaylon for the first time at the picnic. Three days later, he moved in with us as our foster son and that fall, started his senior year at a new school and new city.

Basketball lit Jaylon up. So, we sought opportunities for him to play including open gyms. He joined an AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) team and competed in Las Vegas. During the school year, he assisted in coaching a younger boys AAU team, continuing to develop experience in mentoring and working with kids.

Up until senior year, his grades had never been high enough for him to participate in high school sports, but Jaylon dedicated himself to working hard and made it onto his high school's varsity basketball team.

The rest is history. The men's basketball team went on to win the California state championship for the first time in the school's history. Literally—the one year he played high school sports—he left, a champion. This brought so many accolades and celebrations—including a certificate from the city of Oakland and commendation from the state senate in Sacramento. The team was invited by the Golden State Warriors and Oakland A's as special guests to games. He even met Kareem Abdul-Jabbar!

Opportunities with the Austin Hooper Foundation set this path for Jaylon in motion. The Foundation—and Austin specifically—inspired him to deepen his basketball skills and to get to this point in his athleticism. At the Foundation fundraiser earlier this spring, Jaylon got up in front of the crowd, and dazzled us with his public speaker abilities. Because of Austin's inspiration, Jaylon wants to inspire other kids to dream big, work hard, and to focus on goals. As Jaylon says, "It's like shooting a basket—take it one shot at a time and keep shooting."

So many people love Jaylon. And we do too. It is a gift to be Jaylon's foster mom—and truly is one of the joys of my life. I want the world for him and for him to see the possibilities ahead.



Left to Right: Jaylon King, foster son, Annelies Zijderveld, foster mom, Nathan Hyatt, foster dad

There was a time when Jaylon's mom wasn't around, and his older sister, Arlethia, took up parenting him when his mom couldn't. The fact that he and his sister were able to be placed together as a sibling set when they first entered foster care has made all the difference for both of them. He follows her steps from life lessons she's imparted.

When Jaylon and I talked about co-writing this note for the Agape newsletter, two reasons stand out for sharing this part of his story. First,

we share his successes at basketball this past year as an offering of hope to foster parents whose teens have not quite found their way yet—to them, I pray his story is the inspiration they need to keep going. Then, it is a chance for me, Annelies, to advocate for fostering older youth who are close to embarking on independence. As Jaylon makes decisions for his future, I want him to be equipped with details so he can make an informed choice and know we've got his back.

Jaylon has been with us for a little over a year, but that time has been etched on our hearts and our appreciation for him continues to deepen. I can't wait to see who Jaylon is, a month from now, a year from now—20 years from now. God is doing beautiful things in his life and that we get to be a part of that, sure blesses us.

Agape Reaches 65 Years of Service

In October, Agape Villages attained 65 years of service to abused and neglected children and youth in Northern California. How we wish there wasn't a need for our service but we are grateful to our many donors, foster parents, staff and volunteers over the years who have supported us in this vital work. The more than 6,600 children directly touched, and families and others indirectly touched, will never be able to express their appreciation to you personally, so we do. Thank you!

Stories From Foster Care

Another Life Changed

Michael is a teenager and has been in a loving Agape foster home for a year. In the beginning he had difficulty adjusting to the structure of a family. He had absences and tardies at school. He was rude. But the love and commitment of his Agape family have helped Michael turn his life around. His attendance is good. He is involved in school activities. He has a 3.0 GPA. He is on track to graduate from high school. He is working with his Agape social worker and high school counselor to plan his future. Another Life Changed.

Two Brothers Find A Loving Home

Two brothers, ages 5 and 7, have been in a loving Agape foster home for several months. They came into the home frightened, unsure of what was happening, but very glad to be together. Their foster parents made sure their basic needs were met, and in addition to that, they showed them love and stability. The boys are now comfortable in the home. They are in school and have friends. Sadly, their biological mother has been inconsistent in working her plan. We don't know what the end result will be for these boys but we know they are safe, happy and loved.

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



A Very Successful Fireworks Booth!

Fireworks sales, legal in Manteca, are an important fundraiser for Agape. This year, we netted more than \$28,000! Our thanks to our many volunteers including the Agape staff, Manteca Advisory Council, Agape board of directors, relatives of those people, and many other volunteers. Having volunteers means more profit to Agape, all of which goes to support our children and youth. This was all accomplished despite record heat. And a special thanks to everyone who came by the booth and purchased fireworks from Agape.

YEAR-END
GIVING

All non-profit organizations depend upon a good response to year-end giving each year. Remember, financial support is the fuel that keeps our engines running. Please help as you can!

VOLUNTEERS IN THE Spotlight

Chris Foster lives in Manteca and is a Superintendent for JR Simplot in Lathrop. Chris has been volunteering for Agape Villages for the last 8 years. Chris has taken part in many Agape functions, donation pick up and drop offs and was a huge part in the Manteca location move. He is the first person to help set up at a function and the last person to leave. Chris also contributes financially to Agape Villages. We are truly grateful for everything that Chris Foster has done and continues to do for Agape Villages. We are blessed to have him. Thank you for all you do, Chris.



Chris Foster

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).

Facing The Future With Grace And Courage

By Cindae Hull, Board Chair



The last few months have been a whirlwind of unexpected events in my life. Health issues of my loved ones, death, and a cyber-attack.

Things over which I had no control, yet they changed my life in dramatic ways.

As I have been reflecting on the twists and turns of my life, I have come to see that I only have a small amount of control over events that can be devastating. The way I treat others is one thing I can control. The way I behave is one thing I can do that is completely up to me.

I thought of the young children in the care of Agape. What a great responsibility we have to mitigate the stresses and anxiety that the world has thrust upon them. What a great responsibility and joy even as we hold and cherish these young ones. To show them that there is a way that we can live in a world that is not always kind. The love that comes from God the Father is the one way we can strengthen them and give them the tools to face the life they were given with grace and courage. It is my hope and prayer that each of us can show that love to those around us, no matter what life throws at us.



From Left To Right: 3 Manteca Quilter's Guild Members, Ally Baca, Cindae Hull

A Generous Gift!

Manteca Quilters recently gifted Ally Baca, a former Agape foster youth, with sewing items, a beautiful quilt, and a new Pfaff Passport sewing machine from NorCal Elk Grove Sewing & Vacuum. Cindae Hull, Chairman of the Agape Board of Directors, is a member of Manteca Quilters. More of Ally's story and ways to donate can be found on Agape Villages website (AgapeVillages.org).

Happiness is not a goal; It is a byproduct.
- Eleanor Roosevelt

A Generous Donation



Elizabeth Neuner is Miss Teen Pumpkin Fair for 2022 with Manteca Youth Focus (MYF). She chose Agape Villages as her MYF Community Advocacy Project. She collected hygiene products because she saw the interest when our youth came into the office to get their school supplies. They wanted to choose their own products like a store. So Elizabeth went out to hotels, retailers, dentists and medical offices. Everyone wanted to donate. Thank you, Elizabeth! You did an OUTSTANDING JOB for our foster youth!

DONATING STOCK

We are so thankful to those who from time-to-time donate stock shares to us. This is a win-win as donors get a tax benefit for donating appreciated stocks to non-profits, and young lives at Agape are blessed. For details, call Janet Kleyntoll free at 833-221-1061. Thank you!

A New Matching Gift!

We are so grateful to our friends at the Community Health & Education Foundation (CHEF). CHEF will match an additional 1 dollar (up to \$10,000) for every 2 dollars donated to Agape via credit card in the month of October. And they will cover all administrative and processing fees so your entire donation is matched! Let's meet this match! Thank you for your generosity, CHEF!

AgapeVillages.org/CHEF



Community
Health &
Education
Foundation



AgapeVillages.org/CHEF



Ticket to Dream

Our thanks to the Ticket to Dream foundation for their very generous gift of \$2,500. This will be used to be sure the Agape children and youth have whatever they need as they return to school. Thank you, Ticket to Dream!



Memorial & Honor Gifts

JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

IN LOVING MEMORY

ERLINDA ACOSTA

Gene & Mary Copeland

ALLEN ASHLEY

Billie Ashley

H. M. BARNES

Donald & Barbara Barnes

ROY & BETTY BARTLETT

Christopher & Brittney Nunes

HOMER BENSON

Norma Benson

FRED RICHARD BERGSTROM

Linda Bergstrom

TAHJ BRUCE

Rich & Malia Bruce

EARLIE & MARY BUSTER

Gene & Mary Copeland

RETA CLARK

Michael & Rena Avedikian

RICHARD DEATHERAGE

Ron & Peggy Fullen

Donna Hodges

Barbara Stoffle

FRED FOLLOWILL

Phyllis Tackett

ERNIE HARDMAN

Sue Kingsbury

PHYLLIS HICKEY

Janet Hames

BILL HOLT

Jerry & Karel Baxley

JUANITA HOPPER

Donald Hopper

Marlene Peck

BEVERLY KLEYN

Jerry & Karel Baxley

Ann Butler

FRED KLEYN

Robbie Bentley

HANK LAWSON

Nina Payne

HANK & GINGER LAWSON

Gene & Mary Copeland

Jo Lawson

Ray & Celia Lawson

Debra Miller

ERICA L. MOORE

Teresa Baldwin

RIANDO ANTHONY PENN

Lisa Penn

DON & JOAN POWER

Kristin Taber

HAROLD ROBERTS

Lorraine Roberts

CARL WALLERS

Orval & Diane Welch

STEVE WATTS

Austin Watts

Sustaining Agape into the Future

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new Planned Giving portal, dedicated to helping you leave a lasting legacy and make a meaningful impact through your support. Legacy giving is a powerful way to ensure that your passion

for our cause lives on for generations to come. Our new portal provides you with all the resources and information you need to explore the various planned giving options available, including wills and bequests, beneficiary designations, and IRA rollovers. It's your opportunity to shape the future of our organization and continue the important work we do to make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

One of the exciting features of our Planned Giving portal is the spotlight on non-cash gifts. We understand that giving doesn't always involve writing a check. You can leave us a meaningful legacy through a variety of non-cash assets, such as appreciated securities, real estate, personal property or life insurance policies. These gifts can have a significant impact on our ability to fulfill our mission and create a better future. Our portal offers valuable information on the benefits of non-cash gifts, how to make them, and how they can contribute to the sustainability of our organization. Join us in building a legacy of hope and transformation for our community through planned giving, and explore the possibilities on our new portal today!

For more info, call Janet Kleyn, President and CEO, at (925) 866-3020.

AgapeVillages.org/Legacy



AgapeVillages.org/Legacy

IN HONOR AND RESPECT

MARTINEZ CHURCH OF CHRIST FAMILY

- Love to the Martinez Church of Christ Family!
- Carol Campisi

DANAH NELSON

Happy Birthday!

- Jack and Virginia Grimes

DON AND JOANNE WHITE

With Love and Respect!

- Jeff White



A Legacy Gift

Remember Agape Villages
With The Ones You Love!

WILLS AND ESTATES

For more information:

jkkleyn@AgapeVillages.org

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: _____

Being There For Children And Youth

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

Planned Giving Through Qualified Charitable Distribution

Are you aware that if you are age 70½ or older, you can make annual gifts of up to \$100,000 per year from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA)? This Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) provision allows you to give to one or more charities (such as Agape Villages) without incurring income tax on the withdrawal.

This means that you can direct any amount up to \$100,000 to Agape Villages with no federal income tax liability. Married couples with separate IRAs can donate up to \$200,000. A QCD may provide you with an excellent opportunity to make a gift during your lifetime from an asset that would be subject to multiple levels of taxation if it remained in your taxable estate.

Here are some details and restrictions for you to be aware of:

- You must be 70 ½ or older when you make your gift, and you must make your gift from an IRA – no other retirement plans (such as 401k, 403b or SEP accounts) qualify.
- If you don't have an IRA, you may be able to roll other retirement assets into one in order to make a QCD.
- Your gift must come to Agape Villages outright – tax laws do not permit you to establish a life-income arrangement or support a donor -advised fund.
- The distribution will be free from income tax. It will not also generate an income tax charitable deduction.
- Your gift to Agape Villages will qualify as all or part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).
- You will have the joy of knowing that you have blessed the lives of children in need.

If you would like to make an IRA rollover gift, just let your IRA plan provider know to make a distribution to Agape Villages. To qualify as a 2023 gift, your gift must reach us by December 31, 2023.

We recommend that you discuss this option with your own financial advisor to determine whether a QCD is right for you.

If you have any questions, please call Janet Kleyn, President and CEO, at (925) 866-3020



Why Can't We?

Have you noticed how we have a tendency to resist change and hesitate to take on new challenges, especially as we get older and set in our ways? When we hear of a need, especially one that will call for sacrificial effort, our first response is often to think of the reasons why we can't do it. Our first reactions frequently center on the "why nots" almost as if they are instinctive reactions.

We have heard several stories of how some have overcome this reaction. As you know, we often spread the word regarding the need for foster parents, especially to serve sibling groups and challenging children. Yes, this calls for sacrificial love and effort. We have learned from several of our foster parents that one way their hesitations were reduced was at the nudging of a child.

We recently were promoting the need for a foster family for a pre-teen boy. In response to this announcement, a 9-year-old boy asked his parents, "Why can't we?" This caused them to think again and search their hearts more deeply. And you know, this story is not unique. We hear it regularly.

Yes, children can see things without many of the filters we put up as adults. They help to reduce our "clutter." Sometimes, their perspectives help inspire our own.

We are mindful how foster parenting is a "family ministry" in many ways. We have been touched by the way children, both young and older, play an instrumental role in this process. Not only do they inspire us to act, they also help all along the way.

Foster parenting is a tremendous ministry impacting the lives of children in very significant ways. Foster homes embrace vulnerable children, love and nurture them, provide them with safety and security and meet their emotional, physical and spiritual needs. Have you thought about how you could do this? What might your children say?



**Life is like riding a bicycle.
You don't fall off unless
you stop pedaling.**

- Claude Pepper

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

- Aesop

SO MUCH
TO BE

THANKFUL

FOR!

Raymus Foundation Grant

We are so thankful to the Raymus Foundation for giving us a \$5,000 grant. We will use these funds to provide basic necessities when children enter one of our loving foster homes. Many kids come to us with literally just the shirt on their back. Giving them new clothing items such as socks, shoes, underwear, shirts, pants and jackets as well as basic toiletries, backpacks and school supplies makes a huge positive impact on a child coming into a foster home for the first time. Thank you, Raymus Foundation.

Generous Donation



Agape thanks Olivia, Sophia, Chloe and Brooklynn (pictured) and Addison and Kalei from Girl Scout Troop 33508 in the Dublin area, for generously donating 30 fleece blankets. This project was in combination with completing their Bronze Award as Juniors in Girl Scouts before they bridge this year to Cadettes. Our thanks also to their troop leaders Cyndi Ramos-David and Colleen Liang. The blankets are very soft and will provide warmth and comfort to Agape kids. Thank you again.

It's Always "Back to School" at Agape!



We have new kids coming into Agape homes throughout the year and starting new schools. They need school supplies. We are grateful to the many donors, many anonymous, who donate school supplies for Agape kids. Having the right supplies is so important to doing well in school, and fitting in at school, anytime of the year. We are so glad to have the school supplies already available, when they are needed. Thank you!

Gifts From The Heart



The Manteca office was blessed by 2 lovely souls. Miss Lisa and Miss Hanna showed up with smiles on their faces and kindness in their hearts. This was Lisa and Hanna's first book fundraiser and we were blessed to receive wonderful books. These lovely ladies raised over \$400 to purchase 44 books to give to our kiddos. What a beautiful gesture. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful support from such kind souls.



WalMart

Our thanks to WalMart for their generous donation of school supplies. Our kids will have everything they need to start school. Thank you, WalMart.

Ticket to Dream

Ticket to Dream has showered Agape Villages with some amazing donations. Agape Villages met Ms. Kayla White, Program & Impact Manager. Ms. Kayla filled the car with 150 primary colored backpacks filled with school supplies, 36 Smile kits, 6 boxes of diapers, shampoo and conditioner, and sporting goodies. Thank you for starting our Back to School with some amazing goodies.



Tri-Valley Church of Christ

Tri-Valley Church of Christ held a Back-to-School school supply drive. They delivered 27 backpacks stuffed with school supplies! Our kids are thrilled! Thank you!



Journey Christian Church

Journey Christian Church in Tracy started the back to school season in full swing for our kiddos. Miss Linda and the amazing volunteers of the church filled and donated 106 backpacks to Agape Villages. We were so happy to be able to pass along the wonderful filled backpacks. Thank you Linda and Journey Christian Church for your dedication, support and kind hearts.

Bombas Sock Fun!!

Ticket to Dream is in partnership with Bombas. With this amazing partnership, Agape Villages was so excited to receive a fun Bombas Sock donation. To our surprise the boxes were filled with Sesame Street Socks. The socks were colorful and so much fun. Thank you Ticket to Dream and Bombas for always keeping our kiddos' feet warm and cute.

Living Skills Program

Our Living Skills Program is designed for foster youth ages 15 – 21 years old, teaching them skills they will need in adulthood. Upcoming classes include Managing Stress and Anxiety, and Emotional Regulation and Mindfulness. It is also planned that an EMS worker will come and talk to the youth about Simple First Aid, When to Call 9-1-1, and Careers in EMS.

Meeting \$25K Matching Gift

Several donors joined together to offer a matching gift, dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000 total in August and September of 2023. We are thrilled to report we met the goal. We are thankful to everyone who made gifts.

Pleasanton Young Professionals

Our thanks to the Pleasanton Young Professionals (PYP), who are part of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, for raising money to support the children and youth at Agape. Their generous donation will make a difference in the lives of these kids. Thank you!



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

Our Professional Service Statistics

Current Year Statistics

(1/1/2023 to 9/11/2023)

- 96 – Foster Children Served Year-to-Date
- 29 – New Children in Care this Year
- 50 – Foster Children Currently in Care
- 47 – Certified Foster Families
- 6 – Adoptions Facilitated

Since We Began in 1958

- 6,643 – Foster Children Served
 - 4,000 – Through Sierra Children's Home
 - 2,643 – Through Agape Villages
- 590 – Foster Families who have Partnered with us in Foster Care

A Happy Child

By Edward Marquardt

Children who come into our foster care program have often been in what we call dysfunctional families. These are families who have struggled to properly care for their children and have not been able to provide a loving, stable home. They have poor parenting skills, likely have significant personal problems, possibly including drug and alcohol addiction, and have County social services agencies pressuring them to make improvements or else the children will have to be removed from the home. Every child who goes through this process experiences some level of trauma.



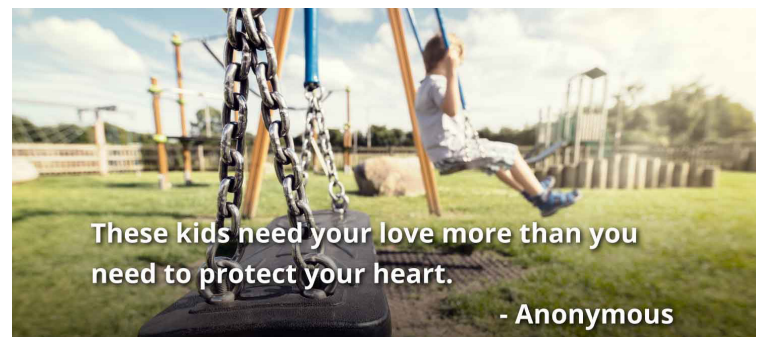
Edward Marquardt, MS
Program Director

Foster children have inherently learned to be cautiously optimistic in most scenarios following their placement in foster care. They can hope for a warm loving home and in most cases they will receive that. They can ask for "alone time" and if that is prudent and possible, given their history, they will receive that. They can ask for visits with family, siblings, food choices, visits, and phone privileges, and they will be afforded that also if permitted by the juvenile court and social services. They will have some semblance of home without their actual home, family, and familiarity. However, they will be in a new environment. The foster homes will be stable and nurturing homes.

Some children adapt fairly quickly to their new foster home. Sometimes it takes longer for children to bond to their new family. Our resource parents are trained to handle trauma and the fear and insecurity of the children. They give the children the space they need to adapt. The children will eventually learn that the foster home is a safe place. We are thankful for our wonderful foster parents, and the donors who make all of this possible.

PGA Tour Superstore

Our thanks to the PGA Tour Superstore for their very generous grant of \$2,500 which will provide services to our foster youth. Thank you!



These kids need your love more than you need to protect your heart.

- Anonymous

Agape Villages

3160 Crow Canyon Pl. #120
San Ramon, CA 94583
925-866-3020

Janet Kleyn, MBA
President and CEO

Edward Marquardt, MS
Program Director

Board of Directors

Cindae Hull, Chair
Walter Bruce, Secretary & 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.

65 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

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord..."

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

65 Years And Counting

From the President, Janet Kleyn

Agape Villages (then called Sierra Children's Home) was founded in 1958 by a group of men who wanted to help children less fortunate than their own. These men were in their 30's and 40's, married with children, had jobs and were leaders with church and community responsibilities. They had full plates by any measure.

But as Frank Curtis, one of the founding board members, told me a few years ago, "We saw a need and decided to do something about it." There was room in their lives and hearts to help children that no one else was helping. This need continues.

There are 53,000 children in foster care in California. These are disadvantaged children and youth who need us to care about them. We understand that not everyone can be a foster parent or a social worker. But everyone can help these children in some way.

For most people, the way to help is by making financial gifts. These gifts enable us to recruit, train and certify foster parents who open their hearts and homes to these children, providing love and safety. These gifts enable an Agape social worker to be in every foster home every week, talking with the child and parents, being sure that everything is going well, and providing additional resources when needed. These gifts provide extracurricular activities for the kids, building self-esteem, and an Independent Living Skills program for our teens.

We are 65 years old and with your help, we will be around for another 65 years serving kids.



AgapeVillages.org/Donate