

Reaching Out



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER *Fall 2018*



Staff Appreciation Luncheon

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Make A Difference

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A LETTER FROM *Sierra Vista*

Summer is gone and we begin to feel the cool, crisp mornings of fall. The end of a season of vacations, our employee appreciation BBQ and making great memories with our Sierra Vista team.

This year's All Staff BBQ activities focused on the recognition of those who have been on our Sierra Vista team for 5 or more years. Watching each employee come forward to receive their gift of recognition reconfirmed why our team is so strong. Our *Commitment to Caring* begins with caring about each other and our families. We filled the day with team building activities, meeting team members from other programs and lots of laughter.

As our Sierra Vista team meets the needs of so many in our communities, the challenge can be real. It can be difficult; the stories can be sad and even heartbreaking, but that is what makes Sierra Vista unique. Our services come from our *Commitment to Caring*. We are all here to improve the lives of those who are struggling throughout Stanislaus and Merced Counties. We are strengthening families and communities by transforming lives. Each year the number of individuals we serve grows, and we can always count on our staff to give 100%.

Our Event Department and the committee were hard at work planning an incredible Hearts for Children event. Our theme this year was Harry Potter and the evening promised to be amazing with Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry coming to life. The meal was amazing, the decorations over the top and the opportunity to visit with

friends was an evening well spent. Everyone who joined us at this magical event was appreciated.

Several months ago, I announced that it is time for me to retire and to turn the pleasure of leading Sierra Vista Child & Family Services to someone who will be as passionate about it as I am. Well, we are almost there. We are finishing our interviews and are hoping to have our new CEO by early next year (we will keep you posted). This year could have very well been my last Heart's for Children event as the CEO of Sierra Vista, so I am happy you joined me in making this one a smashing success!

As we continue to add new contracts and new services, we appreciate your ongoing support. Funding, often, doesn't cover the need for services. Together we can improve the lives of children and families in our communities.



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Director of Marketing & Fund Development



STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Celebrating the hard work of our dedicated staff

This past August we got the opportunity to celebrate the hard work of our dedicated staff at our Annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon. The event took place at our Kirk Baucher Non-Public School. We are fortunate enough to have a space to accommodate our large group of employees. This year was probably the most well-attended staff appreciation lunch of all.

As in years past, there were many exciting highlights to note upon at this year's luncheon. For starters, all staff received a brand new Sierra Vista Polo. Staff also took place in a raffle that included many great prizes this year, just to name a few; an Apple iWatch; Rumba vacuum and a GoPro Sport!

This year we did something a little different and decided to shake it up with a couple of friendly competitions. Considering the Beach Party theme of the event, each table competed against one another in a "Sand Castle" challenge,

and winners were given extra tickets to the raffle! Staff also got to participate in a game of Kahoots! - where they battled against one another over answers to questions in regards to the agency. Kahoots! ended up being a lot of fun and it was interesting to see just how little or how much each group actually knew about the agency!

Most importantly employees were recognized for their milestone years of service with Sierra Vista - 15 years, 10 years, and 5 years.





18TH ANNUAL HEARTS FOR CHILDREN

Supporting children & families as Harry Potter comes alive!

"But you know, happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light" – Albus Dumbledore. This was the message for the night at the Sierra Vista 18th Annual Hearts for Children event this year. The Harry Potter theme represented and brought awareness to Sierra Vista's determination to create a brighter future for the children and families within our community whose world seems to be a little bit dimmer than the average child or family within our community and to provide that

ray of light that they so desperately need.

An evening transformed into Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry took place on Saturday, September 29, 2018, at the Larsa Banquet Hall in Denair. As guests arrived they were led into Hogwarts School and taken to their designated House: Gryffindor, Slytherin, Hufflepuff or Ravenclaw.

Tony and Pat Youga were honored with the Spirit of Caring Award



– an annual award recognizing an organization or individual(s) who have demonstrated personal integrity, kindness, and above-and-beyond commitment to the community that we live in. Tony and Pat have been an integral part of Sierra Vista's mission to strengthen families and communities by transforming lives. This past spring, Tony cycled over 2,900 miles across the United



States, while fundraising for Sierra Vista. Together, Tony and Pat have raised over \$70,000 for Sierra Vista's Foster Care Program. Their support has allowed Sierra Vista's services to transform hundreds of lives.

Sierra Vista is proud to bring together community members that support us

in our efforts to help strengthen the lives of children and families. The support from these members is crucial in order to sustain Sierra Vista's network of resources that are vital to the happiness, health, and prosperity of this community.

A special thank you to our presenting sponsor Col. John & June Rogers and to all of our wonderful sponsors and guests. These great feats that we are accomplishing would not be possible without your continued commitment to caring.



COUNTRY SUMMER EVENING

Hosted by Sierra Vista Southeast Communities Advisory Council

The Sierra Vista Southeast Communities Advisory Council held their annual fundraiser, Country Summer Evening, on June 29, 2018. The event raised money to support the many programs and services offered by the Hughson and Waterford Family Resource Centers in the Southeast Communities (Hughson, Waterford,

Denair, Empire, Gratton, Hickman, LaGrange, and Roberts Ferry) in addition to raising awareness on what Sierra Vista has to offer to our communities.

It was a great turnout of a 143 strong. Everyone who attended had a great time while giving to a great cause.

Attendees had a fun time dancing and playing the tables at the casino. In addition to the advisory council, the Hughson FFA helped with the event as well. A big thank you to all of our supporters, donors, and sponsors for helping make this event a success. Your commitment to Sierra Vista is very much appreciated.





MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Get involved this Holiday Season!

We would like to thank all of those who contributed to our End-of-Year projects last year. Once again, the great people of this community came together to help children and families have a brighter holiday season. Whether you purchased a pair of jammies, sponsored our event, adopted a family, bought a gift for a child or volunteered your time, **YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE!** We are truly grateful for your kindness and support and wish you a Healthy, Happy, and Prosperous New Year in the year ahead!

If you are feeling the cheer this year, here are some ways to get involved this upcoming Holiday season!

GIKA'S FAMILY DINNER

Volunteer your time! For over 20 years the Gika's Family has been bringing



families together in support of our local community. Over 100 children will get presents from Santa and a holiday feast will be served to them and their families. Dozens of volunteers will be busy in the kitchen – starting early in the morning and continuing throughout the day – preparing the Thanksgiving dinner for hundreds of children and families who are in need. Volunteers are always needed to help

serve all of the children and families at the dinner. This is a great opportunity for students who are looking for volunteer hours, and to witness firsthand how one can make a difference in someone else's life.

JOAN'S JAMMIE TIME

Donate jammies! This past year's Joan's Jammie Time marked our 10th Anniversary! Every year, Joan Cardoza facilitates the jammie drive and brings in hundreds of jammies through local community donors for our clients. A huge pile of jammies builds in our administration office throughout the month of December!

Last year, Joan's Jammie Drive wrapped up with a big success with over 900 jammies gathered for the children within our services at Sierra Vista!



Joan's Jammie Time usually take on a life of its own with jammies pouring in from the community, and last year we had the exciting opportunity of being on-air with Good Day Sacramento!

This year let's show the children within our community the true spirit of the holidays by providing them with what they need the most during this time of year – hope, love, and warmth through jammies!

ADOPT – A – FAMILY

It's almost time to prepare for one of the most satisfying programs we provide – Adopt-A-Family. Last year was amazing! Because of your outpouring of goodwill and cash donations, we were able to make Christmas possible for many families within our care and services. Our families and staff were appreciative of the empathy and generosity of total strangers who, because of their compassion, made last year a holiday season that will never be



forgotten for our clients.

IN-KIND WISH LISTS

Changing the lives of children AND families isn't something we can do alone – our ability to care for others is largely attributed to the individuals and organizations that generously support us. We could not continue to meet the needs of the numerous children and families who we serve each year without the monetary and in-kind donations that we are fortunate enough to receive.

Here are several other ways you can help Sierra Vista Child & Family Services this holiday season through in-kind donations:



Hands, Hearts & Feet

Each fall children and families serviced by the agency are in need of coats, hats, gloves, and boots to keep them warm and dry during the winter months.

Secure Sleep

Many children are in need of items that help them feel warm, snug and safe at night. Donations of blankets, sheets, pillows, and quilts will help supply these fundamental needs.

Duffel Bags

Children who have been removed from their home often arrive with all their belongings in black plastic garbage

bags. Help provide a duffel bag for children to transport their belongings.

Gift Cards for Families

Food and basic needs; supplies from local stores.



Youth Activities

Sports equipment for youth activities and local outings (balls, helmets, knee pads, tennis racquets, etc.)

Music, Arts & Sports

When Foster Care parents provide a home for children many times there isn't the extra money in their own budget to provide for musical instruments, sports equipment, or lessons for a budding artist.

The Gift of Reading

New books or used books in good condition for our resource centers and non-public school libraries.

For more information or to get involved in our End-of-Year projects, please contact Marilyn Jacobs at (209) 523-4573 or mjacobs@sierravistacares.org.



Six-Person Maximum Par Scramble

Fee Includes: Lunch, Green Fee, Cart, Player Gift, Awards, On-Course Food & Refreshments, and Dinner.

Sponsors receive additional signage, and on course benefits. Contact Marilyn Jacobs for more information at (209) 523-4573 or mjacobs@sierravistacares.org



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