

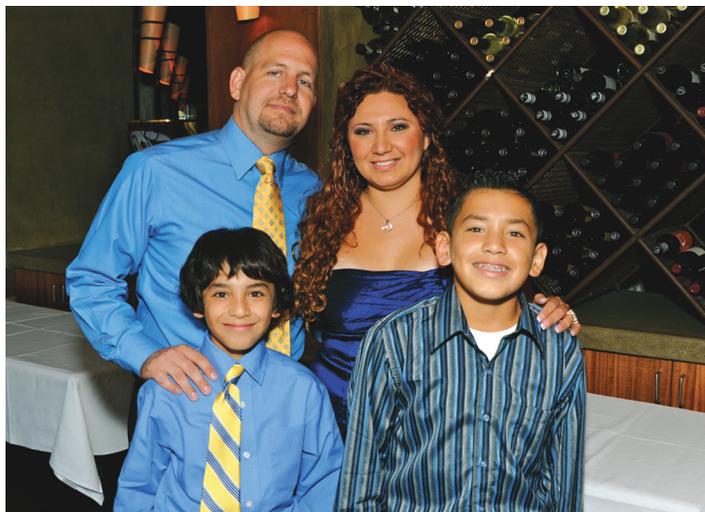


Chamberlain's News

FALL

2011

AN INSPIRING WOMAN: JESSICA CRAVEN ON HER EXPERIENCE LIVING AT CHAMBERLAIN'S.



Jessica with her husband and her 2 sons.

"I was taken away from my mother when I was 8 years old, abused and abandoned. I was placed with (and removed from) several other foster parents before coming to Chamberlains on July 24th 1989. When I arrived I was angry, confused, scared and I felt unwanted. I trusted no one and was afraid of being mistreated and abandoned again. I felt that everyone had given up on me and felt very alone. I labeled myself as the "bad kid", and for the next 4 years and 2 months, Chamberlain's was my home."

"Jessica came to us with a lot of heartache, fear and anger. Jessica tested the staff just like any of our kids do, some days more than others. Yet, like with all of our children, we hung in there and so did she," added Chamberlain's Cottage Supervisor, Lupe Grimaldo.

Jessica recalls. "No matter how hard I tried to fight, the staff always provided me with a sense of security. Chamberlain's helped me learn how to face my issues. I learned that working hard to accomplish my goals would help me be loved by others and trusted by my peers. They taught me to never give up, to express sadness appropriately, accomplish my goals, how to build social skills, self-esteem, honesty and most of all respect."

Jessica graduated from Chamberlain's in 1993 and continued to live the challenging path that foster children face. "Chamberlains was not just a placement, but my

home. Accepting the fact that I had to move on and face reality was scary," said Jessica. "Looking back to all that I had been through encouraged me to do better for myself, love more and help others who feel like there is no hope."

Today Jessica is living in San Antonio, Texas and is married with 2 children, ages 9 and 10 years. She has continued to stay in touch with Cottage Supervisor, Lupe Grimaldo. Jessica adds, "I am blessed with 2 handsome boys, a wonderful husband who loves me unconditionally and a talent as a professional photographer. I love working with people and seeing smiles of happy families. I can say after all of my experiences; there is hope and never give up!! I thank God for the staff at Chamberlains Children Center."

Chamberlain's News

1

Volume 4, 11/11

HEALTH, WELLNESS, & NUTRITION CENTER UPDATE: Phase 2, the learning lab kitchen, is now complete courtesy of Leadership San Benito County.



Before pictures of the HWNC kitchen.



After picture of the HWNC kitchen.

FALL 2011

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A LANDMARK YEAR!

We had a very successful 2nd Annual Mari's FUNd Day! Over sixty people endured chilling weather and after a great program including dancing demonstrations, auction and raffle, everyone left with warm hearts!! I do want to recognize two important people in the Chamberlain's family who were acknowledged at the event: Volunteer of the Year Josie Bravo and for exemplary service; this year's Rosemary Cardinali award recipient, Lupe Grimaldo. Congrats to you both!

We also spent the year preparing for a California Alliance of Child and Family Services Accreditation. Our evaluator visit went very well! The Lead Evaluator stated in his report "Chamberlain's has a leadership group fully dedicated to providing quality services for the children in their care...front line staff clearly evidenced a concurrent commitment to the children of Chamberlain's".



I am very proud of our team for their hard work, commitment and preparation. As we begin 2012, Chamberlain's Children Center will be an Accredited Agency!!!

All that being said, the one project I am just ecstatic about is our Health, Wellness and Nutrition Center. The fitness center has been well used this year and with the support of Leadership

San Benito and many others we have a beautiful working kitchen. We have partnered with the YMCA of San Benito to provide fitness, yoga, nutrition and cooking classes. I poked my head in last week to see a group of children elbow deep in pumpkin seeds and pumpkin "guts" enjoying baking pumpkin seeds!!! I am so excited we are able to provide these wonderful experiences for the Chamberlain's Children.

As the holidays approach I want to give a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supports our children during the holidays! The generosity of the San Benito County community is amazing. In addition, the Chamberlain's Board of Director's played a key role in our success from staying active in community outreach, getting great prizes for our auction and for approving and supporting the ambitious plan the staff and I put in front of them!



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



like us on facebook

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
CHAMBERLAIN'S CHILDREN CENTER AND
THE WORK WE DO VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.chamberlaincc.org

FALL 2011

THIS YEAR WE HAVE HONORED THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEDICATION:

Philanthropy Day recipients: Sandy Gabe-Volunteer and Nancy Kops- President of the Board.

Manager of the Quarter recipients: Tiffany Schindler- Case Manager, Lupe Grimaldo- Cottage Supervisor and Gracie Lucatero- Program Coordinator.

Employee of the month winners: January- Yraisa Cortez, February- Sara Casillas, March- Anthony Bravo, April- Veronica Amescua, May- Steven Cowell, June- Isaiah Hernandez, July- Danielle Patino, August- Elizabeth Avila, September- Rachel Hernandez, October- Jose Marquez

SAVE THE DATE:

3rd Annual Mari's FUNd Day

Saturday, May 19, 2012 Noon to 3pm
Mari Davis Memorial Park
BBQ lunch, children's activities, auction and family fun day.

All proceeds will benefit Chamberlain's Children Center. Thank you for your continued support!



View from Chamberlain's campus.



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!

FALL 2011

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.



MACHINE LIKE MY BODY

*My machine is a Robot because
it is my kind. It can do break
dancing and can do my chores.
It can also walk like us.*

-Chamberlain's Resident



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