



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Fall 2017



SIERRA VISTA CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

Reaching Out



Paving the Way

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A LETTER FROM *Sierra Vista*

The year 2017 marks 45 years of service for Sierra Vista Child & Family Services. That is 45 years of helping children, families, and adults overcome their challenges by developing their strengths, allowing them to become successful in school and the community and changing lives of children and families.

We have 45 years of experience and success in developing programs and meeting the needs of our communities. Forty-Five years ago, we were known as Therapeutic Homes, Inc. Through the efforts of our skilled staff and Board of Directors, the agency grew and evolved into one of the largest non-profit organizations in the Central Valley. We provide mental health services, education, social skills training, alcohol and substance abuse treatment, foster care, adoption services, residential treatment, ADHD assessment and treatment, and day treatment services to an average of 18,000 children and families each year.

We are grateful to the many individuals who have helped us reach this milestone in the life of our agency. Over the past 45 years we have had several community members with a passion for what we do; serve on our Board of Directors. Each of those individuals played a key role in improving lives and changing communities. We have been proud to be the employer of over 275 caring and dedicated staff. We have strived for Best Practices in all programs and services and I am very proud of our accomplishments.

As we begin our next 45 years of service, it is with concern for the economy, the changing structure of funding for our programs and the increased need for services. However, we have never faltered when faced with challenges and our staff and board are ready to take on the next chapter.

We are grateful to our county partners, our community-based organization partners and to each of you who have given your time, your financial support or your talent to ensure that our clients receive the best services and because of the continued support we never turn a person or family in need away, due to a lack of funding.

This milestone in the life of Sierra Vista is the perfect time to pause and say THANK YOU! I also invite you to continue working with us to address the growing needs of so many children and families. The more we work together, the greater the impact on our communities.

As you read this newsletter and you see the success stories and the work we are doing, please think about how you can be a part of our vision of "A Commitment to Caring" and changing lives and communities.



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PAVING THE WAY FOR SIERRA VISTA

These leaders have seen Sierra Vista grow for the good

As we celebrate our 45 years of service in our community, we reflect on the many changes, challenges, and successes of our agency. One of the many positive attributes within our agency is the longevity of some of our employees. Employees that have worked at one organization for 10, 15, or 20+ years are rare nowadays, to say the least. We have been very fortunate that Sierra Vista's three senior leaders have been working together now for over 25 years. This unique professional bond has been a big part of the success of this agency. Their leadership, experience, dedication, and compassion for striving to do what is best for the agency as well as the children and families we serve are unmatched. "I have many favorite memories of my 32 years with Sierra Vista. However, I think the memory that I share the most often is going on a field trip with the Kirk Baucher School children and walking hand in hand with a little boy who had never been to Magic Mountain Amusement Park and watching the joy and wonder in his eyes as he enjoyed his day. Giving our children an opportunity to experience the fun of childhood and some of the experiences that other children get to experience make my heart sing," said Judy Kindel, Chief Executive Officer.

Jeff Anderson, the agency's Clinical Director has worked with Judy over the last 30 years. They have seen Sierra Vista expand in the many services and programs one sees

today. "I love all of the staff. They are so hardworking and committed to the wellbeing of our communities. It is always heartwarming and encouraging to hear staff talk of the lives that are transformed through their work," says Jeff.

We can't forget the other "J" in this amazing trio. John Gilfillan has been working with Judy and Jeff for 22 years now as the Chief Financial Officer. John has also been an integral part of the growth and success of Sierra Vista. When asked why did you want to work with Sierra Vista, John replied, "coming from the private sector, I found the emphasis placed on helping the community and assisting those in need to be refreshing. It didn't hurt that when I first started we were located within our non-public school, which made it a very lively, energetic and a fun place to work with all the interactions between staff, students, in addition to break time ping pong and basketball."

We cannot thank Judy, Jeff, and John enough for not only supporting Sierra Vista but for supporting our communities. It is through their hard work that we are able to make a difference and pave the way for a better future for the 20,000 children and families we serve each year and more than 275 employees of Sierra Vista that we consider family.



SIERRA VISTA
CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

McHENRY VILLAGE REMODEL

Making changes for our future

We are excited to announce that our 1700 McHenry Village Way location has recently been remodeled and is home to many of our programs. Those programs include ADHD, Early Intervention, School Based Integration, Children's Counseling Services, and Home Based Services. This building still hosts our First Step Perinatal Substance Abuse Treatment Program, which has been at this same location for the past seven years. Staff and clients are very excited to be in the new facility. The staff are getting settled in more and more each day.

Through the remodel Sierra Vista will be able to continue to serve our communities in a new state-of-the-art facility. With the remodel and relocation of our programs we are providing a safe and warming enviroment for our clients receiving services.

We would like to give a big thank you to Tony and Mathew Bruno and his crew for the support of Sierra Vista and the amazing job they did on the remodeling of the building. We cannot thank and appreciate them enough for their generosity.





17TH HEARTS FOR CHILDREN GALA

"A Whole New World" comes alive to support families.

Sierra Vista celebrated an extraordinary event marking the agency's 45th Anniversary this year. "A Whole New World" was the message for the night at the Sierra Vista 17th Annual Hearts for Children Gala. The Aladdin themed gala represented and brought awareness to Sierra Vista's determination to create a whole new world for 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 hope that they so desperately need.

An evening transformed into Middle Eastern décor took place on Saturday, September 30, 2017, at the Larsa Banquet Hall in Denair. As guests arrived they were led into some of Agrabah's most exotic street Bazaars. Rustic market tables and market carts were filled with all sorts of auction items to choose from.

Each year Sierra Vista raises funds through Fund-A-Dream at the Hearts for Children Gala to make dreams come true for the children and families that we serve. The Fund-A-Dream Project is a unique and inspiring effort that supports the dreams of individual boys and girls within our community. The evening was highlighted by a very inspiring Fund-A-Dream this year. Guest speaker and former Sierra Vista client, Adrian Luna, spoke on the life-changing impact that Sierra

Vista has had on him.

Adrian explained how he came from a troubled background and was eventually placed in Sierra Vista's Residential Treatment Program at Hunter House, along with the agency's non-public school which serves children K-8th grade. Adrian has since become a successful business professional, a husband and a father with a great passion to give back to his community.

Thank You
Building Futures Sponsors
 With your support Sierra Vista is capable of making
 a difference to our communities.



E&J. Gallo Winery



THE PERFORMANCE LAB





After hearing Adrian's success story, guests poured their hearts out this year and gave life-changing opportunities to children by funding their dreams and aspirations in life through Sierra Vista's programs and services. The night was filled with record-breaking bids, further representing our communities commitment to caring.

John, Kristine, and Payton Potter were honored with the Spirit of Caring Award – an annual award recognizing an organization or individuals who have demonstrated personal integrity, kindness, and above-and-beyond commitment to the community that we live in. The Potter Family has been an integral part of Sierra Vista's mission to strengthen families and communities by transforming lives. Their support through fundraising, advocacy, volunteer support in programs and at community events has allowed our services to be delivered in a way that has transformed hundreds of lives.



Sierra Vista is proud to have been able 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 sponsors E. & J. Gallo Winery, Innovative Sales, The Performance Lab and to all of our wonderful additional sponsors and guests. These great feats that we are accomplishing would not be possible without your continued commitment to caring.



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SERVING *Our Community*

» Sierra Vista is committed to the health and well-being of our community.



RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT & FOSTER CARE ART SHOW

» *Foster Care & Adoption Program*

Sierra Vista's residential treatment and foster care children recently put on an art show. It was an amazing opportunity for our kids to share their artistic talents with all who came. Not only did the kids pick their best art to show off but they also made snacks for all to enjoy while viewing.

You could truly recognize the value of the art show when you saw the excitement on each kids face as people congratulated them on the great work they did. The art projects ranged from watercolor, paint, charcoal, mixed media, and crafts. Some of the kids from our residential treatment program even put

on a performance with lyrics and dance moves created by them. It was easy to see that a lot of these children have a lot of talent and were able to express what they loved through their work.

The Residential Treatment Program provides a 24-hour therapeutic environment designed to treat children 6-13 years of age with diagnosed psychiatric and psychological difficulties.

Children live in Level 12 community-based group homes located within clean and safe family neighborhoods. Services include a planned activity program, social skills training, educational planning support and individual, group and family counseling.

The program helps children learn appropriate interpersonal and coping skills and how to develop positive relationships. The goal is to return children to their families or find a loving foster family home or adoptive family for them.



BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

» *The Bridge Community Center*

In August we handed out more than 100 backpacks, school supplies, and books to children during our back-to-school event at The Bridge Community Center. Every family who attended our event was also treated to a BBQ and activities. Our back to school event is a great opportunity for our resource center to connect with the community they're a part of and let them know that anybody can walk through our doors for help.

Our resource center has been providing translation and cultural liaison services; health, nutrition, and parenting workshops, ESL and GED classes and tutoring, training in organic gardening, afterschool activities for children and teens, and acculturation and counseling services for Southeast Asian families.



COMMUNITY

Support

» Together we are making a difference in the life of a child, a family and our community.



BACKPACKS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

Recently Sierra Vista received a donation of 57 backpacks from Advancing Children of Turlock (ACT) for children receiving services from our programs primarily in our non-public schools. It started with a posting on social media making an ask for backpacks to underprivileged children we serve, to a social group in Turlock answering our call. What a tremendous gift ACT provided to children needing school supplies to not only make it easier to attend school but also fit in and feel normal.

The backpacks donated will support Sierra Vista's two non-public schools that provide special education for children in kindergarten through eighth grade. This specialized setting offers individualized education services, social skills development, behavior management, crisis intervention, and family support. Our schools are certified by the California State Department of Education.

With groups like this, we are able to bridge the gap between what families can afford and what students need. With the cost of school supplies, and families not having the discretionary funding every donation counts.



GIRL SCOUTS' COOKIE DONATION

It isn't easy to find someone who doesn't enjoy Girl Scout cookies, and that was evident when a group of Girl Scout Brownies Troop #395 from Modesto donated more than 40 boxes of cookies to the children in our foster care program. The Girl Scouts are well known for selling cookies, but they are also about making a difference and making other people happier. Their troop leader shared that donations to the community and children less fortunate are important, as the girls are learning to give back to the community.



Adopt-A-Family



It's time to prepare for one of the most satisfying programs, you, as a community provide – Adopt-A-Family. With your help, we can provide gifts or even a special meal for a family in need. With the generosity of hundreds of community members, corporations, small businesses, churches and community groups last year you had made the holidays a little brighter for families through our Adopt-A-Family Program.

You can participate in this heartwarming service by adopting one or more of the families in need. If you, your family or business would like to Adopt-A-Family for the holidays please call (209) 523-4573 and Adopt-A-Family today!



EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION LUAU

Celebrating the hard work our staff do everyday!

On August 9, 2017, Sierra Vista held a Staff Appreciation LUAU in recognition of all the hard work and dedication put in throughout the year.

The event began with a luncheon. Staff enjoyed the Hawaiian themed menu from Ono Hawaiian BBQ consisting of Hawaiian BBQ chicken, rice, macaroni salad, crab Rangoon, mixed vegetables, pineapple, watermelon and all fruit popsicles for dessert.

After the luncheon, everyone had the opportunity to have their picture taken in the photo booth before it was time to recognize staff for their longevity with the agency. Staff reaching their 10, 15, 20, 25 or 30 year anniversary this year were given a certificate and a personalized gift as a small token of appreciation for their dedication and overall commitment to caring.

Linda Lopez, HR Generalist and LUAU Committee member, lead the agency in a Hula Hoop challenge amongst the various programs. Alexis Lopez won the challenge by keeping the Hula Hoop around his neck!

What's better than a raffle? Two raffles! The first raffle staff received one ticket for a chance at one of the three largest items. The second raffle was filled with gift cards and items ranging from \$10 to \$130 in value. As luck would have it, some staff won multiple items! Congratulations! We are looking forward to next year's event.





HOSTED BY

SIERRA VISTA CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

Join us for a day of workshop sessions, keynote speakers, guest presenters, and networking opportunities to explore and advance the transformative impact mentoring has on youth and communities.

SAVE THE DATE

Registration Coming Soon

Friday, January 26, 2018

8:00 - 1:00 PM

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



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PERFORMANCELAB

Our Mission

We strengthen families and communities by transforming lives!

Our Vision

"A Commitment to Caring"

Our Values

Excellence

We hold ourselves to the highest standards of performance and continually push ourselves to do more.

Professionalism

We meet the ethical and technical standards in our field and show compassion and respect for others at all times.

Integrity

We are honest and straightforward: our actions and operations are transparent.

Collaboration

We produce results not through our actions alone, but in partnership with clients, community organizations, and one another.

Dedication

We meet our commitments to clients, partners, and the community with reliability and dedication.



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