

## My Hardships Have Led to Accomplishments

*By Jennifer Mi, Former Agape Foster Youth*

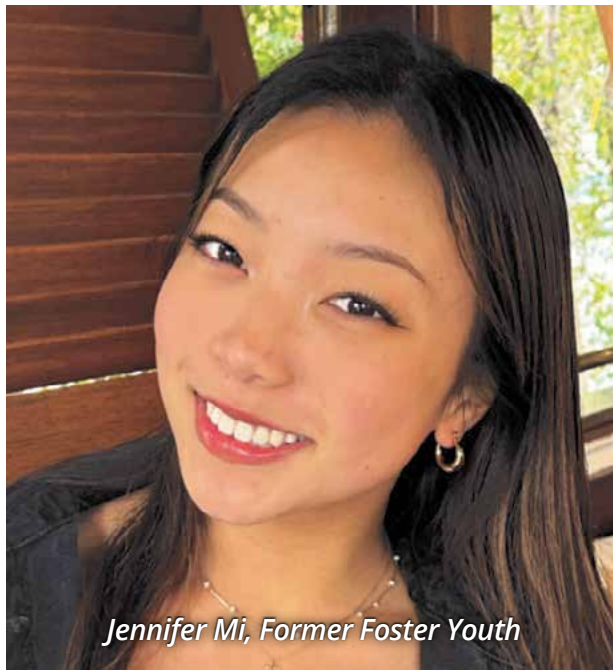
My sister and I entered California's foster care system in March 2014, at the ages of 8 and 14, due to our mother's death and father's incarceration. Initially, we were first placed in a county home in Hayward, but this was a struggle due to its distance from our schools.

We moved to an Agape foster home and were able to stay in our school district and hometown of Castro Valley. This was incredibly important to me because I had deep connections with the tight knit community here. Not only was I close to my teachers and friends, but both of us were very involved in activities at school and extracurricular activities, such as our club swim team. Fortunately, we were able to continue these activities in our Castro Valley placements with Agape.

Over time when I reached high school, I achieved many academic and athletic accomplishments. At school I served in various student council positions over the years, including being the district's student representative on the Castro Valley School Board.

I was also on the Varsity cheer and Varsity swim team, which I was captain of my senior year. Additionally, I spent my Mondays and Wednesday afternoons as an assistant coach for my former middle school's cheer team. This was especially rewarding for me because I was expected to be a positive role model for young girls

to look up to, and I enjoyed watching them progress and mature over the years. At the end of my senior year, I was chosen as a commencement speaker at my graduation ceremony, and also ended up receiving numerous scholarships and awards through the Castro Valley Educational Foundation.



*Jennifer Mi, Former Foster Youth*

These are all amazing experiences I would not have had if I were unable to stay in my school district. Agape has made these opportunities possible for me. I think one of the most difficult things about foster care is having to move around and establish new relationships every time, so I am incredibly thankful to have grown up in a supportive and stable community.

I remained in Agape's care through high school. I am now a freshman at UCLA pursuing a degree in political science, and continuing my passion for swimming through the UCLA club swim team. I often look back at my hometown of Castro Valley and I am

especially grateful for the people that have supported me along the way, including my Agape foster parents Paul and Victoria. All of my hardships have led to my accomplishments, and contributed to the scholar and overall person I am today.

### Christmas Gifts to All Our Children

Special thanks to VeVe Rodriguez and her crew at Bank of Stockton who not only made sure everyone of our children had their perfect gift for Christmas, but they were all beautifully wrapped. We appreciate you very much!

### A Message from County Placement Worker Regarding an Agape Foster Family.

"Your family that is caring for Brian (name changed), I had the pleasure of meeting last week. They are a very special duo and I wanted you to know how well they took the time to support our youth to feel comfortable and well cared for! I truly appreciate all the time and energy and money they have invested in such a short period of time, and I felt grateful and when I left the home as my youth appeared happy and comfortable."

# Stories From Foster Care

## *Teenager Thriving in Care*

Joel is a teenager and has been in Neil and Joyce's home for 3 months. He has had the usual ups and downs while adjusting to his new home. He meets with a therapist every week, helping him to process the trauma he's experienced in his life. He receives tutoring to help him catch up in school.

We don't know if Joel will be able to return to his birth family but we do know that he is safe and doing well in Neil and Joyce's home.

## *Baby Exposed to Drugs in Womb*

Lillian was just 5 days old when she was placed in Maria's home. Sadly, Lillian was exposed to drugs in the womb and exhibits the effects of this. These substances may cause short or long-term effects. For Lillian, she is having a tough time with withdrawal. Maria has been providing loving care to Lillian. It's been 3 months now and Lillian is doing well. We don't know what the future holds for Lillian but Maria is committed to Lillian for however long is needed.

## 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](http://AgapeVillages.org)



## Burney Church of Christ

The Burney Church of Christ recently made the difficult decision to sell their building. Agape was one of several good works they were able to bless with the proceeds from the sale. We are thankful.

## Shop with a Cop

Shop-with-a-Cop in Manteca was again exciting for Agape families this year. Agape children and youth had the opportunity to shop with a Manteca police officer. Children who were unable to participate received \$100 Walmart gift cards. Thank you - way to go, Manteca Chief's Police Foundation!

## Thank You To So Many!

### *From Janet Kleyn, President*

Thanks for all the hard work, dedication, support and generosity to Agape Villages. We thank you for being there for the children. There aren't enough words to express what your continued support and generosity means to us, not only during the Christmas season but throughout the year. We are truly grateful to Fostering Wishes, Austin Hooper Foundation, Ticket to Dream, Project Glimmer, Family Giving Tree and Set to Thrive. We also had some wonderful anonymous donors for the Christmas season, thank you so much. Please know how much you all mean to us at Agape Villages. Your thoughtfulness is a gift that we will always treasure.

## VOLUNTEERS IN THE Spotlight

Lisa Penn is one of our most faithful volunteers. What some of you don't know is that Lisa and her husband, Kamau, who recently passed away, foster-adopted their son through San Joaquin County. Lisa has first-hand experience of how important it is to provide a



Lisa Penn

loving, stable environment for a child in need. Lisa lives in Manteca. For the past 13 years, Lisa has worked in Global Marketing at SAP. Lisa has been in the background at Agape, helping with baskets, fundraising, flyers, and most recently on site at golf tournaments and the fireworks stand for the 12+ years that her twin sister Nina has been employed with Agape Villages. Thank you, Lisa.

## **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 [925-866-3020](tel:925-866-3020).

# We Have Great Opportunities

*By Cinda Hull, Board Chair*



I just had surgery on my shoulder. Amazingly, a great surgeon was able to repair damage I did to my rotator cuff during a fall. I know it will take time, but I am looking forward to a completely restored shoulder that works in its proper function in my body.

This made me think about Ephesians chapter 4 where Paul speaks to the function of the church and every part of it being held together and functioning according to our individual parts. The amazing thing about this and the entire book of Ephesians is the theme of love that accomplishes this feat. We have a great opportunity as believers to help those of us who need the repairs of their spirits and hearts that only love can give.

Some of the children who come to Agape have never known love or a loving family. They may have never been part of a family that knew how to nurture and bind them into that family by love. They have never been taught to be part of a functioning community. This is where our job comes in as supporters and resource parents involved in Agape — we have a great opportunity to nurture and help a little one grow to their greatest potential. We live in a world that suffers falls every day, but our love and guidance can make a difference in the children that we serve.

## Another Challenge Gift Met

Our friends at the Community Health & Education Foundation (CHEF) offered us a challenge. Every dollar donated in the month of October via credit card would be matched, \$1 for every \$2 donated, up to \$10,000. Our donors were terrific! We raised \$20,000 and received the maximum match of \$10,000. Thank you! CHEF! Maria Mancini is pictured with Janet Kleyn below.



## 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 2023. It was truly a stretch goal and we are thankful to everyone who made gifts.

## Thanks For Your Service, Cheryl!



Cheryl Lee has decided it is time for her to step down from the Agape Board of Directors. Cheryl says "It's been a privilege to serve on the Agape board" and assures us she will continue to be supportive of Agape. We thank Cheryl for her years of service to the children at Agape.

## Promoting Agape

Agape appreciated the opportunity to speak at the first annual Community Unity Benefit Concert at Sierra High School in Manteca. It was an honor to be one of the non-profit organizations chosen to discuss our important work. The wonderful music and thoughtful messages were an encouragement to all who attended!

## Coat Drive for Agape

Chez Shari, Uncle Frank's Grill and The Manteca Park Golf Course teamed up to sponsor a Christmas Coat Drive for the foster youth of Agape Villages. This was the perfect year as Manteca has seen the coldest winter ever! Our kids were so pleased to get all the brand-new wonderful coats from the golfers and participants. Thank you to John, Jeff, and Samantha for thinking of Agape Villages and our foster kids. We appreciate you!

## Our Professional Service Statistics

### Year End Statistics

(1/1/2023 to 12/31/2023)

- 104 – Foster Children Served Year-to-Date
- 37 – New Children in Care this Year
- 43 – Foster Children Currently in Care
- 44 – Certified Foster Families
- 10 – Adoptions Facilitated

### Since We Began in 1958

- 6,651 – Foster Children Served
  - 4,000 – Through Sierra Children's Home
  - 2,651 – Through Agape Villages
- 592 – Foster Families who have Partnered with us in Foster Care





# Memorial & Honor Gifts

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023 THROUGH FEBRUARY 19, 2024

## IN LOVING MEMORY

### ERLINDA ACOSTA

Gene & Mary Copeland

### ALLEN ASHLEY

Billie Ashley

### IRENE BARLEBEN

Peter & Juliet Nicklin

### H. M. BARNES

Don & Barbara Barnes

### ROY & BETTY BARTLETT

Christopher & Brittney Nunes

Judy Teeples

### NEDRA BEAL

Norman & Rebecca Cole

Cheryl Lee

Norman & Mary Wilson

### HOMER BENSON

Norma Benson

### RUSSELL & RANDALL BONNEAU

JoRita Bonneau

### TAHJ BRUCE

Heidi Bruce

Rich & Malia Bruce

Joanne Lenigan

### EARLIE & MARY BUSTER

Gene & Mary Copeland

### SHERMAN & ELMA CANNON

Jim & Caye Randolph

### ROBIN CARTER

Gene & Mary Copeland

### JOAN CHRISTIAN

Elmer & Doris Prout

### JIM CLARK

Janet Kleyn

Linda Lipsey

Bob & Mary Taylor

### RICHARD DEATHERAGE

Elmer & Doris Prout

### JOHN DIGGS

Elmer & Doris Prout

### MARY ESPING

Judy Price

### FRED FOLLOWILL

June Followill

### SAMUEL FREEMAN FORCE

Andrew Ware

### NANCY GARRAD

Judy Teeples

### LARRY GIPSON

Isabelle Gipson

### JAMES STANLEY GUSTAFSON

Barbara Gustafson

### PAT HALL

Betty Hall

### EDNA HAMES

Betty Hall

### ERNIE HARDMAN

Sue Kingsbury

### PEGGY HARRIS

Ann Malone

### HANK HELMHOLZ

Jerry & Karel Baxley

### BILL HUTTON

Janet Hames

### JOYCE JOHNSON

Judy Price

### WALTER JOHNSON

Norman & Mary Wilson

### WILLIAM & VAUGHNCELE KISER

Mark & Dianne Kiser

### BEVERLY KLEYN

Wanda Bonney

Janet Kleyn

Jim & Beth Kleyn

Rod & Shirley Moore

Michele Nannini

David & Christina Rice

### FRED & BEVERLY KLEYN

Robbie Bentley

### GORDON KRUGER

Bruce & Debbie Davis

### HANK & GINGER LAWSON

Gene & Mary Copeland

Jo Lawson

Ray & Celia Lawson

Debra Miller

### SHELBY & LYLA LONG

David & Sharon Keller

### DAVID MALONE

Ann Malone

### JOE MEARS

Sandra Cobb

Don & Mary Ann Dunn

Martin & Betty Harvey

Dick & Dodie Jones

Ken Jones

Janet Kleyn

Tony & Sheila Merritt

John Rogers

La Vonne Sibert

Tom & Amanda Spinka

### BOB OLIVER

Sarah Rockey

### KENNETH & DALE PECK

John & Vina Conley

Marlene Peck

### JIM & CAROLYN PERSALL

Ken & Jan Duvall

### SKYLER PEWITT

R. J. & Nancy Pewitt

### DON & JOAN POWER

Atwater Church of Christ

### JERRY ROBINSON

Betty Frazier

### DEANNA SENFT

Jerry & Karel Baxley

### ELMER SHARP

Bob & Mary Taylor

### LORENE SMITH

Sarah Rockey

### KELSEY THOMAS

Dev & Donna Ogle

### FRANK UHLER

Don & Gwen Minor

### ELLA DORINE WARREN

Cheryl Lee

### STEVE WATTS

Austin Watts

### JAN WEGGENMANN

Sandra Cobb

### GRACE LYNN WHITED

Loyce Foster

Bob & Mary Taylor

## IN HONOR AND RESPECT

### LENAE & JOSH AMANN

### MEGAN DOWELL

### JACLYN KUENZINGER

### KAYLA & STEVEN WALSH

### LEANN & CHRIS ZEPEDA

*Merry Christmas from Momie and Popie!*

- Jim & Mona Carper

### ADAM & SUZIE GRUBB

*With Honor and Respect!*

- Barbara Rockey

### JANET KLEYN

*With Appreciation!*

- Doug & Nancy Mead

- Rod & Shirley Moore

### DANAH NELSON

*With Love & Appreciation!*

- Michael Nelson

### CAYE RANDOLPH

*Happy Birthday!*

- Gene & Laura Consolo

### RODRIGUEZ FAMILY

*With Honor & Respect!*

- JoRita Bonneau

### GINGER SPARKS

*Happy Birthday, Grandmom!*

- Royce Dansby-Sparks

## Additional Grants Received

- Vasicek Foundation
- Building Dreams Foundation
- Tri-Valley Evening Rotary
- United Way of San Joaquin County
- Bank of Stockton
- Rotary Club of Danville/Sycamore Valley

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

*Nurturing Children Through Their Trauma*

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

# Christmas Parties for our Children and Youth

Agape Villages was able to unify all resource families into one location for our Christmas Holiday Celebration this year. What a great time we all had at John's Incredible Pizza in Modesto!! Meeting new families and friends, being surprised with gifts, enjoying all the delicious food and just having a good time.



We would like to thank all the Board Members, Agape Staff and their families who helped put this together. We couldn't do it without you. Special thanks to Turlock Church of Christ, Hughson Church of Christ, The Way Church in Manteca, and Manteca Property Services. Thank you again!

# FUNBOX Chooses Agape



Agape was thrilled to be chosen by FUNBOX to be the beneficiary of some of their proceeds. FUNBOX is the inspiration of Antonio Nieves, a former foster youth

himself. It is the world's biggest bounce park and moves from location to location across the country, helping local foster family agencies. Agape received a check for \$7,550! Thank you, Antonio and FUNBOX.



## A Legacy Gift

*Remember Agape Villages  
With The Ones You Love!*

### WILLS AND ESTATES

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



## Agape in Parades

Agape was pleased to participate in the 40th Anniversary Light Parade in San Ramon and the Holiday Sights & Sounds Parade in Livermore. Our thanks to Jon Johnston for letting us use his 1956 Ford F100 truck and to Brett Richardson for decorating the truck.



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

## Supporting Churches in 2023

We are very thankful for the support we receive from congregations all over California and beyond. Below is a listing of the 28 churches providing support to Agape Villages in 2023 and we are thankful!

- ♥ Anderson Church of Christ
- ♥ Atwater Church of Christ
- ♥ Burney Church of Christ
- ♥ Central Church of Christ (Santa Maria)
- ♥ Central Church of Christ (Sacramento)
- ♥ Chico Church of Christ
- ♥ Chino Church of Christ
- ♥ Church of Christ of Ripon
- ♥ Eureka Church of Christ
- ♥ Empire Church of Christ
- ♥ Fulton Road Church of Christ (Santa Rosa)
- ♥ Healdsburg Church of Christ
- ♥ Hughson Church of Christ
- ♥ John Knox Presbyterian Church (Dublin)
- ♥ Lathrop Church of Christ
- ♥ La Puente Church of Christ
- ♥ Lincoln Church of Christ
- ♥ Martinez Church of Christ
- ♥ Mission Viejo Church of Christ
- ♥ Oakdale Church of Christ
- ♥ Orangevale Church of Christ
- ♥ Parkway Church of Christ (Sacramento)
- ♥ Rincon Valley Church of Christ (Santa Rosa)
- ♥ Roseville Church of Christ
- ♥ Turlock Church of Christ
- ♥ Tyler Street Church of Christ (Sacramento)
- ♥ United Lutheran Church (Manteca)
- ♥ Valley Christian Fellowship (Manteca)



## Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance

Agape Villages Foster Family Agency is grateful to the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNPA) for a very generous grant of \$5,000 to allow us to recruit, train and certify foster parents in the Tri-Valley area. This will allow us to serve more abused and neglected children, providing them with safe, loving homes. Pictured L-R are Kathy Young, TVNPA CEO and President, Janet Kleyn and Marti Sutton, TVNPA Board Chair.



## Christmas Gifts



The amazing young ladies of D.S.A. Lounge, Deidra Moncada, Sonia Rosales and Ashley Brandt, hosted a toy drive from their beautiful salon in Livermore. The young ladies worked hard to collect toys with the help of their clients, family and friends. They also worked endlessly to wrap each and every gift. These young ladies have such kind hearts. Thank you so much for thinking of the children at Agape.

## Thank you, Eric

Eric came by with a bunch of Christmas gifts for our children this Christmas. Thank you again for your kindness and loving generosity to others in need.



## A Little Extra Surprise

Thank you to Pallau for stopping by with a couple of bags of extra fun for the children at Agape. What a nice surprise. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.



## Practical Gifts

Rachel, Everett and Parker came by to drop off a large donation of toiletries for the Agape children. We are so grateful to see them again this Christmas. Thank you again!



## Tighten-Up Charity Drive

San Jose Harley Davidson hosted their 3rd annual Tighten-Up charity drive which benefited Agape Villages. The event featured a car & motorcycle show, "pin-up girls," music, food and drinks! This event provided toiletries and \$2,100 in donations to Agape. Thank you so much to Miss Lacy and her amazing crew of Tighten-Up for such a fun experience and all the donations and contributions. Pictured are Al Roberson, Miss Lacy of Tighten-Up, Lisa Foster and Alyssa Flores.



## Helping Hands Calvary Community Church

The wonderful ladies from Helping Hands Calvary Community Church in Manteca brought by some sewn and crocheted goods such as beanies, blankets, and bags. Thank you for thinking of the children and youth at Agape!



## More Gifts!

Thank you to Ford Motor Company UAW Local 76 employees in Manteca for many Christmas gifts for our children and youth!



## 10x Genomics

Robin and her fellow 10x Genomics team in Pleasanton donated gifts for our children. This certainly has a way for making our families feel extra special. It was such a delightful surprise during the Christmas season. Your act of generosity warms our hearts. Thank you all again!



SO MUCH  
TO BE

# THANKFUL

FOR!

## Erik's DeliCafe Gifts



Our thanks to Erik's DeliCafe San Ramon, The Specific Chiropractic Centers and the San Ramon Chamber of Commerce for the wonderful toy drive they organized. Pictured are Heidi Kenniston-Lee, President/CEO of the San Ramon Chamber of Commerce, Jorge Gutierrez, Erik's DeliCafe San Ramon, and Janet Kleyn, President/CEO of Agape. Our kids loved the gifts!

## Giving Tuesday 2023 Benefits Agape

Giving Tuesday occurred on November 28 last year, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Agape received \$2,500 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!

## Midtown Church

We thank the Midtown Church (Sacramento) for their generous gifts for the children at Agape.



## Tyler Street Church of Christ

Agape was pleased to have a booth at the Tyler Street Church of Christ Fall Festival. We were able to let the community know about Agape and the great need in California for resource (foster) parents. Tell others you know about this need!

## Jail 'N Bail 2023

Our annual event was held in the month of October. It was virtual, allowing people to participate as jailbirds from all over the State and beyond. More than \$12,000 was raised! Our thanks to everyone who participated, as jailbirds and those who "bailed" them out of jail.

## The Alliance

Agape board member Danah Nelson and Agape staff member Nina Payne attended a gala event hosted by The Alliance in the greater Sacramento region. The Alliance is a network of agencies, nonprofits, community members, businesses and churches working together to protect kids and strengthen families. Their mission is to ensure all children grow up in a safe, loving family and that local families have access to the resources and support needed to create a healthy, interconnected community. Agape is a member of The Alliance. We receive gifts and important support from The Alliance. Thank you!



## Gifts from Tyler Street Church of Christ



Board member Danah Nelson is shown delivering Christmas presents from the Tyler Street Church of Christ (Sacramento) to Social Worker Supervisor Brian Bossemeyer for the kids at Agape. The sleigh (car) was full! Thank you, Tyler Street!

## 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. Owners and friends of the club dropped off unwrapped gifts. 80 gift cards were donated and over \$400 worth of toys. Thank you!



## Love Stanislaus Event

Lisa Foster and her daughter, Isabella, (pictured) took part in the Love Stanislaus County Comfort Kit Drive for the 6th year. They helped assemble comfort kits for our children. Agape Villages was given 64 comfort kits





# Fairways Fore Foster Kids 2023



We have been holding our “Fairways Fore Foster Kids” golf fundraising event in Manteca for 19 years now. Our tournament was called “The A Teeples & Agape Villages Tournament” this year. We went back to a one event tournament this year. We had 92 golfers participate this year and raised over \$36,000 (gross) in support of our foster care program!

**First Place Gross: I.J. Larsen Pumps Team & Sponsor:** Jerrold Kennedy, Rudy Marquez, Tristan Jaramillo and Mark Ackerman.

**Second Place Gross: Hull’s Millwork Team & Sponsor:** Steve Keifer, Nick Mueller, Frank Souza and Brian Smith.

**First Place Net:** Randy Renfro and Jeremy Redman.

**Second Place Net:** Joe Rendon, Kevin Storman and James Kaley.

We would like to thank Mark and Patty Anglin as we are becoming known for our delicious freshly grilled hotdog lunch on the course! We appreciate our sponsors and those who participated. Let us hear from you if you’d like to participate in any way next year.

— **EVENT SPONSOR** —  
A Teeples Plumbing

— **GOLD SPONSOR**—  
Lisa Penn

— **SILVER+ SPONSOR** —  
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— **BRONZE SPONSORS** —  
Oak Valley Community Bank  
South San Joaquin Irrigation District  
Hull’s Millwork, Inc.  
I.J. Larsen Pumps  
District Council 16

— **TEE SPONSORS** —

AMPWRX Solar Solutions  
Hackworth Real Estate  
Holt of CA

Janet Kleyn, Agape Villages Board Member  
Law Offices of Eddie C. Torres

— **DONATED ITEMS** —

Safeway Inc.— Gift Cards  
Costco — Gift Cards  
South San Joaquin Irrigation  
District — Golf Bags  
Chez Shari — Hot Dogs, Support  
Lisa Penn — Bloody Mary Table and 10 Baskets  
Lisa Foster — 3 Baskets  
Maritza Poquiz — 1 Gift Card  
Dave Bricker — 6+ Baskets  
Bank of Stockton —1 basket



## Upcoming Foster Parent 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!



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

## 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!)

## Loving and Intentional Care of Children

One of the many aspects of Agape Villages that I enjoy is being a part of meeting, interacting, and visiting with our resource (foster) homes that have children placed in their care. These parents have chosen to take children into their homes to nurture and guide them through trauma and some tumultuous times. I admire them so much for their strength of personality and an abundant heart to take on such a critical role in children's lives.



Edward Marquardt,  
MS Program Director

Some homes have a pattern and family history of providing foster care that is passed down from their parents and grandparents who previously opened their homes as caregivers. They did this to provide protection and love to the untethered children who have been thrust into the foster care system. I remember children that were homeless, neglected, and viewed as a burden to people that should have had the sense of caring and responsibility. Unfortunately, some circumstances beyond their control have altered their perception and their priorities.

Our resource homes are the critical answer to bridge the gap so that children have a chance to experience purposeful, well-intentioned homes. Homes that are trained and motivated to stand ready, twenty-four hours a day, who willingly take these children into their home, sight-unseen, disregarding their personal history and their fragmented and broken lives. Their goal is only to meet the child's needs personally, physically and emotionally. What an awesome challenge! Our homes express compassion and love. They give hope to a child, a stranger to their home. They show love in many forms of caring to a child who has been displaced by circumstance. These children experience the goodness of loving parents, a warm bed, and a safe environment. A well intentioned home.

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

## Platinum Sponsors



# Gold Sponsors



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# Silver Sponsors

**BOYKIN Burkley, LLC**

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# Bronze Sponsors



Manteca Sunrise

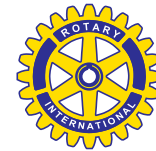


Randy Brown  
DRE# 01465366



WHITE OAK LAW  
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

Jeff & Kathy  
Narum



Pleasanton North  
Rotary Club



# Copper Sponsors



Stephen T. Webb  
Realtor  
916-283-7500



## 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  
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**



*Janet Kleyn, President*

### **ROMANS 12:12-13:**

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."

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

# Hope for a Better Future

*From the President, Janet Kleyn*

Aristotle once said, "Hope is a waking dream." As I relate this thought to the hope we provide to children, I think of some of the situations from which children come to us. Many have come from dysfunctional homes where they have endured abuse, neglect and other forms of mistreatment which has required them to be removed from their homes for their protection.

The hope for a better life and a better future for these children awakens for them. When we take children into our foster care program, our foster families wrap their loving arms around them. Children are now in a safe place where their needs will be met as we work diligently to secure a stable permanent future home for them. Our work often includes efforts to help their families who have struggled, but need our compassion and help. Even though children and youth come from difficult beginnings, their future is bright. With a new year comes many

continued opportunities for us to touch the lives of more children and families in need.

I also think of several children who recently left our foster care program to go back to live with their birth families. This is another kind of joy we have as hope is restored and families reunited. All of this underscores how important the work of Agape is and the value of your support.

We all wish you the best in 2024! We encourage everyone to do their very best to be hope givers!

