

Mari's FUND Day BBQ Fundraiser is on May 17th, 2014 from 12pm-3pm. This is a fun event with activities for children, a raffle, and a silent auction. This year, if you make a donation on May 6th through SV Gives in the amount of the ticket price, the donation confirmation print out will serve as your ticket-et on the day of the event. Visit svgives.razoo.com/story/Chamberlains-Children-Center-to-make-the-donation. Proceeds directly benefit the programs at Chamberlain's. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information contact Kim Meininger at kim@chamberlaincc.org or 831.636.2121, ext 129.

Save The Date!



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.



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Winter Newsletter

Silicon Valley Gives Day of Giving May 6th

Chamberlain's Children Center will be participating in the first ever Silicon Valley Gives event hosted by the Silicon Valley



Community Foundation in collaboration with the Community Foundation for San Benito County. This one day giving event will be held on May 6th in celebration of the 100th anniversary of community foundations. Money will be raised for local nonprofits through a single online donation platform, providing a great way to

connect donors to the charitable causes they care about most and encourage them to take action. This event will provide an opportunity for donors of all different capacities to be involved and will provide invaluable trainings to a broad range of nonprofit organizations. During the 24 hours of fundraising, donors will get a fun and unique opportunity to maximize the impact of their contribution by earning prizes or matches for the nonprofit to whom they are donating depending on when they donate. To donate, visit svgives.razoo.com/story/Chamberlains-Children-Center. Below is a sampling of some of the prizes and matches that will be available that day:

Prize	Time
2 to 1 Match	12AM hour
Dollar for Dollar Match up to \$50,000	12pm, 6pm, 7pm hours
Dollar for Dollar Match up to \$35,000	7am hour
Dollar for Dollar Match up to \$15,000	8am hour
\$150 golden ticket added to one random donation	Each hour
\$2,000 prize for nonprofit with the most individual donations in an hour	Each Hour

A Look Inside

- Horse Therapy
- One Stop Success
- Recent donations
- Service Learning Students

Chamberlain's Volunteer Work Day



Chamberlain's Volunteer Work Day is coming up on April 26th, 2014 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. We invite you to come join us as we continue our work outside on our garden area, do some painting, and get our campus cleaned up for spring. If you would like to participate, please rsvp to Kim Meininger at kim@chamberlaincc.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

Mari's FUND Day BBQ

This year, if you make a donation on May 6th through SV Gives in the amount of your ticket prices, the donation confirmation printout will serve as your ticket to the event!

Visit svgives.razoo.com/story/Chamberlains-Children-Center

Our 5th annual fundraiser BBQ will be on May 17th, 2014 from 12:00pm to 3:00pm at the Mari Davis Memorial Park and Pavilion located on 1850 San Benito Street in Hollister. The cost is \$25 for adults and \$10 for children. All members of the public are invited. The BBQ



A Dream Opportunity for Our Kids

Horses are symbolic of many positive traits that we would like to instill in the children in our care. Horses embody strength, grace, power, and perseverance.

My horse's feet are as swift as rolling thunder
He carries me away from all my fears
And when the world threatens to fall asunder
His mane is there to wipe away my tears.
- Bonnie Lewis

They are incredibly loyal and trustworthy. Although large, they are quite gentle. Several years ago, a unique opportunity arose to begin bringing our children to Dreampower Horsemanship for equine therapy.

proper horse etiquette with a licensed marriage and family therapist and one other adult. During the sessions, they work on establishing a connection with the horse which helps them build a trusting relationship with it even when they sometimes have a hard time trusting adults in their lives. The whole experience is very calming and helps the child increase their confidence and self esteem. For children who do not like horses or who may be too scared of them to interact freely, they may interact with smaller farm animals. One of our previous clients was not interested in interacting with the horses so he was given the opportunity to put some animals in a wagon and pull them around the barn. It was an opportunity for him to learn how to be gentle and nurturing to the animals he was interacting with. The experience has been an extremely rewarding one for our children. We are honored to be collaborating with such an amazing organization as Dreampower Horsemanship. If you would like more information about them, visit www.dreampowerhorsemanship.com.

Once a week, children go to the Dreampower Stables to work with horses. They can groom and lead a horse around, but they must have earned the right to ride the horse through good behavior the prior week. They are taught

A Penny at A Time

The students at Sacred Heart Parish School are focused on more than academics when they hear the school bell ring. They routinely participate in kind acts for the community to “grow the love in their hearts” as their principle recently said. Every year they have a penny drive challenge and designate a local organization to give the proceeds to. This year, Chamberlain’s Children Center was the grateful recipient of the funds. It is amazing what penny’s can do when they add up! They raised over \$600 for our programs. The student who coordinated with us, Dominic Garcia, presented the funds to us in front of the rest of his schoolmates.



Service Learning Students at Chamberlain’s

For several years now, Chamberlain’s Children Center has been working with local colleges to encourage students to complete their service learning hours here. Over that time, many students have helped with homework, preparing dinner, playing games, participating in classroom activities, and befriended our children here along the way. It began as a partnership with Gavilan College. One professor in particular has been inspiring her students to get involved. Leah Halper has been very successful at getting her students through our doors and her students have walked away with much deeper understanding of what some foster children have to go through to heal. The program has recently branched out—Chamberlain’s Children Center now partners with the CSU Monterey Bay Service Learning Institute. We also had a student from San Jose State University, although we do not have a formal partnership with them. Many of our students have no prior knowledge of the foster care system, let alone the foster care group home. Here is what one of our CSUMB professors had to



say about her student’s experience: “my students were enriched by their service with you at Chamberlain’s Children Center... thank you for supervising and supporting them. It was a challenge for some of them to learn about the realities of the lives of children in foster care... But I was impressed that they developed a sense of compassion and understanding for the children. All of them chose to do their research paper on some aspect of foster children or children who experience abuse or neglect.” We are deeply grateful each time a student chooses to fulfill his or her hours with us each semester. The benefits that we get out of the partnership are numerous. Our children receive attention from people outside of Chamberlain’s staff who are able to role model healthy behaviors and be a positive influence on our children during their time here. Our service learning students probably give more than they receive without ever knowing it. We appreciate the time they spend here with our children, and hope they carry the experience with them long after it is over.



Victory At Chamberlain

Shannon Grissom is a successful local artist who makes it her mission to spread joy and happiness through her community. She is a woman with many talents, has authored a children's book, produced a television program, played music, and has even painted many beautiful pieces. She recently came to Chamberlain's Children Center to donate an original of her popular Monkey Made of Sockies lines, entitled Victory. People have really loved her sock monkey portraits, so she recently decided to begin donating the original works to local organizations to share the smiles with individuals who could most use the cheering up. She personally chose this painting for us to symbolize our children's triumph over adversity. We are honored to provide a permanent home to this piece in our Wellness Center for all to see.

This is not the first time that Shannon has graced us with one of her paintings. Our Wellness Center Kitchen wall dons one of her beautiful still life paintings as well. Both pieces are wonderful additions to a space that is used to promote the holistic wellbeing of the children in our care. We are immensely grateful to Shannon for her generosity!



KTNPS Celebrates Sochi Olympics

Students in Keith Thompson Non Public School were able to follow along with the winter Olympics and participate in activities in conjunction with the sporting events they were watching. They were able to view some of the events on the classroom projector and learn more about sports like curling, skeleton, luge, and ski jumping. They also picked a country to follow and designed their country's flag (pictured below hanging from the ceiling). They kept track of all the medals won by their country of choice as well as Chamberlain's staff members favorite Olympic events and graphed the results. All of the classroom activities promoted different subjects, with language arts, math, and science being covered. The students practice effective social skills when they visited other offices on campus to find out staff preferences. It was a unique opportunity to use a topic that they were already interested in to provide learning opportunities, making the kids especially excited to participate.



Welcome New Staff



We would like to welcome our newest member of our clinical team. Joanne Preston just joined us as a case manager. Joanne has recently relocated to California from the East Coast. She attended graduate school at University of Pennsylvania where she graduated with two Master's. Joanne received her first Master's Degree in Psychological Services and continued her studies and obtained her second Master's Degree in Professional Counseling and Psychology. She has 10 years of experience working in the field of mental/emotional /behavioral health. Joanne is currently a Licensed Professional Counselor in the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey and is currently working towards becoming licensed in California. We are very glad she has joined the team!



Holiday Season Acknowledgements

We would like to recognize everyone who contributed to making Thanksgiving and Christmas brighter for the children here at Chamberlain's over the holiday season. Our staff and our children truly appreciate your support. The holidays can be especially tough when someone is separated from their family. Community support really makes this a heartwarming time for the kids in our care.

Anita Sarringhouse
Anzar High School
Augie Bertao
Bob and Sherrie Ilse
Brent Redmond Transportation
California Giant
Carol Reimer
Carolyn Mead
Charla Carlson
Charles & Annette Weisenseel
Coke Farms
Craig Nagareda, DDS
Damm Good Water
Dave and Susie Swing
Dirk & Rebecca Swanepoel
Donald Davis
Edward Stephenson
Faultline Derby Devilz
Flying Changes Magazine
Gloria Saisho
Gracie Lucatero
HIT Me
Jean E. Carrillo
Jenny Camara-Ray
Josie Bravo
Juliet Brians

Kim and Matt Meininger
Klett Consulting Group
Krystal Jones
Linda Scholer and Roger Brandt
Lisa Naumchik Hammond
Lupe Grimaldo
Madeleine Beaudoin
Mary Nino
Matt Morrison
Matthew Kim
Maze Middle School
Meineke Car Care Center
Michelle Fisher
Nicole Patterson
Octavio Lucatero
Pacific Science Energetic Materials Company
Patrick and Amalia Ellis
Paul and Marlene Fales
Pinnacles Quilters
Plumbers, Steamfitters & Refrigeration Fitters UA Local Union 393
Raymond & Sylvia Nevarez
Renee Kops-Jones

Retha De La Rosa
Richard Gilbert, MD
Richard Primont
Robert Freiri
Robert Golobic
Safeway Supermarket
San Benito County Cattlemen's Association
San Benito High School ASB Club
San Jose Garden Club
Santa Cara County Federal Credit Union
Teague Vineyards
Terry Duffield
Tessa Wise-Howard
The Community Foundation for San Benito County
The Rotary Club of San Juan Bautista
Tony Ruiz
Tori Hayes
Turning Wheels For Kids
Vanessa Arroyo
Vercila Chacon
Waunita Nino
Yamamoto Hula Ohana

One Stop Success



Tori Hayes came to Chamberlain's Children Center in September 2013 through one of the programs that One Stop offers. She had been on a waiting list for the program for several months. When her name was finally called, she knew that Chamberlain's is where she wanted to be. She was hired here after recently graduating from high school and beginning junior college at Gavilan. She has been working in our administrative office as an assistant primarily helping out with our new menu roll out. Despite having had no previous employment or administrative experience, Tori has done an

amazing job. She has been very quick to catch on to new tasks and has helped us accomplish many important projects. She has enjoyed her time here and she has learned a wealth of information about general office procedures that will equip her for future success. She says "Chamberlain's has made me a better worker. I've learned how to use computer programs very efficiently, how to make copies, faxes, scans, and how to use the 'sort' button in Excel. I also know how to send out professional emails and how to prioritize having many tasks at hand. I have become more organized, using Excel to plan out my work and school schedule." She credits her coworkers here with providing her a strong foundation of experience to prepare her for her future. Her time with us has been rewarding for her and extremely positive for both staff and children at Chamberlain's Children Center.

Mari's Day, Continued

lunch, provided by Hollister Rotary, will be served from 12:30PM to 1:30PM only. It will include Tri Tip, chuck wagon beans, tossed salad, bread & drink for adults and hot dog, chips, and a drink for children. In addition to the auction, there will be a raffle, children's activities, and live entertainment. Come out and join us for some fun while we raise money to support the children in our care! Sponsorship opportunities are available! If you would like to become a sponsor or contribute a prize for the auction and/or raffle, please contact Kim Meininger at kim@chamberlaincc.org or (831)-636-2121, ext. 129.



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

PO Box 1269, Hollister, CA 95024-1269

We appreciate your support!

Executive Director Report:



First let me say how humble and honored I am to be celebrating 5 years with Chamberlain's! We have achieved some significant milestones but will now be embarking on our most ambitious year yet. Operationally, we will be seeking National Accreditation. It will be a year-long process that pushes us to our limits, test our resolve, and at the end of the process will make us a better agency!! Additionally, we have selected the most stringent Accrediting agency: Joint Commission Behavioral Health Accreditation. Wish us luck! Almost as equally ambitious is our goal to continue to double the amount of money raised at our annual fund raiser: Mari's FUNd Day. The first year we raised \$3,000, over \$6,000 the second year, over \$12,000 the 3rd and over \$20,000 last year. Can

\$40,000 be achieved? Yes, and the reason we believe so is that we are asking Mari's FUNd Day sponsors to donate via SVGives.org on May 6th. We are so grateful to United Agencies for not only committing to being our Diamond Event Sponsor, they have also committed to make their donation thru SVGives so that it will be doubled and potentially tripled!! I am looking forward to another great event, so mark your calendars for May 6th and May 17th!!!

Finally what has me deeply rooted here at Chamberlain's is the relationships with our children. I see in their eyes the need for compassion, patience, connection, acceptance and above all, love. One of our children is leaving us this week for a permanent foster placement. Her gift to me was enthusiasm and a positive outlook, my small gift to her was affirmation from an adult role model that she is extremely special. It's the same thing I sought out from my parents, uncles, and aunts, and teachers when I was young. And really I still seek it at the age of 50! I visit a Uncle and Aunt twice a year. The unconditional love and praise I get from them charges me up all year long so I pay it forward. Thank you all for your continued support, so we can all be the best role models possible!!

Robert Freiri
Executive Director

