



Mark your calendars!

Spring Clean Up
Saturday, April 30th

SV Gives

Tuesday, May 3rd

Blue Jeans, Boots & Bling Ball
Friday, May 6th

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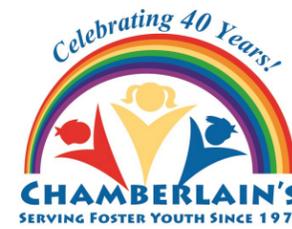
Chamberlain's Children Center
1850 San Benito Street
Hollister, CA 95023
www.chamberlaincc.org



Chamberlain's
Mission
Statement:

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.

Winter 2016 Volume 18



Winter Newsletter

A Look Inside

- Children's Art Corner
- Holiday Gratitude
- National Accreditation & more



National Accreditation Achieved!

We are proud to announce Chamberlain's has earned *The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for Behavioral Health Care Accreditation* by demonstrating continuous compliance with its performance standards. This seal is a symbol of quality that reflects an organization's commitment to providing safe and effective care.

Chamberlain's Children Center underwent a rigorous on-site survey in November 2015. During the review, compliance with behavioral health care standards related to several areas, including care, treatment and services; environment of care; and leadership were evaluated. On-site observations and interviews also were conducted. The surveyor praised the passion and compassion of the staff and their overall culture and was impressed that Chamberlain's staff is clearly committed to their mission.

"We are ecstatic that we were able to meet such rigorous standards set by The Joint Commission and we are proud to be Nationally Accredited!" said *Robert Freiri, Executive Director*.

The Joint Commission

An independent, nonprofit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. The Joint Commission's *Behavioral Health Care Accreditation* program was established in 1969 and currently accredits organizations across the nation for a three-year period. The Joint Commission's behavioral health care standards are developed in consultation with health care experts and providers, quality improvement measurement experts and individuals and their families. The standards are informed by scientific literature and expert consensus to help organizations measure, assess and improve performance.

Chamberlain's is celebrating 40 years in Hollister!

You're invited to our **Blue Jeans, Boots and Bling Ball** to honor the amazing individuals and organizations that have been instrumental in aiding us in fulfilling Chamberlain's mission to empower at-risk children and help make a difference in their lives.

The evening will include an amazing keynote speaker *Michael Pritchard (one part comedian, one part youth counselor and ALL heart!)*, a special preview of the future plans of Chamberlain's and raffle, silent and live auctions. One of the live auction items is an extraordinary painting *created at the event* by renowned artist *Shannon Grissom!*

Keeping with traditional San Benito County roots, the theme is western with a hearty BBQ buffet. We will close out the special evening with a giant cupcake display and dancing to the fun sounds of the **Flashbacks!** It will be an exceptional night to reflect, remember and fundraise for a very important cause. Tickets go on sale February 22.

Sponsorships are available starting at \$100. Deadline is March 30th.

For more information contact Denise at 831.636.2121 x129 or denise@chamberlaincc.org.

SAVE THE DATE



BLUE JEANS, BOOTS & BLING BALL
FRIDAY MAY 6, 2016

A Very Merry Holiday Season in pictures!



The Chamberlain's Children Corner Holiday Thank You Notes



A Christmas Village was donated by **Trisha & Greg Harvey**, festively decorating the conference room where the children's parties were held.



Above & Left: Gift Wrapping Team 2015! 25 friends spent hours making sure all the gifts were wrapped with love!



One Chamberlain girl talked to Santa about helping the elves make "toys for all the children of the world".



Right: Patrick MC'd the children's "Cultural Day" presentations.



Above: Shopping at Kohl's for new clothes funded by **Intero Foundation** grant!



Right: Later that day a visit to **Gilroy Gardens!** Such a great day for the kids!

The kids learned to make a healthy, yet still yummy pumpkin pie!



Left: One of the live trees donated by **Bourdet's** & decorated by community minded groups.

Above: Local **4H members** made dolls for all the children!

Right: Staff transfer presents to the houses on Christmas Eve.

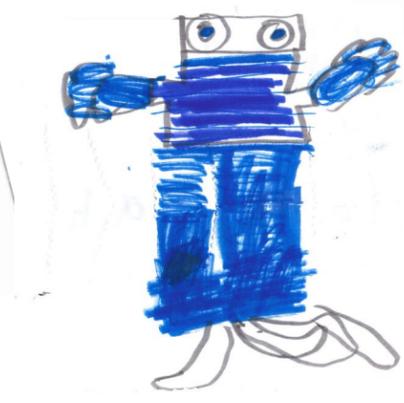


Santa
Thank you for the gifts
I Love them all especially
my Kitty
Love

Thank you for the presents! I really love them! I also really appreciate you guys doing this for us.
(chamberlins)
-T
P.S. Merry Christmas

thank you for the gifts on Christmas I am glad you got us these nice to give these to us we are grateful about these gifts
Merry Christmas
A
love

Thank you for Christmas gifts! I LOVE them! you have a very big HEART!
Have a Happy New Year! M



thank you for the gifts
happy holidays

Donating 40 Years!
CHAMBERLAIN'S
SERVING FOSTER YOUTH SINCE 1976

DONATION FORM- every dollar counts!

Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Amount Donated _____

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

thank you!

Pardon Me! May I Have Your Attention?



By Board President Nancy Kops

Happy New Year! In the coming editions, I will be featuring our hard working Board of Directors starting with our Vice President; Susie Swing who is a board member extraordinaire!

Susie was born in San Jose, moving to San Benito County in 1997. She and her husband, Dave and their two daughters live in Hollister.

She began a career as a middle-school teacher in 1993. Two years later, Susie began working toward her Special Education credential. She taught in the San Jose Unified School District and after moving to San Benito County, worked at Anzar High School, then as an administrator in the Aromas San Juan Unified School District for about 10 years. In 2012, she began working at Monte Vista Christian School where her daughters were attending school.

Susie and Dave's two daughters, Isabelle and Sara, are ages 15 and 18 years. One attends Monte Vista Christian School and the other is attending Azusa Pacific University. Both girls have been cheerleaders since they were young so the family has spent much time traveling to cheerleading competitions or watching football and basketball games where the girls are cheering. When not involved in cheerleading events, Susie's family spends time with their extended family or serving and participating in the life of their church, Grace Bible Church in Hollister. As a family they have also served outside the Hollister community. Susie and Isabelle had the privilege of traveling with a team facilitated by All Gods Children to Beijing, China, where they served in two foster care homes for children with special needs. Isabelle also recently served in Haiti with a group from Monte Vista Christian School. Dave and daughter Sara will soon spend a week serving in Mexico at another children's residential home.

Susie explains how she got involved with Chamberlain's. "We have wanted to instill a sense of service in our daughters since they were young, hoping they understand that they have a responsibility to both their local and global community, a shared responsibility to care for those in their community as they themselves have their own needs cared for. This desire to serve and to share this with my daughters led me to Chamberlain's. After our move here we would drive by the Chamberlain's property and often wondered what type of organization it was. In the Fall of 2004, I stopped in with my 3 yr. old and 6 yr. old in tow and walked into the office. I met the Director and asked about Chamberlain's, what it was, who it served and if there was a need they had that I could help with. The Director told me that a woman, who made birthday cakes for each child on the child's birthday had just informed them, was moving out of town. There it was - in less than 5 minutes - we were the new birthday cake bakers! I contacted a few other moms and friends and we started the birthday cake delivery schedule. From there, we started to help with cleaning and sorting donations, work days, yard work, supporting student groups from Anzar High School, fundraising, planning holiday events, organizing play dates and managing the birthday cake delivery with youth and adults from Grace Bible Church. There is a new group from the CSF Chapter at Monte Vista Christian School who have just started to get involved."



"Since starting with Chamberlain's as a volunteer and then new Board Member in 2008, I have been thrilled to watch four old residential homes be demolished and new ones built in their place, a new Wellness Center completed, Keith Thompson Non-Public School get an upgraded classroom, the installation of a new playing field and playground area, gardens planted, the facility receive both State and National Accreditation and our hard-working Chamberlain's staff care day after day for the children who live, even for a short time, at Chamberlain's."

You're invited to attend a board meeting. Meetings are generally held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 4:45pm and location alternates from Hollister campus & Gilroy office.

Please contact Denise Cauthen-Wright at denise@chamberlaincc.org or 831.636.2121 x129 for details.

Executive Director Report:

First, let me say how humble and honored I am to be celebrating 7 years with Chamberlain's! We have achieved some significant milestones during that time, including some stretch goals that were incredibly ambitious for a rather small one campus operation like Chamberlain's! This past year was exciting, sometimes exhilarating and quite frankly exhausting! National Accreditation was achieved because of everyone who supports Chamberlain's efforts! From the Board of Directors who helped us start the planning and selection of the Accreditation body two years ago and gave us constant encouragement, to *all the volunteers*, especially those from the LDS Church, who came out twice this past year to clean and repair our campus. From the Accreditation team who met for a year, did much of their work off hours and kept us all going as we trudged through hundreds and hundreds of policies and regulations, to our cottage, clinical and office staff that bought into this HUGE step up in quality and engagement with our children and for everyone putting their best foot forward during the site visit! It was so heartening to hear from the evaluator that our staff was so nurturing and compassionate to the children in our care and that she could see our mission in action!

I want to thank everyone who supported Chamberlain's during the holidays! They were so special for our children and organization that we needed to dedicate four pages in this newsletter to highlight it! We had our most successful *12 Days of Giving* campaign ever, we had the most in-kind gifts ever, the most celebrations and events ever and the most love ever! Once a year, I take off my director's hat and put on my Santa hat to take the kids shopping, to lunch and on a field trip. While shopping, I checked in with one of our older boys and he was staring at two pair of basketball shoes. I asked him what was going on. He said he had only seen these shoes in a store window, never thinking that he could own a pair and he was trying to figure out whether he should spend his whole allocation on the more expensive shoes or go with the less expensive pair and also get some needed t-shirts and undergarments. He decided on the less expensive pair. I told him I was so proud of him for making such a mature decision! Later in the day we all went to Gilroy Gardens and had a great time. I thought the highlight of my day was meeting Snoopy but the day got even better! Being an early afternoon weekday, the park was low in attendance so it was practically ours! No waiting in lines so we rode *all the rides*! On the way out, one of the boys turned to me and thanked me for being his field trip buddy. He said he had never hung out with an adult "dude" before and thought it was awesome. I thanked him for letting me be his field trip buddy! I was so moved not only because what he said but also because he had a look in his eyes. I had a quick flashback remembering that look from my own son when he was about five years old; that look that I have been spending the rest of my life trying to live up to. I will make sure that while this young man is with us, I live up to that look! Finally, I was helping staff tuck one of our youngest children into her seat in the van and getting her seat belt on, I asked her if she had fun that day. Her response: "Best Day Ever!" as she started nodding off. Please continue to help me, to help us, make every day at Chamberlain's "The Best Day Ever"!! ~ Robert Freiri; Executive Director 831.636.2121 x123 Robert@chamberlaincc.org



P.S. Next Issue I will talk about our 40th Anniversary and our Boots, Blue Jeans and Bling Event. I am so excited about it! I will also explain why I am ecstatic that Michael Pritchard will be our Keynote Speaker!

CCC Briefs

Fall Clean Up was a HUGE success. Over 55 members of the **Church of Christ of Latter Day Saints** arrived and deep cleaned houses & the Wellness Center, weeded & planted drought resistant plants donated by **M & M Plants/The Garden Mart**, graded the roads & filled in pot holes. **Recology** generously provided the dumpster. Everything looked great, just in time for the holidays! Thank you everyone!

Two Educational Presentations— **Happy Birds** from San Martin bring their colorful performing parrots annually. The kids really enjoy watching the birds sing, dance & perform other unique feats. The kids also experienced **Wonder Woofs** of Hollister with their gentle Golden Retrievers who are K-9 Narcotic Detection or Therapy Certified. Both presentations allowed the children to learn and pet the animals which was a real treat for them! Thanks Happy Birds and Wonder Woofs!

Philanthropy Day – Presented by Community Foundation of SBC, this event allows non-profits to celebrate a special volunteer to their organization. Chamberlain's honored long-time volunteer **Tonia Sunseri** of the Church of Christ of Latter Day Saints. She helped coordinate annual work days for the past 6 years & not only recruit volunteers on our behalf, but tends to be command central on day of work! Thank you Tonia!



San Benito County's 12 days of giving



12 Days of Giving 2015 was a remarkable success, to say the least! Starting with the *United Way of SBC's Gala* and ending with the Hollister Downtown Association's *Lights On Celebration*, the **12 Days of Giving** continues to grow every year in sponsors and donations, raising over \$131,000 for essential services organizations in San Benito County. *Thank you Community Foundation and United Way for providing this opportunity!*

Many thanks to the donors listed below who donated to Chamberlain's! *YOU made a difference!*

365 For the Kids
Ace Hardware/Johnson Lumber
Atawo, Raquel E.
Baird, Melodie
Bertao, Calla & Augie
Bethel, Larry
Bianchi, Bob and Crystel
Buck, Cathy
Carrillo, Jean
Cauthen, Dorothy
Cauthen-Wright Family
Champion, Richard
Coke Farms
Corbin, Mike and Beverly
Culler, Ron & Roni
Dassel's Petroleum, Inc.
DeVincenzi, Robert
Dierkes, Suzette
Dr. Bajwa-Green Valley Dental
Duffield, Terry & Mary
Ellis, Patrick & Amalia
Fales, Marlene
Firstbrook, Ron
Firstbrook, Walter & Donna
Freiri, Robert & Bridget
Gabe, Sandra
Golden, Patricia
Golobic, Robert
Greenwood Chevrolet
Hollister Auto Body
Hollister Elks Lodge #1436
Hollister Exchange Club
Intero Foundation, Inc.

Kops, Nancy
Leitenberger, Ingrid
Manthey, Kathleen
Community Foundation Of SBC
McCullough, Mary and Gerald
Mead, Carolyn
Meineke Car Care Center, Inc.
Meraz, Dave
Morgan Hill Kiwanis Club
Morrison, Shon & Michelle
Nino, Mary Helen
Patterson, Nicole & Kevin
Pendry, Joe
Pilario, Mariana
Primont, Richard
Reimer, Jerry & Carol
Resendiz, Amairani
San Benito Olive Festival
San Benito Stage Company
Stickney, Chris
Swing, Susie & Dave
Freiri, Michael
Tiffany Ford Motor
True Leaf Farms
United Way of SBC
Wilson, Ron & Barbara
Winchell, Debbie & Chris
Zozaya, Megan

**"Thank You!" to CMAP
for producing the
12 Days of Giving videos
for the participating
organizations.**

We apologize if we inadvertently missed someone.

**A warm
"THANK YOU!" goes
to these outstanding
12 Days of Giving
sponsors:**

**Earthbound Farms
Greenwood Chevrolet
Hollister Rotary
KMG
Recology SBC
Teknova
Tiffany Ford Motor
True Leaf Farms
Waste Connection**



Robert speaking on the behalf of the participating organizations at the Sponsor luncheon at San Juan Oaks, thanking them for their generous sponsorships.

Our In-Kind holiday donors were a plenty!

Anzar High School ASB
Bourdet's Christmas Trees
California Giant/Titan Frozen Foods
Carter, Donette
CASA Voices for Children
CHP- Hollister/Gilroy Office
Damm Good Water
Dutra Family
First Presbyterian Church
Fischer, Craig & Rochelle
Gavilan College
Gerrity, Rebecca
Gilroy Gardens
Haas, Kristi
Hit Me-Rick Rivera
Hockenberry, June
Hollister Downtown Association
Hollister Fire Department
Hollister Montessori School
Hollister Police
Immaculate Conception
Intero Foundation
JetMulch, Inc.
Kingdom Church & Dreams and Visions
Kinship
Kohl's
Los Padrinos Car Club
Lowe's employees
M & M Plants/Garden Mart
Meininger Family
Ochoa, Daniela P.
Okamoto Family
Pacific Scientific
Pinnacle Quilters
Quattrin, Laura
Recology
Reimer, Carol & Jerry
Rice, Sue
Rovella's Gym
Sacred Heart Parents Club
Santa Clara County FCU-Marketing & B/D
Santa Claus
SBC Cattleman's Association
Segura, Rosa & Gustavo
Small Steps
South Bay Piping Industry
Steele, Richard & Barbara
Summers, Chenoa
Sunnyslope Christian
The Gift
Turning Wheels
VFW Post 9242 Hollister
Vieira, Juli
Young Ladies Institute



From bikes to clothes, Thanksgiving dinners to Christmas breakfast, holiday parties to joyous outings & presents for all! This season of giving made up the best holiday season for the children! **Thank You** to these donors! YOU made a difference in their lives!



The children certainly had a very wonderful Christmas!

They were overwhelmed with the filled stockings, new pillows with homemade covers and lots of new clothes, toys and books!



Robert pictured with John Damm; **Damm Water** who donates traditional Thanksgiving Dinners for each of the houses!



Not all holiday giving was wrapped in pretty paper. **JetMulch** refilled the entire playground with fresh padding just before the holiday break to help keep the kids safe!

Several local organizations supplied not only holiday parties, arts & crafts, presents and lots of hugs but more importantly loving fellowship from a very caring community.



We apologize if we inadvertently missed someone.

Turning Wheels works with Santa Claus to give our children a fantastic Christmas morning surprise with new bikes and helmets!

