We are thrilled to announce that Agape Villages received its adoption license last March. We sought this license to enable us to continue to work with our foster (resource) families who adopt children out of foster care.

Children come into the foster care system due to sad stories of abuse, neglect, abandonment and the inability of their birth families to care for them. The difficulties and trauma that children experience because of all of this is so unfortunate. Thankfully, there are loving families who open their homes, take these children in and meet their every need. Our social workers and families help the children deal with their fears, insecurities, trauma and many other issues. They establish a unique kind of bonding as the children overcome their issues.

Adoption is a path some foster children travel because of the seriousness of the situation with the birth families where the children cannot be reunited with them. The state then has to terminate the parental rights of the children and then look for a family to adopt the children. When this happens for children in care with our foster families, we find that they often want to adopt the children when this is the “permanency” plan. In the past, when our families accepted the adoption plan, because we did not have an adoption license, our families had to be referred to another adoption agency to do the work involved in the process of finalizing the adoptions. Now, we can continue to provide these services and allow our families to stay working with the agency and workers they have come to love and trust.

Our adoption work includes doing the extra work in supporting families through the process, helping with the legal requirements of the adoption, writing reports to the courts and everything else involved in ensuring a smooth transition for families as they assume full legal custody of children. When adoption occurs, we know the story, which began for children out of pain and despair, ends with heart warming stories associated with the power of love.

I’d like to share a little about my life’s story because I know it somewhat resembles the stories of some of the children in the care of Agape Villages. It was my life’s experiences that led me to serve on the Board of Directors of Agape Villages which I did for several years.

I was born to a single mother who already had two other young children. My mother was unable to care for another baby and allowed a family friend to take care of me when I was six months old. My mother eventually agreed to let this family adopt me. What a life changing decision this has been for me!

I am one who has had a wonderful childhood with my adoptive family. I was totally accepted by the family. I was always told how special I was because I was chosen to be a part of the family. They celebrated me and made me feel so loved. Most people never knew I was adopted until I started volunteering with Agape Villages and telling my story.

I know many children in the foster care system have not had the blessings of a stable and loving family like I have had. That is why I am so proud to be a supporter of this agency which tries so hard to help find loving families for disadvantaged children. The quality of our professional social service staff is tremendous and so important as the agency serves some children from challenging backgrounds.

I think about how scary it is for a child to come into a stranger’s home. This can be very traumatic for a child. But how fortunate they are to be at Agape Villages. I want to thank everyone who has a part in helping Agape Villages serve these precious children.
We Need Foster Parents!
— Every Child Deserves a Home —

We receive calls almost daily about children needing a foster home. We serve children who’ve been abused, neglected, abandoned and mistreated in ways they need to be removed from their own families for their protection. These are children who’ve been thrust into the foster care system, who depend on the mercy of others for their care.

We need families for children of all ages, especially children 10 years and older and sibling groups. Consider today how you can be used to care for children. For more information on foster parenting, call the Agape Villages office at 800-566-2225. Also, see our website at AgapeVillages.org. Thank you!

Three Sisters Go Home to Mom

It is a wonderful victory when we see children in our foster care program get to go home to be reunited with their parents! For the last 13 months, we’ve been serving three sisters, ages 8, 10 and 12 years, in one of our loving foster (resource) families. They originally came into the foster care system because their mother was determined not capable of properly caring for the girls. The girls’ birth father was not in the picture.

The girls adjusted quickly to their new home with our foster family. They thrived because of the stability and structure of the home. Our foster family was able to model this kind of structure for their mother.

Thankfully, their mother worked hard at her “case plan,” taking parenting classes, improving her financial situation and dealing with the issues she had that caused concern to the authorities.

As their mother continued to make good progress, the time came to start more frequent home visits with the view of the girls returning home. The girls were somewhat hesitant at first, having experienced inconsistency and disappointment from their mother in the past. However, this time it has been different.

The girls have now been home several weeks. Our social worker made a home visit recently and confirmed the children and mother were doing well. Congratulations to all!

Four Sisters Come Into Care

One of the priorities in foster care is to try to keep siblings together when they come into care. It is so much more difficult for them when they have to be split up. Finding homes who will take in siblings is very challenging for agencies, especially when there are more than three siblings.

When we got the call about four sibling sisters needing a placement, we were fortunate to have a foster family willing to take them in! They are one of our newly certified families and this is their first placement experience. The girls are ages 5, 6, 7 and 8 years. This family already has two daughters, so their home is full and very busy!

When foster families agree to take on such a challenging task, it is very helpful for family and friends to step up to support the family. Our staff will do the same!

The goal of the placement is to return the children back to their mother. She is working hard on making improvements and we’ll see how this goes. Meanwhile the girls are safe, happy and together.

More Stories

A glimpse of how we make a difference! (The names have been changed.)

Cindae Hull is one of our hardworking board members. Cindae helps out at our events in the Valley and beyond. She’s just always that extra pair of hands you need, happy to help anywhere, and not waiting to be asked. Cindae worked for Stanislaus County before staying home to homeschool her 3 children through high school. She currently works for the Central Valley Association of Realtors in Lathrop. Cindae and her husband John love kids and they love Agape. And we love you, Cindae and John!

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 866-922-4273.

www.AgapeVillages.org
Jesus often talks about living on earth so that, when the time comes, we can enjoy eternal life in heaven. He wants us to have the end in mind as we go about living in the here and now. By doing this, we can stay focused on what is really important. That is why Jesus says to “lay up treasures in heaven” in Matthew 6:20.

So, what can be our treasures? We know the worldly-minded person can be obsessed with making money, becoming wealthy and doing things in this life only to fulfill selfish desires. However, as the scriptures say, these can be taken away. The Godly person wants to live life in ways that are pleasing to God. To do this, we want to use our treasures for living a life of love and service.

Our treasures can relate to our money, but they can also relate to our time, our talents, our heart and our energy. When I think of so many who are involved with helping the orphans of today, children and youth in the foster care system, I’m sure a large part of the motivation behind this is love and concern for those in need. We want to help vulnerable children who are in harm’s way. I believe that as we do this, we are laying up treasures in heaven!

The scriptures are clear that God cares about the disadvantaged, the poor, the oppressed, the orphans and widows and those who Jesus called “the least of these” in Matthew 25. We believe the work of Agape Villages is work that is close to the heart of God.

We are so thankful for those who respond to the high calling of being foster parents for some of the most vulnerable in our society. They use their skills and abilities and follow the leading of their loving hearts to help us make a huge difference for the children who come into our care.

We are also thankful for those who share their wealth with us which enables us to do this work. You are laying up treasures in heaven. The children are the true beneficiaries.

In this sense, we are treasures hunters! We always seek to find families to join us as foster parents and caring donors who can provide financial support for our work. We cherish each one!

Spring in the Valley Dinner

Agape held the 2nd Annual Spring in the Valley Dinner in March to rave reviews! Agape social worker Brian Bossemeyer shared some of the day-to-day experiences working with foster youth and foster (resource) families. Former Agape foster youth, Anjru DeLeon, inspired us all with his story of overcoming years of abuse as a child. There wasn’t a dry eye in the room when he explained his joy at finally knowing what it meant to be loved when he was placed with his foster mom, Betty Cousins.

Board treasurer, Hank Lawson, emceed with his usual flair and outlined the importance of gifts at every level during the Fund-a-Need portion of the evening. Between the Central Valley Advisory Council’s hard work, board member Steve Vawter’s prowess at the barbecue, and the generosity of attendees, Agape raised over $17,000! A special thank you goes to A. Teeples Plumbing for sponsoring the dinner and the Ripon Church of Christ for the use of their beautiful new building! We also appreciate Sarah Rockey and her team of volunteers handling the decorations and the Martinez Church of Christ for their generous donations.
Sacramento Annual Dinner

Our 7th Annual Sacramento area Fundraising Dinner took place on May 11th at the Roseville Church of Christ. The theme of the dinner was “Be a Hero, Rescue a Child.” The event raised $22,000 to help the children and youth Agape serves. Our speakers were Brian Bossemeyer and Anjru DeLeon who gave the same messages as they did at the “Spring in the Valley Dinner” (see page 3).

We have many people to thank. Special thanks to our evening sponsor “Goldrush Getaways” who also made a generous donation of 3 cruises to Mexico for 2 and a River Cats Luxury suite package. Thanks to Danah Nelson and her team of volunteers. Thanks to the men of Roseville for BBQ’ing that evening. Thanks also to John and Cynthia Diggs, dinner chefs, Roseville Church of Christ for the use of their building, D.W. Jones, Country Western Singer/Songwriter, emcee Jeremy Oestreich and auctioneers Stephen T. Webb and Carolyn Adams. Thanks to everyone who donated desserts, gift baskets and other items for the auctions!

Help us Change the World
By David Lee, Chair, Board of Directors

My father died over thirty years ago, but I still think about him often. He was a faithful Christian, loving husband and devoted father. One of his hobbies was woodworking. He could take an off round piece of wood that others thought useless and turn it into a gorgeous salad bowl. Turning discarded pieces of furniture into bookcases, nightstands, or serving platters was not beyond his ability. His patience and attention to detail made the objects he worked on practical and beautiful. He had the foresight to see what unappreciated pieces could become when given loving care.

I see this same persistent devotion in our Agape staff and foster parents. What they do is infinitely more important than woodworking, because they take children who have been discarded, mistreated, or neglected and, with love, endurance, and patience, turn them into loving, happy, and trusting people. They are literally making the world a better place one child at a time.

I would like to ask you to consider being a guiding influence in a child’s life. It won’t always be easy, but worthwhile things are seldom easy. Think about it, and get in touch with us if you would like to serve in this wonderful endeavor. You too can be someone who changes the world for the better, one child at a time.

Additional Corporate Gifts Received Recently

Goldrush Getaways - $2,500; Peerless Products - $1,500; A. Teeples Drilling Co. - $1,000; The Athenian School - $513 & Costco - $500

Our Professional Service Statistics

Current Year Statistics
(From 1/1/19 to 6/14/19)

134 – Foster Children Served Year-to-Date
35 – New Children in Care this Year
91 – Foster Children Currently in Care
71 – Certified Foster Families

Since We Began in 1958

6,353 – Foster Children Served
• 4,000 – Through Sierra Children’s Home
• 2,353 – Through Agape Villages
521 – Foster Families who have Partnered with us in Foster Care
Tips for Change

Gianni’s Tips for Change was a huge success! We raised $3,500, and our volunteer servers had a wonderful time serving the guests. A big thank you to Melanie and Gianni Bartoletti for their charitable hearts.

Grant Received

Harry Bonn presenting $1500 grant from Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley to Agape Villages’ President, Janet Kleyt. Thanks again!

Grant to Agape

We are thankful to the Dublin/San Ramon Women's Club for their generous grant of $500.

Big Day of Giving Results

The Big Day of Giving held on May 2nd raised over $1,300 for Agape. As you will remember, this is an internet effort in certain regions nationally. We appreciate everyone who participated this year and hope more will take advantage of this opportunity next year!

Birthday Boxes

Keller Williams in Roseville has completed a project for foster kids: Birthday Boxes. These decorated boxes contain everything you need to celebrate a birthday, complete with cake mix, frosting, décor, plates, napkins, balloons, and a birthday card with a special celebratory message. Agape is thankful to have received 25 Birthday Boxes. Thank you, Keller Williams in Roseville.

Special Gift

We are thankful to The Dorris-Eaton School Student Council in San Ramon for their generous donation of $1,260. Kids helping kids - it's great! Thank you.

Duffle Bags

Connor and Logan Zanin brought 10 duffle bags from Together We Rise. Our teens will love them. Thank you, boys.

Easter Bags

Good SamariTots provides a space where families can learn about and engage in kid friendly community service projects together. Brooklyn and Everly are delivering Easter gift bags from Good SamariTots. Thank you, girls and thank you, Good SamariTots!!

Providing Christmas Gifts

Mark Anglin, Agape board member, delivering gifts that he and his wife Patty collected for the children at Agape. Wow, thanks for giving so many gifts for our children! We wish you could have seen the smiles on the faces of the children. It’s great to make the holidays as cheerful as possible!

Save the Date!

7th Annual Dinner & Auction in Pleasanton

Saturday, October 12th
6:00 p.m.
At the Marriott Pleasanton
11950 Dublin Canyon Rd
Pleasanton, CA
February 24, 2019 through June 15, 2019

In Loving Memory

ERLINDA ACOSTA
Gene & Mary Copeland
Hank & Betty Lawson

DOROTHY ALLEY
Jerry & Karel Baxley

JO ANDERSON
June Johnston

ALMEDA AVEDIKIAN
Karen Avedikian
Michael & Rena Avedikian

RAY BENSON
Burt & Marilyn Black

TAHJ BRUCE
Walt & Terry Bruce

EARLIE & MARY BUSTER
Gene and Mary Copeland
Hank & Betty Lawson

LOIS CARPENTER
Betty Robertson

RETA CLARK
Michael & Rena Avedikian

AILEEN DENDY
Ron, Chris & Joyce Nolan

LAUREN ELIZABETH DUFFY
Karen Treat

BETTY FERRELL
John Rogers

REBA GIFFORD
Norma Benson
Janet Kleyn
Hank & Betty Lawson
Danah Nelson

DEREK HUERTA
Dale & Marlene Peck

MADELINE JOHNS
Phyllis Tackett

WILLIAM & VAUNGCELE KISER
Mark & Dianne Kiser

FRED KLEYN
Beverly Kleyn

JARED KEITH LAINE
Janet Kleyn
John Rogers

In Honor And Respect

WILLIAM McNEAL “MAC” LANKFORD
Lois Lankford

GINGER LAWSON
Gene & Mary Copeland
Hank and Betty Lawson
Jo Lawson
Ray & Celia Lawson
Debra Miller

DICK LIGHTFOOT
Fred & June Followill
Janet Kleyn
Hank & Betty Lawson
John Rogers

SHELBY & LYLA LONG
David & Sharon Keller

OPAL MARSH
Penny Brantley

ANITA MELTON
Beverly Kleyn & Family

ART MELLING
Aaron & Ethel Melling

JOYCE PARTAIN
Elaine Callis

DICK PERCIVAL
Janet Kleyn
Hank & Betty Lawson
Sarah Rockey

HUBERT POTTER
Tom & Barbra Tuggle

EVELYN JUNE POWER
Tim & Tonya Power

DEANNA SENFT
Jerry & Karel Baxley

HARTFORD SMITH
David & Sue Alderete
Central Valley Almond Association
Greenfield Family
Ruth Taylor

BOBBY SPARKS
Tom & Sue Hardy

LEITH & EDNA SWEGLES
Lloyd & Rhonda Fisher

ELIZABETH ANN TREAT
Karen Treat

LINDA ELIZABETH TREAT
Karen Treat

PAUL BORIE TREAT
Karen Treat

EVLIN TUCKER
Peggy Jo Tucker

ET & RUTH TUGGLE
Tom & Barbra Tuggle

SAMUEL VAN UNEN
Scott & Lorene Smith

HANK LAWSON
A Great Dad!
Jo Lawson

HANK & BETTY LAWSON
With Love & Respect!
Ray & Celia Lawson

DAVID & JEANETTE LEE
Thankful for our friendship!
Wyba Nienstadt

JOY MEARS
Happy Birthday, Sister!
LaVonne Sibert

CAROLYN MILLER
With Honor & Respect!
Ron & Alberta Johnson

STEPHANIE PINO
Happy Birthday!
Louise Little
Arley Pino

NORMA POTTER
With Respect!
Tom & Barbra Tuggle

JIM & JENNIFER SKINNER
With Love & Respect!
Jon Hamilton

GINGER SPARKS
With Love & Respect!
Tom & Sue Hardy

Donate Your Car Today!
Call Car Program at 1-800-513-6560

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: _______________________________________

We Must Share the Blessing of Family
Agape Villages • 3160 Crow Canyon Place, Suite 120 • San Ramon, CA 94583

Agape Villages • 3160 Crow Canyon Place, Suite 120 • San Ramon, CA 94583
We are so pleased to announce that “Celebrate You Coaching” is working with our youth at Agape. Celebrate You Coaching is a grassroots non-profit that serves the East Bay. This organization serves to Empower & Equip individuals with essential life skills to live a healthy and sustainable life through first, gaining employment from building from their natural strengths and talents, and second, reaching financial stability with the hope of ending cyclical poverty for disadvantaged youth. They are specialists in helping individuals in transitions through one-on-one coaching and community workshops.

Celebrate you Coaching will be working with our youth and social workers at Agape in order to provide supplemental assistance to our youth ages 14-21. We at Agape welcome and are so grateful to work in conjunction with resources that assist our so deserving youth with life skills that will help to enhance their overall lives.

Training continues to be a focus area with our resource parents, even in the summer! Upcoming trainings include (a) Is It ADHD, Autism, or Both? A Parent’s Guide to Social and Emotional Health, (b) Cultural Competency (understanding and communicating effectively with people from all walks of life and various cultures), (c) Cultural Humility (being aware of one’s own world view while developing positive and open perceptions towards cultural diversity), and (d) Trauma Informed Care (understanding and providing environments for our youth that are healing and trauma sensitive). These trainings are led by Courtney McAlister and Dave Roach, Agape social workers, and supported by experts in the field.

We have many to thank for their help and participation: Candy Windschitl for providing us with much needed equipment and for all of her help with set-up and clean-up; Jose Ramirez for showing off his amazing talent by doing an astounding job of face painting for the kids and adults; Bella Foster for her endearing dedication to the kids that we serve, and always volunteering, and helping us out with whatever needs to be done; Chris Foster for his help with set-up and clean-up; and Kevin Youngblood for his generosity in providing the generator and helping with set-up and clean-up as well.

We thank the Agape staff for all of their efforts, planning and dedication! A special shout out to Gordon Kennedy and GK Music, and all of the children that participated in the bands which were made up of kids of all ages. These kiddos rocked it, by playing and singing tunes from old time favorite bands such as Cake, Pearl Jam, and Panic at the Disco.

Program Activities
Some of the Ways we Serve the Children and Youth in our Care

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Living Skills Program

The youth in the Living Skills Program met in May to discuss Nutrition. Joyce Bishop from the UC CalFresh Nutrition Education Program spoke about healthy eating and preparing nutritious foods. The youth also had the opportunity to prepare a healthy meal. In July, the Living Skills Program will attend a tour at Delta College to see the campus and learn more about the programs and resources that Delta offers to foster and college youth.

In addition to the unicorn, each of the girls helped paint the word FAMILY. Each picked a color, a letter and painted. They had lots of laughing, tons of painting and enjoyed some yummy snacks. After they picked up their mess, they all headed for lunch. They all want to know what will be next!!!
"Does my gift really matter?" We hear comments like this from some of our donors from time-to time as they hear about many gifts coming into Agape, especially as we highlight some of these in our newsletters. Let me quickly and passionately affirm, “YES!,” we greatly need all of the charitable funding we can get!

The reality is, it is expensive to run a quality foster care program. We do receive state funds as reimbursement for the children who come to us who are in state custody. However, these funds do not come near to providing the total support we need to serve these children, support our families, pay our professional social service staff and fund the agency as we need to in order to meet our standards of quality.

Our commitment to a high standard of quality is substantiated in that we are now a nationally accredited agency! We believe the children we serve deserve the very best we can give them. They must come first!

Yes, Agape is blessed with generous grants from foundations and corporations. However, they only make up 6% of our charitable support. 73% of our donated funds comes directly from caring individuals. 21% comes through our fund-raising events.

Another reality we face is that it is not easy to raise funds. We work hard to find the money to keep our agency going each and every month and each and every year. This is a struggle for us and is the one thing that keeps me up at night. So, yes, your gifts matter tremendously to us! And have for 60 years.

We are thankful for each gift we receive! This is not a trite saying. It comes from our heart. Without you, there would be no Agape.