



## Summer Newsletter

### Summer, Summer, Summer Time!

This summer was another exciting season for Chamberlain's children, with many exciting activities to help them learn and grow and make memories that will last a lifetime. Every year, we set out to provide the children great summer time opportunities that will enhance their growth here at Chamberlain's, allowing them to practice important behavioral skills while having fun. Many of our kids come to us with limited experiences with traditional summer family activities and plenty of challenging memories. Each activity or outing they participate in is an opportunity for them to replace an unhappy memory with a happier, more rewarding one. This year, we participated in a wide range of new activities as well as some of our summertime traditions. We were once again able to visit the farmers market where our kids got to shop, jump in the bounce houses, and even

get their faces painted. We are very thankful that several of the vendors once again donated produce for all of the houses on campus. In addition to those frequent farmers market trips, many of the children got to go on beach trips, were able to visit the Pinnacles National Park, the Saddle Horse Parade, went to an SF Giants and an A's game, and took field trips to the Monterey Bay Aquarium, The Exploratorium in San Francisco, and Raging Waters. The Raging Waters field trip was special this year because it was a first trip for two of our children and a lot more of our kids were eligible to go based on the level system we use to reward good behavior. There were a number of special visitors on campus this summer as well. We had former clients come to speak to the kids about their experiences. Both of the former clients had lived here with

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us for a significant period of time, and they were both living successful lives accomplishing their goals. They both spoke about the lessons they learned while they were here from their personal experience. Their stories really resonated with our kids. The summer is coming to a close, and for most of our kids, it has already ended. We threw our traditional End of Summer Party as a way of signaling the transition back to school. The kids got to have fun playing in the bounce house water slide, kiddie pools, a BBQ and shaved ice. It is always the perfect way to wrap up our summer activities and the kids always have a blast! It was another summer to remember!



### Inspiring Visit From Local Author

Maria Lynn Thomas (pictured left) is the author of the book "To Set A Prisoner Free." She made a special visit to our campus to speak to our older children and staff members. Maria's story is a story of overcoming the emotional obstacles from early childhood trauma (parental abuse and neglect) and recovering into a successful, independent person with personal goals and a balanced life. Maria came to the children at Chamberlains with a strong message of the power of forgiveness. Not for the sake of forgiveness itself but for the value it has in each person's life to free them from their past and allow them to truly recover a sense of safety and belonging in the world.

If you do a lot of grocery shopping at SaveMart, Smart Foods, FoodMaxx, or Lucky you can support Chamberlain's while you shop with a SaveMart SHARES card. When you swipe a SHARES card before you pay, it will earn Chamberlain's Children Center points to receive money back from the purchases. To request a card, please call 831-636-2121, ext. 129.

### Support us while you shop!



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

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.

Mission Statement:

Chamberlains

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## Chamberlain's Honors Our Supporters

Chamberlain's has been very lucky to have some amazing volunteers and community advocates that are extremely dedicated to helping us out wherever it is needed. Over the years, we have relied on the help of volunteers to help us complete important projects, maintain our campus, and to inspire others to get involved in supporting our organization. In April, we were able to honor some key individuals whose impact has been immense over the last year or more. During the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Service Awards hosted by United Way Monterey County, we honored Community Leader Starr Wolf and the volunteer group Kohl's Associates in Action. As the Executive Director of Leadership San Benito County and Coordinator for the United Way serving San Benito County, Starr Wolf made a priceless difference at Chamberlain's Children Center. Through Leadership SBC, Starr provided the platform for annual team driven community outreach projects. One project with direct impact to Chamberlain was the Learning Lab Kitchen. The kitchen, built by a team of local leaders who were assembled and guided by Starr Wolf, has given Chamberlain's an opportunity to teach our at-risk youth valuable family, life, occupational, and social skills for years to come. Every time a child cooks and

eats a healthy home-made meal in our kitchen that child experiences the value of self-sufficiency, healthy eating and family connection. In addition, Starr was Hollister Rotary President in 2012 and spearheaded a donation of tickets for Chamberlain's children to an Oakland A's game. These experiences wouldn't exist without Starr's commitment to our community and our agency. Although she recently took on a new role, Starr remains a strong advocate for the work of Chamberlain's Children Center and a real doer of good. Since the beginning of our partnership with Kohl's in Gilroy, they have been nothing but enthusiastic. Carolyn Trimble, who coordinates the program for the Gilroy Store, has spearheaded the recruiting of associates and plays a key role in motivating the team. Dana Lee, the assistant manager for the store has been very dedicated in inspiring involvement as well. The whole group has been more than willing to roll up their sleeves with whatever activity we task them with, from wrapping Christmas gifts during the holidays to digging in our gardens. They played an important role in providing an amazing Christmas to our children by participating in our



holiday gift wrapping. Because of them, our staff was able to get the wrapping done in a very fast time so that they could concentrate on other aspects of the holiday planning. They also have made amazing headway in our gardening transformation, cleaned up our baseball field which included the surrounding foliage, and came out to dance and volunteer at this year's Mari's FUNd Day. Their dedication to our organization has helped transform our campus while raising some money for our programs. In addition to always doing an exemplary job at whatever task they are assigned to do while volunteering with us, they often inspire friends and family members to come along with them to get involved with whatever project they have been asked to work on. We are deeply grateful to both Starr and the Kohl's group for their continued involvement and support of our organization and the children in our care. For more information about getting involved with Chamberlain's, visit [www.chamberlaincc.org](http://www.chamberlaincc.org).

## Chamberlain's Innovative New Employee Recognition Program

Chamberlain's has created a new employee recognition program. Supported through funding provided by local biotech company Teknova, the program seeks to honor the performance of our staff based on efforts and actions that uniquely support our mission. The program started in August by honoring the staff listed in the following four categories:

- Tessa Wise Howard**- Creating a home-like environment
- Samantha Parrott**- Helping children heal from past trauma
- Andrew Avila**- Empowering children and helping them discover their strengths
- Israel Sanchez**- Guiding children to develop skills for success



Each of these employees were introduced by their co-workers as having exemplary performance in their respective category. Examples of their creativity, initiative, patience and persistence were shared with all present. Each honoree received a \$25 wellness gift card and the accolades of their peers, managers, and directors. In addition, the honorees themselves shared insight to encourage positive action in others. Every month our direct care employees will have a chance to be honored for their efforts and to share their successful experiences with each other, providing much deserved recognition as well as a learning opportunity for all.

### Manager of the Quarter!

For her successful leadership under stressful circumstances, Retha DeLaRosa was honored as the Manager of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter. Retha supervises Kipper's Cottage, our teen house. Kipper's can be a tricky place to provide treatment. After all, teenage girls can present some unique challenges. This summer was slated to be especially tricky after the departure of several beloved staff and children. These changes concerned everyone and no one was quite sure how well the summer would go. In spite of these challenging circumstances, Retha guided



her staff and children to a summer in which the children (and staff) not only survived, but thrived! At her charge, our staff kept children engaged in treatment and focused on success. And despite their accelerated training, they jumped right into the mix with confidence. In fact, the group pulled together just like a family. Through her efforts, Retha's leadership provided our kids with a positive life lesson in loss, love, family cohesion and group success. Chamberlain's is grateful for your summer of success.

### Employee of the Month

The following is a list of winners under the old employee recognition system for the first half of 2013

- **January: Yvette Cordova**
- **February: Andrew Avila**
- **March: Casey Davenport**
- **April: Imelda Ceja**
- **May: Dusty Peterson**
- **June: Aaron Asbury**

## Another Successful Mari's FUNd Day Event

Our 4th Annual Mari's FUNd Day turned out to be another success, surpassing what we were able to raise last year with a great turnout of supporters. This year we were fortunate to have the hula group Hula Ohana out to preform several amazing dances with special guests Lilo & Stitch gracing us with their presence during the group's break. Their performance was a nice compliment to our usual activities which included a Zumba demonstration, bounce house, small petting zoo, face painting, silent auction and raffle.

The event was once again an opportuni-

ty to honor an employee with the Rosemary Cardinalli award for outstanding achievement and dedication to our children. This year's winner, Imelda Ceja, was a perfect fit. She is always willing to go above and beyond her duties to our children making an impact that effects the whole organization. She also donated cakes and other goodies for special events. She is pictured below with the two previous year's winners.

It was another great year for us! Part of the funds we raised went towards the purchase of a new van for Kippers cottage which was badly needed. We are deeply grateful for the community support!



Old Van



New Van



## Mari's FUNd Day Acknowledgements

**Event Sponsor:** United Agencies, Inc.; **Food Sponsor:** Teknova; **Activity Sponsor:** Klett Consulting Group; **Friends of Chamberlain's:** Financial Administrative Support Services, John Smith Road Landfill, True Leaf Farms; **Boosters:** Brent Redmond Transportation, Calla & Augie Bertao, Susie & David Swing, Josie & Tony Bravo, Nancy Kops, Rabbit Office Automation; **Auction and Raffle Contributors:** B & R Farms, Blackstone, Bertao Real Estate Group, Big Five Sporting Goods, Bob & Sherrie Ilse, Casa de Fruta, Coke Farms, Ella's Café, David and Susie Swing, Designs by Pank, Dona Esther Restaurant, Emser Tile, Gilroy Gardens, Habitat for Humanity Silicon Valley/East Bay, Happy Hollow, Inn at Tres Pinos, John & Samantha Zaragoza, Marich Chocolates, Meineke Car Care Center, Miyako Japanese Restaurant, Nancy Kops, Pasadera Country Club, Premiere Cinemas, Renee Kops-Jones, Running Rooster, San Benito Bene, San Juan Oaks, SF 49ers, Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, SJ Giants, & Vision Quest Ranch.



## Keith Thompson Students Graduation 2013

Keith Thompson Nonpublic School is not just for residents here at Chamberlain's Children Center. Sometimes children from the public school system locally are in need or a little more support to succeed. In the beginning of the summer, we held a graduation ceremony for all of our kids who attended the school, but one of our students who came to us from public school was so successful that he graduated heading for public high school! Ulysses came to us after having trouble in his former school. He was struggling academically and was being picked on and bullied. After coming to KTNP School, his whole demeanor changed. His mother noted at the graduation ceremony that in addition to improving academically, he also increased his self-esteem and confidence. The changes she witnessed in her son moved her to tears as she mentioned how loved & supported he felt during his short time with us. She was so grateful to the school staff for helping her son grow and learn that the transition seemed almost bittersweet. Watching the other children in the class receive their end of year certificates, it was clear that they had also excelled under the guidance of our staff and that Ulysses had made many friends while he was here. During the ceremony, two of the students including Ulysses earned the President's Award for Academic Achievement signed by President Obama. It was a wonderful way to end the school year on such a positive note!

## Gardening Program Update: Eating Fresh All Summer Long

Our living teepee and surrounding vegetable crops have really begun to take off. We have harvested lots of crookneck squash, Zucchini, and tomatoes from the back garden this season and are waiting on the watermelon, corn, and pumpkins. Each house has taken ownership over their own planter box this year, and they are growing more tomatoes, pumpkins, squash, corn, sunflowers, and even a head or two of cauliflower! We have been receiving donations from vendors at the Hollister Farmers

Market each week which has been an amazing compliment to the vegetables we have grown on campus, offering up some Swiss chard, cucumbers, eggplant, cabbage, endive, Bok Choy, string beans, turnips, zucchini, several varieties of lettuce and greens to name more than a few! Members of our program staff have done a great job of getting creative with all of that produce and getting the kids involved with preparing it. We have even gotten to sample some of these unique offerings. We have seen pickles, sautéed greens, pastry pockets filled with Romanesco Cauliflower, zucchini cake, and cucumber carrot cupcakes. The gardening program and the farmers market donations have gone a long way towards teaching our children how to eat healthy and encouraging them to try new things.

Thanks to recent community support from Intero Foundation, Wells Fargo Foundation, and the United Way for San Benito County, our plans to expand the gardens will be moving forward very soon. We will begin work on a pizza garden next and keep adding new opportunities to expose our kids to the benefits of gardening and eating foods that are healthy and fresh!

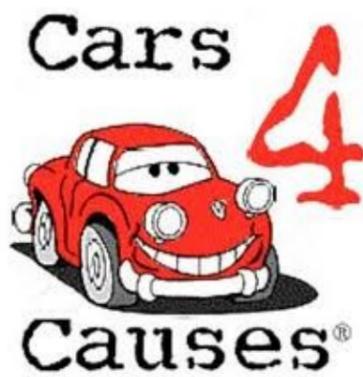


### Got musical talent?

We are looking for people who would like to donate their time towards teaching our children about music in our newly completed Music & Movement Room in the Wellness Center. If you know how to teach the drums, guitar, keyboard, or flute and would like to share your talent with our children, please contact [kim@chamberlaincc.org](mailto:kim@chamberlaincc.org) for more information.



### Turn Your Car Into a Contribution!



Do you have a car that you are needing to part with but you aren't too sure you want to sell it? Chamberlain's Children Center has partnered with Cars 4 Causes to process our vehicle donations. Cars 4 Causes is America's 1st vehicle donation charity and specializes in turning donated vehicles into cash. Your donation to Cars 4 Causes will help raise money for Chamberlain's Children Center. They work to get the highest price for each donated car, running or not, to ensure that you get the highest tax deduction you can get and Chamberlain's get the highest contribution out of the donation. They also handle donations of trucks, trailers, SUVs, vans, motorhomes, boats, and jet skis. If you have something taking up space in your driveway that you are not sure how to get rid of, please consider donating to Chamberlain's through Cars 4 Causes. They make the process as easy as possible. For more information, you can click the link on our website ([www.chamberlaincc.org/donate.html](http://www.chamberlaincc.org/donate.html)), or contact Kim Meininger at [kim@chamberlaincc.org](mailto:kim@chamberlaincc.org).

**DONATION FORM**

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 Mail to: Chamberlain's Children Center  
 PO Box 1269, Hollister, CA 95024-1269  
 We appreciate your support!

### Executive Director Report:

*"You have to water the flowers you want to grow." ~ Stephen Covey*



I really like that quote! It absolutely applies to the Children in our care. And it makes me think back to my own youth. When I was ten years old, we moved into a new town in Ventura County. While I was excited because we had our first house and I had my first room, I was also sad to leave friends and family behind. Back then we did not have child care centers to go to in the summer, so we were latch-key kids. After a few days of moping around the house, my dad encouraged me to go to the local Boys Club because they were open during the day and he could pick us up from there after work. So the next morning I scooped up my younger brother and we made the two mile walk to the Boys Club. Being quiet kids, it took us awhile to get involved in any activities. At first we were basically exchanging our own sofa for theirs. Later that day, I met the Program Director Frank. Frank introduced himself and took us on a tour of the facility. He signed me up for woodshop, ping pong, BMX biking, boxing, baseball, and the field trip to the Los Angeles Zoo. Frank introduced me to several of the other kids who I would become good friends with. Over the next two weeks Frank taught me how to navigate the BMX bike trail (yep, more than a few bruises), taught me to use a jigsaw and table saw in woodshop, and taught me how to play ping pong. Frank also talked my parents into letting us go to our first sleep over camp with Frank as our cabin counselor.

Frank noticed that while I was a quiet child, I was also very competitive. By the end of summer, I represented our club in intermural competitions in ping pong and boxing including a big tournament in Hollywood. It would make a better story if I said I won the Hollywood tournament, but, as I recall, I don't think that was the case, nor is it the point of my story. The point is a caring adult took an interest in me. He learned my likes and interests and gave me the opportunity to succeed in sports. He also introduced me to activities and field trips I had never been exposed to. When I first walked through those doors my self-esteem was at 0.1, by the end of summer it was nearly a ten! Frank remained at the Club for the next two years before getting a promotion to a club in Los Angeles. We kept in contact for a little while after that, remember this was way before cell phones, text messages, and Facebook! While our in-person connection faded away with time, his impact on me never did. Ten years later, a year after graduating college, I went back to that same Boys Club and worked two years running the at-risk teen program. Every time a new child would walk in, whether they were assigned to my program or not, I would give him or her the "Frank treatment" and introduce myself, take them on a tour, introduce them to other kids, and sign them up for activities.

Almost exactly forty years later, I am asking all of you to be "Frank" for one of the children in our care. Please consider joining our mentor program and being a role model for one of our twenty-four children. In many cases, the adults in our children's lives have failed them. I want them to see and talk to caring adults that can take them on a walk through our park, pick tomatoes from our garden, maybe catch a movie or go clothes shopping. Adult mentors provide our children with a supportive one-on-one relationship that will aid in developing self-esteem and a sense of community. The time commitment is minimal; the impact can be lifelong!! So please help us water our flowers so that they can grow as tall as the sunflowers in our garden!!

If interested in the mentor program, please contact Kim Meininger at (831)-636-2121, x129 or [kim@chamberlaincc.org](mailto:kim@chamberlaincc.org).

*Robert*  
Robert Freiri  
Executive Director