

-Barbara Bush

something to *give*.

But everyone has

some literally *give* their blood.

some their skills and connections,

Some people *give* time, some money,

achieve life-long success.

the skills they need to

strengths and develop

past trauma, discover their

to heal from

in a home-like environment

at-risk children

Center empowers

Chamberlain's Children

Statement:

Mission

Chamberlains

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



Fall 2015
Volume 17



Fall Newsletter

A Look Inside

- Summer Fun
- 40th Anniversary Celebration
- 10 ways to GIVE
- Student Learning Service & more



Benefits Chamberlain's!

The 3rd Annual San Benito Olive Festival is fast approaching and Chamberlain's will be involved again! On **Saturday, October 17** from 10am-5pm at Bolado Park in Tres Pinos, attendees will be greeted by the friendly Chamberlain's staff at the Ticket Sales tent.

This event focuses on the area's agriculture highlighting the region's award winning olive oils. It also celebrates other superfoods grown in San Benito County and focuses on nutritious foods which aligns with Chamberlain's Children Center's Health, Wellness & Nutrition program. This not-for-profit event benefits several local non-profits including Chamberlain's!

Guests will be treated to an enormous array of talented celebrity chef cooking demos, sommeliers, artisans and more, who are all looking to entertain, nourish and delight attendees with their passions, amazing creations, presentations and beautiful arts, crafts and jewelry! There, of course, will be delicious olives. For tickets, go to www.sanbenitoolivefestival.com or come see us at the Ticket Sales tent the day of the event!

Volunteers* Needed

Help us greet guests, sell tickets and have lots of fun! Two shifts available.

Contact Denise Cauthen-Wright at 831-636-2121 x129 or denise@chamberlaincc.org

*Volunteers receive a stylish SBOF apron, entry into the event & snacks!

Making someone's holiday a bit brighter!

Help someone have a nicer holiday this year by participating in the **12 Days of Giving** Holiday Campaign. This event is spearheaded by the Community Foundation for San Benito County and United Way of San Benito County and sponsored by these generous sponsors: Tiffany Ford, Greenwood Chevrolet, True Leaf, Recology, Teknova and more.

Your monetary gift will be matched dollar for dollar, up to

\$45,000 during this 4th annual holiday campaign. This event provides the community with an opportunity to donate to your choice of six local non-profit organizations: Chamberlain's Children Center, CASA of San Benito County, Community Food Bank, Emmaus House, Homeless Coalition & Salvation Army. In the past 3 years, over \$180,912 was raised to assist these non-profits!



Once again, the **12 Days of Giving** will start at the United Way's Christmas Gala & Extravaganza on Sat., Nov.14 & finish at the Hollister Downtown Association's Lights On Celebration holiday parade on Sat., Nov. 28. Watch for the **12 Days of Giving** parade float! Also, stop by the booth and enjoy free hot chocolate, learn more about these local organizations and have a "Last Chance" opportunity to donate to this campaign.

To learn more or to donate, visit the **12 Days of Giving** Facebook page or click on the link at www.chamberlaincc.org. Specify "**12 Days of Giving**" in the memo.



A Summer to Remember!

By Patrick Ellis

In typical Chamberlain's fashion, our kids had countless opportunities for summer fun! From baseball and arena football games to beach and amusement park trips, we were once again able to provide essential family-like outings to kids in our care. Several children became involved in community recreation through the Junior Giants and even more participated in the week long vacation bible school at the Presbyterian Church.

There were also trips to the Pinnacles National Park, Great America, a terrific BBQ play day with Sunnyslope Christian Church and many beach excursions, creating wonderful memories for the Chamberlain children.

We ended the summer in *grand fashion* with a *FUN* evening event complete with our *first ever outdoor movie* in our Chamberlain's Park! This was a huge success with the kids! They were treated to delicious tacos, roasted marshmallows, a bounce house and got to stay up late for the movie "Goonies" complete with lots of popcorn!

In the end, our kids had a summer filled with new and unique experiences that help lay a foundation for positive childhood memories.



Service Learning College Students



California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) and Gavilan College have for years connected various worthwhile non profits with their students seeking to complete their Service Learning hours. In the past, Chamberlain's has been blessed with many of these fantastic students and this semester was no different!

The students are assigned to one of the Chamberlain children's homes or to our non public school, based on their preferences and skills, then are asked to commit at least once a week, 3-4 hours. They might assist our children in homework, help them to prepare snacks and meals, play games and participate in activities such as gardening, reading, music, sports and more.

When asked why they chose Chamberlain's, one student replied "I want to try and make a difference in a child's life. Inspire them to dream big and in turn, learn myself."



Each month at Chamberlain's, direct care staff and management participate in trainings that cover a wide range of topics. The trainings, typically presented by management, serve to further develop our ability to provide quality treatment to the children in our care. At Chamberlain's, however, staff is also encouraged to take a leadership role by creating and presenting content for all to gain from. This inclusive style gives direct care staff the opportunity to develop and hone their research, organization, and communication skills by delivering engaging and pertinent content.

In both July and August, Chamberlain's staff took advantage of the opportunity. Child Care Worker III, Krista Breheny, opened July's training with an emotionally impactful presentation and discussion of Lemn Nissay's TED Talk titled 'A Child of the State'. With Nissay's enlightening words as a catalyst, Breheny highlighted the need for empathy when serving the complex needs of foster youth and opened the doors to an engaging conversation among care staff.



With the doors of engaged learning wide open, training in August brought a new focus; team building. Gaining support from their colleagues, Residential Treatment Cottage Supervisors, Sandy Leifheit and Vanessa Arroyo facilitated a seminar in which each department led a team building activity. The activities proved to be engaging and eye opening with lessons in team potential, communication, and problem solving. One activity gave insight to the complicated challenges direct care staff face. Using floating balloons to represent the needs of our children, participants demonstrated the critical importance of asking for and receiving support as well as outside-the-box problem solving.

It's moments like these that reaffirm our belief that inclusive training reaps huge rewards for our staff, management and ultimately our kids.



DONATION FORM- every dollar counts!

Name _____ Amount Donated _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to:

Chamberlain's Children Center, Inc. Federal Tax ID# 94-2357401

Mail to: Chamberlain's Children Center PO Box 1269, Hollister, CA 95024-1269



If you would like to donate via a credit card,

please visit www.chamberlaincc.org and click on the "Donate Here" button.

Pardon Me! May I Have Your Attention?



By Board President Nancy Kops

In 2007 I saw a short article in the *Hollister Pinnacle* newspaper which said that Chamberlain's Children Center's Board of Directors was looking for new board members. Having recently retired and wanting to be free of new commitments, I quickly dismissed the idea of joining the board. My husband saw the same article and said, "Nancy, here is something you would be interested in!" "Not now," I said. When another notice appeared in the *Pinnacle* several months later, he again encouraged me to join. This time I took the leap and joined the board, becoming its President in 2009.

In the 8 years since joining the board, I have never regretted my decision. *Why not?* Here are a few of the reasons. I have been part of a group which has made decisions that impact the lives of vulnerable children. I have learned many new things, such as: how to review financial reports and budgets ; how a nonprofit organization functions; how various agencies in the community function; the importance of community foundations; the importance of good leadership in organizations; and how staff can be committed despite not making a lot of money. I have also met wonderful people and seen the community's tremendous generosity in people who have given financial support or their time and/or talent.

Chamberlain's Children Center's Board of Directors once again needs a few good men and women to join its ranks. Will you answer the call? Do you have knowledge, talent and/or life experiences to contribute to our Board of Directors? Perhaps you know someone who has passion for helping children and who would like to grow and develop through the experience of being a nonprofit board member. Although everyone is busy, making it easy to dismiss an invitation to join, the rewards of joining the board make the commitment worthwhile. Please give us a call!

Anyone is welcome to attend a meeting to get to know the current board. Meetings are generally held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 4:45pm and location alternates from Hollister campus & Gilroy office.

Please RSVP by contacting Denise Cauthen-Wright at denise@chamberlaincc.org or 831.636.2121 x129

Chamberlain's Becomes CSUMB Internship Provider

By Patrick Ellis



Chamberlain's and California State University Monterey Bay have established a new relationship through the Community Health and Human Services bachelor level field placement program. The program provides students with an integrated academic and community learning experience by placing students in health and human service agencies throughout the tri-county area, including San Benito County.

The primary purpose of the field experience is to promote the professional development of students by providing opportunities to apply knowledge gained in the classroom out in the community in preparation for entry level employment in the health and human service fields. Student learning is supported and facilitated by field seminars in both the junior and senior years, which focus on reflection activities and integration of new skills required for professional work in the areas of social work, community health, public administration and public safety.

The fall 2015 semester will bring the first group of interns to Chamberlain's. Opportunities with Chamberlain's include hands-on experience in residential treatment case management (social work) and coordination of the wellness center programs (community health). We look forward to a long and prosperous relationship with CSUMB and their many eager students.



Chamberlain's turns 40!

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, May 6, 2016

Our traditional MARI's FUNd Day is going *Night!*



For our very special 40th celebration, we have selected a very fun theme!

"Blue Jeans, Boots and Bling Ball"

(Intriguing title, isn't it?)

We are pulling out all the stops and promise it will be an event *not to be missed!*

The committee is planning a look back at the last 40 years of Chamberlain's Children Center, invite entertaining & passionate speakers and give attendees a *first hand look* at the future plans of Chamberlain's along with a whole lot of fun, fantastic food and celebrating!

If you would like to become a sponsor, donate raffle or auction items or want to be part of a fantastic committee, please contact Robert at robert@chamberlaincc.org or our new Fund Development & Donor Engagement Manager Denise Cauthen-Wright at denise@chamberlaincc.org or 831.636.2121 x129.



Executive Director Report:

As the story goes... in 1965, Clara Chamberlain started a home for special needs babies in the city of Santa Clara. Over the years, she saw the need for foster care for behaviorally disturbed children increase as many children were not succeeding in a normal foster care setting, having experienced multiple placements prior to coming to her home. It appeared shortly that the residential care program needed to be complimented with a unique special education program, thus she created a non-public school for the children in her care.

In 1969, Chamberlain's moved to San Martin where the foundation for Chamberlain's Children Center was formed. During 1976, Clara developed two sister non profit agencies: a residential center in Hollister and intensive day treatment services in San Martin. Initially the 'Group Homes' were in town but eventually four cottages were built on what is now the 'Chamberlain's Campus' in Hollister. We, at Chamberlain's, all owe her a debt of gratitude for her determination, compassion, ingenuity and clear vision to help vulnerable children in need and, of course, her big heart!

The staff and I work hard to continue her legacy by continuing to develop our agency. Over the past ten years in particular, we have built, *with the help of many, many generous donors and volunteers*, four cottages, a playground, developed the perennial and vegetable gardens, renovated our school and most recently, renovated what was Clara's home into a 'Wellness Center' complete with a full kitchen, fitness center and music/movement room! We have become State Accredited and are on the cusp of being Nationally Accredited! We are working on diversifying our revenue sources by becoming a Medi-Cal eligible agency. And we are doubling our staff development/training efforts and adding retirement and educational benefits for our staff. Whew, I'm tired just writing all of that!

Yet there is still more to do! We are kicking off our 40th Anniversary next year with a campaign to raise funds for a new building that will house our management and clinical teams together, as well as new therapy rooms. The campaign will climax with our 40th Anniversary celebration on Friday, May 6th at San Juan Oaks. We just had an initial planning meeting with our dedicated committee and we promise you a excellent time at our "Blue Jeans, Boots and Bling Ball"!

This unique evening will feature a look back at our 40 years, testimonials from alumni, great keynote speaker and some other exciting activities! If you would like to be part of the planning committee, please let me or Denise know.

In addition, if you have any photos and stories of Chamberlain's early years in Hollister, please pass them on to us via email or our Facebook page.



The milestones of the past, fuel the fire that ignites us to make the future great! *Here's to Mrs. Chamberlain and to forty more great years!*

Robert Freiri
Executive Director
robert@chamberlaincc.org

10 Ways YOU can give to Chamberlain's!

Participate in 
DOUBLE your monetary donation
Nov. 17 through Nov. 28.
See details on page 1.

Credit Card Donations

Did you know you can **give** via our website?
Visit www.chamberlaincc.org for any credit card donations. Click on this icon



In-Kind Donations

For a list of acceptable material donations to **give**, click on the "Donate" tab at www.chamberlaincc.org.
Stop by the office M-F 9am-4pm to donate or call ahead at 831-636-2121 for large/heavy items.

Donate Your Car

(or Boat, RV, Motorcycle & more!)
When you **give** your car to **Cars 4 Causes**, they **give** to Chamberlain's!
Visit www.chamberlaincc.org & click on



See complete list on their website.

Target's Take Charge of Education program.



If you use your *Target Credit card, Target Visa Credit card or Target Debit card* for any purchases (online or at the stores), Target **gives** to your designated school.
Just go to www.target.com/tcoe and designate Chamberlain's as your beneficiary on each of your cards.
[Use School ID #3703](#)

When you shop at



and **select Chamberlain's as your beneficiary**, Amazon **gives** a portion of your purchase to Chamberlain's! It's that easy...shop and **give** at the same time!

Shop at

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for all your costume and party supply needs!
You save 10% and they **give** to Chamberlain's!
Just make sure to enter FUN3318 when you checkout!

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And swipe your

S.H.A.R.E.S

rewards card during purchases & they **give** to Chamberlain's!

Get your S.H.A.R.E.S card from Chamberlain's or call 636-2121 x129

Complete the Donation form

on page 7 and mail a check in for any amount you would like to **give**.
Donations may be tax deductible and a receipt will be mailed to you for your tax records.

Volunteer

No matter how much time you might have to **give**, there are many opportunities at Chamberlain's.

- ◆ Become a Mentor
- ◆ Join the Board
- ◆ Complete Service Learning Hours
- ◆ Volunteer for Work Days



Chamberlain's Children Center, Inc.

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www.chamberlaincc.org 831-636-2121