



Fall Newsletter

Mentor A Child—Inspire A Life!



Everyone needs to have someone in their corner who they can trust and confide in. In fact, building and maintaining relationships with adults is a critical part of early childhood development. There is a mountain of evidence that proves that these key relationships foster health independence, self-esteem and confidence. Indeed, it has been found that the lack of positive adult role models can increase the risk of continued mental health problems, behavior disorders, attachment difficulties, and delinquent behavior. Unfortunately, it is something that many of the children here at Chamberlains just don't have. Besides Chamberlain's staff, some of our children truly have no one. Our mentor program was created in order to address this need for outside support.

One of our most dedicated mentors, Sandy Gabe, has been with us for eight years. She has witnessed the impact that her support has had on the young ones she has mentored. Know-

ing just how important her involvement has been is one of the reasons she continues to stay involved. She has remarked that she has seen "their self-esteem and self-confidence are boosted" by the interaction. She says "they feel their mentors are spending time with them because they care about them and enjoy their company" and that they "establish a bond of trust...[and] feel more like normal kids." Sandy has become more than a mentor over her time with us, she has become a real advocate of our work, talking about the work we do here to anyone willing to listen. She is currently mentoring her 5th child.

Recently, we have really been pushing to promote the program. Our goal is to have all 24 of our children matched with a mentor. Right now, only six of

A Look Inside

- Holiday events at Chamberlain's
- Different ways to support us
- Message from our ED
- Stories from our students
- School update

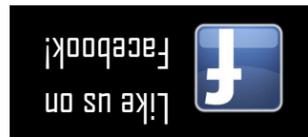
our children have mentors. Although it is a commitment, it doesn't have to take a lot of time or money and there is no experience required. Sandy says "the important thing is the time spent with the child and it doesn't have to be a lot of time. It is not even necessary to go off the campus." We do ask that mentors visit their mentees for at least an hour every week or every other week for the duration of the child's stay at Chamberlain's. If you or someone you know over the age of 18 would like to hear more about the opportunity to mentor a child, please contact Kim Meininger at kim@chamberlaincc.org or call 1-(831)-636-2121, ext. 129. All mentors are required to fill out an application, pass Department of Justice fingerprinting clearance, & have copies of drivers license, insurance, and negative TB test on file. Like Sandy, you could make a huge impact on the life of a child.

Chamberlain's Children Center empowers at-risk children in a home-like environment to heal from past trauma, discover their strengths, and develop the skills they need to achieve life-long success.



Enter to Win!

From now until December 31st, 2012, every new person who goes to our website and signs up for e-news feature on our newsletter page will be entered to win a \$20 gift card to Target. The drawing will be held on January 3rd, 2013! The winner will receive notification via regular mail. Good Luck!



Chamberlain's Children Center
1850 San Benito Street
Hollister, CA 95023
www.chamberlaincc.org

Chamberlain's Holiday Happenings

Our holiday plans are already in the works, so we want to provide you with a sneak peak into what our children have in store for their holidays. We always try to provide a lot of opportunities for our children to have fun and enjoy the holidays while providing them with experiences that they might typically have if they were home with their families. This year, the children are in for some amazing treats. For Thanksgiving, each of the four cottages will be putting on their own traditional holiday dinner. The kids will enjoy the performances that El Teatro Campasino will be putting on, as well as going to San Jose to visit Christmas in The Park. We are going to be planning a party on campus with some fun holiday activities. Our kids will also be getting into the giving spirit this season by playing secret Santa. Each child will pick a name out of a drawing and shop for whoever's name they end up pulling with the guidance of staff and a set dollar limit to keep in mind. Our children will spend the holiday season experiencing the joys of giving and receiving.



Help bring Santa to Chamberlain's

If you would like to help make sure we can get all of our gifts wrapped and ready to hand out on Christmas day, please contact Kim@chamberlaincc.org or call us at 831-636-2121, extension 129. We are looking for a handful of people to come help us on December 21st. The timing is pretty flexible, but daytime hours would work best. Let us know if you can come join us!

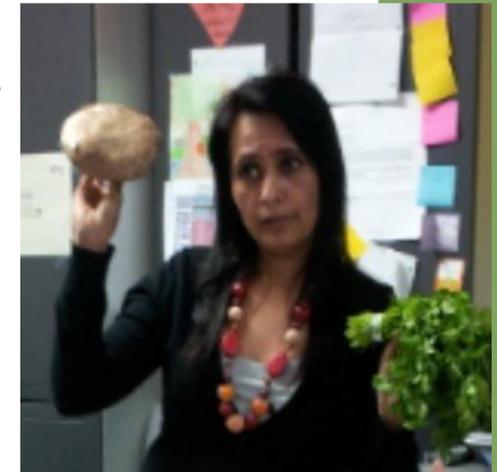
In the Spirit of Gratitude

November 15th is National Philanthropy Day. The Community Foundation for San Benito County celebrated locally by hosting it's annual dinner celebration to honor local philanthropists and volunteers who dedicate themselves to the nonprofits in the area. This year, Chamberlain's took the opportunity to honor our Board Vice President, Susie Swing. It was an easy decision for the Board of Directors to unanimously select Susie Swing to honor at this year's National Philanthropy Day. Susie has served on our Board of Directors for the last seven years. The past three years as Board Vice President. Susie has provided countless hours at fundraisers, work days, board meetings and committee meetings. In addition Susie has provided invaluable advise and support to Keith Thompson Non Public School, Chamberlain's on site school. We are deeply grateful for her dedication to our organization. Thanks again, Susie!



Off To A Great Start: Keith Thompson Non Public School Update

The first week of school ended with a great surprise when I had the honor to announce SR as student of the week for the first time since she has been in my class. It continued with DM's demonstration of positive skills. We enjoyed lots of fresh corn and month long salsa making parties in the class with the tomatoes from our campus garden. We continued the tradition of healthy eating from last year. I was very pleased when my student voted pomegranate and coconut for the student of the week treat instead of a sandwich or burrito.



I want to thank Robert and everyone who participated in our volunteer work day for building a partition in the old classroom to create more space and have a break room for the school staff. My classroom staff did a great job decorating and organizing two rooms to make them a functional and learning environment for students. Charlotte's amazing art and craft skills helped me throughout this quarter from decorating the class to working on Halloween projects.

I want to congratulate classroom staff and students for using positive reinforcement skills instead of focusing on negative behaviors which resulted in 50-60% less number of restraints in the classroom. I hope to keep coming back to our readers with more good news and student achievements in the upcoming months.



The kids work on a haunted house



Some of the healthy food the school cooked up

Wellness Center Update

We are one more step closer to completing the next phase of our Wellness Center renovations. We are working on a music and movement room that will feature musical instruments and a dance area. The wonderful flooring was recently installed.



Chamberlain's Children Corner: Three Bad Witches

by D. M.

One night three witches found an ordinary looking pumpkin patch. They casted a spell on the pumpkins and turned them into evil and send them out to catch some children. The pumpkins were looking for children, when they saw two little girls going inside a house. They tried to rush towards the house to reach before the girls to scare them but the girls reach before them. Pumpkins tried to follow them but girls left for another house before they could catch them.



fast that it was hard to catch them. Pumpkins were too tired and they did not want to catch any kids since now they knew that witches were mean and they wanted to suck children's blood to look younger. They wanted to run away but the mean witches were not letting them run away.

There were three good witches also in the town. They knew about the mean witches and were looking out for them. They saw the evil pumpkins as soon as they were about to catch

Witches were getting anxious because pumpkins will turn into dust at midnight and witches will lose their power. They needed young children really bad to revive their powers and look younger again. They ordered pumpkins to work faster since its eleven o'clock. Pumpkins thought the girls were too smart for them so they started chasing other kids. But all the kids were going for trick-o-treating so

two boys and a girl. They kidnapped the evil pumpkins and put a good spell on them. As soon as pumpkin turned good, mean witches had pain in their heart and they knew that good witches were there. They looked for them and found them back at the pumpkin patch. The witches had a war and good witches killed the bad witches with the help of pumpkins.

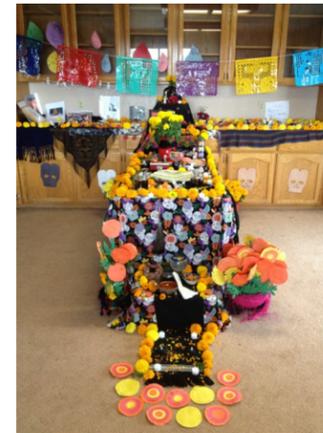
Bird, By Michael Perez

Bird
 Bird
 Go away
 Don't come back
 Stay away
 You
 Bug
 Bug
 Bug
 Every day



Stay away
 It nice to see
 You
 Every day but
 You
 Bug
 To much
 So
 Stay away.

Honoring Our Loved Ones—Dia De Los Muertos



This year our children helped plan and participate in Dia de Los Muertos. November 1st and 2nd are days that are celebrated by many countries including Mexico, South America, Latin Americas & many states (California, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico & Texas). The celebration is to honor loved ones who have died and to let them know that we will never forget them. For the children here at Chamberlain's, we included people in their lives that they miss such as parents and other family members that they aren't allowed to see, can't see or have never known. All children experience loss whether it be a person or a pet dying, but most have the support of families to cope with the grief they experience. This celebration allowed them to remember these people, feel the sadness about it, and be able to acknowledge that they will not be forgotten. It was also an opportunity to provide an outlet for us to teach them positive ways to cope with the loss of a loved one. Our children's Grief & Loss group and our youth-based Leadership group participated in creating the alter and planning the ceremony. During the celebration, staff and children came together for what turned out to be a beautiful and inspiring celebration of life and love and remembrance. It was the start of a beautiful tradition for our chil-

Trick-or-Treat: The social benefits of having some Halloween fun!



Our residential program skipped on the fancy Halloween parties this year, but that didn't mean we took any of the fun out of Halloween for the children at Chamberlain's. One of our key goals is to provide our youth with positive social skills to lead a successful life. Many of our children have not had anyone in their life who could concentrate on imparting this very practical wisdom onto them. This year, all of our children who have earned the privilege of leaving campus got to go out into the neighborhoods of our lovely community for trick-or-treating. This experience might seem common place to most of us, but to our children it was a very significant activity. Whenever our children leave campus to participate in community activities, it teaches them so much about acceptable social skills which can have a positive impact on self-esteem and self-confidence. The bounty of candy they brought home was not the only benefit of bringing our kids out to trick-or-treat this year!

So many ways to support Chamberlain's!

- **Birdies for Charity:** This is a great opportunity for golf lovers. The Monterey Peninsula Foundation runs the program to coincide with the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. Donors may pledge an amount per birdie during the tournament or a flat fee, but every dollar raised will be matched up to 20% by the Foundation. All donations have to be made through Monterey Peninsula Foundation by mailing in a check or going online to <http://www.attpbgolf.com/charity/birdies-for-charity/participating-charities>. Each donor is entered for a chance to win two United Airlines roundtrip tickets (up to \$500 each) and one night at The Inn at Spanish Bay with a golf package for two at The Links at Spanish Bay.
- **San Benito County's Twelve Days of Giving:** Help spread the spirit of the holidays by giving through this local program brought to you by The Community Foundation for San Benito County and United Way of San Benito County. All money donated will be distributed equally to six local charities, including us. There are several ways to give through 12 Days—The event kicks off on November 24th from 10AM to 2PM at the Lights On Celebration Downtown, on December 1st we will be out at Nob Hill Foods from 12PM to 4PM collecting donations and talking to the community about our work, on December 8th we will be at the Tiffany Motors Finale Event from 11AM to 5PM. All donation will be matched up to \$10,000!
- **Target Taking Charge of Education:** Visit Target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school, then use your REDcard whenever you shop. When you use your REDcard (Target Credit Card, Target Debit Card or Target Visa Credit Card), Target will donate up to 1% of your purchases to the eligible K-12 school of your choice.
- **eBay's Mission Fish:** You can designate a portion of the money you receive from a sale on eBay to go to Chamberlain's. This program is super easy!

Executive Director Report:



It has been another great year at Chamberlain's Children Center! Just a few milestones include receiving our accreditation certification at the California Alliance fall conference (pictured here); a new mission statement, logo and redesigned website, further development of our Wellness Center and gardens; another successful Work Day with over 200 volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints, some wonderful summer activities and field trips including a Day at the A's sponsored by Hollister Rotary; a very successful Mari's FUNd Day fundraiser and successful grant awards from Community Founda-

tion for San Benito County, United Way of San Benito County, and Community Foundation for Monterey County.

What really impresses me continues to be the generosity of community members and businesses! Chamberlain's established a new partnership with United Agencies to service all of our insurance needs. Not only do they provide us with great service, they committed to be our main event sponsor for Mari's FUNd Day for five years!! Over the past four years the Community Foundation for San Benito County has been a real partner in Chamberlain's ability to not only stabilize as a nonprofit but thrive!! CFSBC has granted us funds for our Wellness Center, professional development, technology for our school and most recently capacity building funds! We are also very pleased to be only one of sixteen nonprofits selected to be a United Way Agency. This not only brings in needed funds, but further authenticates our agency and the importance of our services!

The continued support we receive from Teknova, Hollister Rotary, the Women's Club, Small Steps, Hollister Downtown Association, Ridgemark, our local faith communities, and individual donors is amazing! As we continue to provide the best possible home away from home especially during the holidays for the children in our care, thank you for your continued support!

As you will read in the newsletter, there are a few initiatives we are involved in and we would love for you to help leverage funds and opportunities!!

Finally, in loving memory to our friend Mari Davis who shared the Starfish story to us at a board retreat four years ago; "YOU can make a difference to THIS one!"

I wish you and your family the very best this Holiday Season!

Robert Freiri
Executive Director



DONATION FORM



Name _____ Amount Donated _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to:

Chamberlain's Children Center, Inc.

Federal Tax I.D. Number 94-2357401

Mail to: Chamberlain's Children Center

PO Box 1269, Hollister, CA 95024-1269

We appreciate your support!