



Chamberlain's News

FALL

2010

FAMILY REUNIFICATION SUCCESS

Lilly is doing wonderful! She loves her new school and of course has made great friends. There are only 12 students in her class and she gets to ride the bus to and from school. We have continued to see Dr. Gilbert and she is adjusting to home life.

She is playing sports again and loving it! Lilly is the starting goalie for her soccer team and she is so awesome! She has also been doing ceramics for about 2 months now and wow she has some talent there too. She is doing some community service work with a local place here called Serenity Youth Ranch and they love her so much. She loves the animals. Lilly has learned a lot and is having some very humbling experiences. Serenity has been great for her. We are keeping her busy, but she still has plenty of time to run around the ranch and be her wild self and of course to ride the skateboards and get dirty!

Thank you can never ever be enough for all of you at Chamberlains for giving me my daughter back and for giving our family a second chance with our most precious Lilly bug! We will forever hold you dear in our hearts!!! Please let us know if you are ever in need of anything that we may be able to help with. We will do our very best to help out. We want to help Chamberlain's thrive and be there for years to come, in hopes to help another family reunite the way you have helped us.

Jeri Teixeira & Family



We are excited to announce that we are building a **HEALTH, WELLNESS, & NUTRITION CENTER** for our children, staff & the community. See inside for more details.



Before picture of the HWNC.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

It has been a great year at Chamberlain's Children Center! Just a few milestones include renovation of our schoolhouse; new technology and infrastructure upgrades; some wonderful summer activities and field trips; recipient of filled backpacks from Leadership San Benito; a successful Spring fundraiser and successful grant awards from Community Foundation for San Benito, Community Foundation for Monterey County, Monterey Peninsula Foundation, and Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame. What may be our biggest successes were two family reunifications and two permanent foster care placements.

What really impresses me continues to be the generosity of community members and local businesses! After our spring fundraiser, I was speaking with Kathryn Thome, Pacific Diversified Insurance, and letting her know that the money raised was going to allow us to purchase two sets of energy efficient washers & dryers for two of our group homes. This was about 3pm on a Friday. By 5pm, Kathryn was in my office with a personal check for \$1,500 from her and her husband Daryl to pay for the 3rd home to get a washer & dryer set AND she had another \$1,500 check from Barry Link and Pacific Diversified to cover the cost of the fourth and final cottage! The children and staff were very excited to get the new washers and dryers, children normally resistant to gathering and washing clothes were waiting in line for a chance to use the new appliances!! Thanks again Kathryn, Daryl, Barry and Pacific Diversified!!!

In the summer we received word that we had received a match grant from the Community Foundation San Benito County for Special Education Equipment in the amount of \$2,500. So I contacted some of our vendors and requested they help us meet the match. Several vendors and individuals: Augie & Calla Bertao, Anna Marie and James Will, Richard Shelton & Shelton Insurance, Der Manouel Insurance, NonProfits United Insurance, and Littler

Mendelson stepped up! Added to a Bank of America matched secured by Daryl Thome, and a grant from Verizon Wireless we were able to meet the match and before year end, the Keith Thompson students will have some innovative equipment to help them be more successful with their educational requirements!!

I also reflect back on the amazing toy drive fund raiser the Ridgemark staff put on last holiday season! In addition, community member Noel Cordova not only secured toys for the children, she secured Christmas trees, a field trip to a local tree farm AND secured donations so that all the Chamberlain's Children had a traditional Christmas dinner with all the fixings!

This year the following groups Small Steps, Native Daughters of the Golden West, Rolling Hills Community Church, Anzar School, Hollister Downtown Association, and Ridgemark have all committed support for this holiday season!

Finally, this summer the Chamberlain's children had one of the best summers ever! With field trips, farmers market donations, and an amazing end of the summer party! Much of this was due to the amazing work of volunteer Dawn Roh. Dawn worked very hard in securing donations for field trips and activities! Dawn is now helping us with a new innovative program you will read more about in another article: Health, Wellness & Nutrition Center. We are very excited about this unique Center for our children and hope YOU will continue to be generous!!

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!

Happy Holidays to you and your families,

Robert Freiri
Executive Director



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www.chamberlaincc.org
www.chamberlainsmhs.com

HEALTH, WELLNESS, & NUTRITION CENTER

Chamberlain's mission is to provide vulnerable foster care children a warm, caring, home-like environment and to prepare these children for becoming productive members of our community. Most children arrive to Chamberlain's with numerous physical, psychiatric and emotional challenges. We have had tremendous success in rehabilitation of psychological and emotional disorders; however, it is now time to tackle the physical and nutritional needs of the foster children we serve. 80% of the children we serve arrive with eating disorders. 75% of our foster youth arrive to our center suffering from chronic health conditions including asthma, auditory problems, dental decay and malnutrition and 70% arrive overweight. 90% arrive with poor self-esteem and self-confidence.

By opening a Health, Wellness and Nutrition Center (HWNC) we will be able to address even more of the unmet needs of the children we serve. The HWNC will provide healthy cooking classes for children and staff. We will have a fitness room with multi station weight lifting equipment, treadmills, exercise bikes and elliptical trainer. The main room will have a flat screen, exercise mats and a "Wii fitness" and fitness videos available. In addition we will

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have a "Sanctuary room" set up for yoga and meditation. The kitchen will be remodeled and have a cooking demo island, stools, appropriate cookware, smoothie machine and a new energy efficient refrigerator will be brought in.

We will contract with our local YMCA for fitness, cooking and eating healthy classes for both children and staff. We will partner with Gavilan Collage's cosmetology class to set up hair and appearance classes.



We feel it is important for our staff to be actively engaged in the program as they are needed to role

model the behaviors and enthusiasm that we want to see in the children we serve.

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!

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Chamberlain's Mission Statement:

Chamberlain's Children Center is a child and family service agency that teaches and heals children and 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.

My Dog

By Michael Perez

Dog dog

Why are you mean?

I am very nice
How come you bark at me?

I love you

But don't think you like me.



My Dog Illustrated by Michael

