



Spring Newsletter

Wellness Center Influences Leadership Among Chamberlain Youth

When our new Health, Wellness, and Nutrition Center was completed, we knew that it would have a positive impact on everyone at Chamberlain's Children Center but we could have never guessed that the effects would be so far reaching. The impact of the newly completed Wellness Center have rippled across Chamberlain's campus – the children have become more active and they enjoy eating healthier meals, the staff has made an effort to model healthier behavior by starting a Get Fit Program, and perhaps most interestingly, a new peer leadership program was born among the older youth.

The peer leadership program was first proposed several months ago by a group of adolescent girls living at Chamberlain's. After hearing from agency staff about the Chamberlain's Get Fit Program, the girls approached our Execu-

tive Director, Robert Freiri, asking for an opportunity to lead a dance activity that would include the younger children in our program as participants. The idea was brought to the attention of our Program Director, Patrick Ellis, who began meeting with the girls to help them get started. The dance activity was the beginning of what has become a new program to teach our older children leadership skills. Each peer leader eventually brought his or her own ideas and interests to the program. What resulted was a variety of weekly activities that encourage fun, movement, and fitness that we have begun calling Fun Friday. The peer leaders are given the opportunity to plan activities, interact with and role model for younger children, lead activities from start to finish, and make leadership style decisions in a safe environment. Every day they learn more about themselves as leaders, more about working as a team with their co-leaders, and the specifics of activity coordination. Through their participation, the



Chamberlain's Children Center is a child and family service agency that teaches and helps children & families who have experienced trauma. Children become socially competent through strengthened family connections, access to resources, and the ability to express difficult thoughts and feelings.



CHAMBERLAIN'S CHILDREN CENTER WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE FOLLOWING HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND NUTRITION CENTER FUNDERS:
Community Foundation for San Benito County, Monterey Peninsula Foundation, Leadership San Benito County, United Way San Benito County, The Health Trust Santa Clara County, Bank of America, Rabobank, Teknova, Hollister Rotary, Catholic Women's Auxiliary, the Aromas Eagles, and the many other individuals and businesses that financially supported the renovation of the wellness center kitchen.




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

Please Join Us!
3rd annual Mari's FUNd Day
Chamberlain's Children Center
1850 San Benito Street
Hollister, CA 95023
Saturday, May 19th
Noon to 3pm
Cost: \$25 per person, \$10 kids meal
For tickets, call (831) 636-2121

girls have been challenged to practice important values such as responsibility, respect, reliability, communication, accountability and integrity. The benefits extend beyond our leader's experience. The children who participate have a great time doing so because they get to play and be active kids. They also get to see friends after a long school week, learn a new sport or activity, practice group social skills, strengthen bonds with staff, and witness appropriate problem solving among leaders. What started as an idea from one of our adolescent youth, influenced by our wellness center, has become a program that will have a lasting impact on the children in our care.

Maximize Your Donation's Impact!

The Community Foundation for San Benito County is running an endowment match challenge. During this program, they will match every dollar donate towards our and other local non-profit endowment funds up to \$150,000. The program will run until all \$150,000 has been matched. Donations must be made through the CFSBC For more information, you can visit www.cffsbc.org.

Chamberlain's Honors Volunteers and Staff

The United Way Monterey County held its 36th Annual Community Service Awards on Aril 11, 2012 at the, recognizing individuals throughout the community who dedicate their time and talent selflessly to benefit others. This year, Chamberlain's used the opportunity to recognize three individuals or groups who passionately support the kids in our care.



Daren Kortsen standing up to be honored at the event.



Chamberlain's Staff, including honoree Lupe Grimaldo (third from the right).

The honorees were Lupe Grimaldo, a staff member who has spent 29 years caring for Chamberlain's youth; Daren Kortsen, a volunteer in our mentor program whose focus has made a huge impact; and the Church of Latter Day Saints Hollister, whose members have racked up many hours volunteering to help clean up our campus for the last two years. Without the help of these amazing individuals, we would not be nearly as successful as we are today. We are deeply grateful for all of their hard work!

Executive Director Report: Quality Programs & High Expectations



About two years ago I attended a California Alliance of Child and Family Services (CACFS) conference and sat in on a session on Accreditation. They spoke about the merits of accreditation and I knew right then that was the next "bar to be set". After a

lengthy process, many policy and procedure upgrades, a ton of committee meetings, a tremendous amount of work in professional training development and significant facility upgrades; I am incredibly proud to announce that Chamberlain's Children Center and Keith Thompson Non Public School are Accredited!!

To me it is like having the "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval!"

Accreditation shows that we want great outcomes for the children in our care; that we meet and will continue to strive for high standards; that we value professional, qualified staff; that we have clear criteria to evaluate staff performance and will ensure that our employees have the skills and training they need to provide services to the children we service; that we are diligent with our accounting practices and transparent with our financial reporting; that together our staff and board of directors were willing to invest time and resources to meet the accreditation criteria; and that the hard work that will be necessary to meet these new higher

standards is now part of our everyday culture!

Work Day: Thank you so much to the Church of Jesus Christ LDS Hollister! Nearly 200 volunteers came on campus on Saturday, April 28th and installed two new roofs, a new sidewalk, painted our Gazebo, put a wall up in classroom while removing another in the Wellness Center, tidied up our planter boxes and planted flowers and vegetables, trimmed trees; installed pavers; filled pot holes; repaired drywall; and weeded our large campus! Wow, and most of that was finished by noon!!! For the second straight year, they did a phenomenal job!

3rd Annual Mari's FUNd Day, Saturday May 19th, noon to 3pm: We promise this will be our best event ever! Along with a great BBQ provided by Hollister Rotary, we will have a silent auction, a bounce house and petting zoo for the kids, and a ZUMBA demonstration. Tickets to a 49er game and golf for four at San Juan Oaks will be the featured items of one of our raffles. The other raffle will feature the 3rd generation iPad! I hope to see over 100 people in attendance joining us to celebrate our successes and celebrate the Children of Chamberlain's.

Thank you for your continued support!!

Robert

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, INC.
 PO BOX 1269 HOLLISTER, CA. 95024-1269
 WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!