



LET'S CELEBRATE
Lia Rowley, Executive Director

We are moving into the new G.K.Hardt Village Center this week! All our administrative offices; our counseling, tutoring and art rooms; as well as our big multi-purpose room, will be available to serve the kids. It's a big moment for us, and we are grateful.

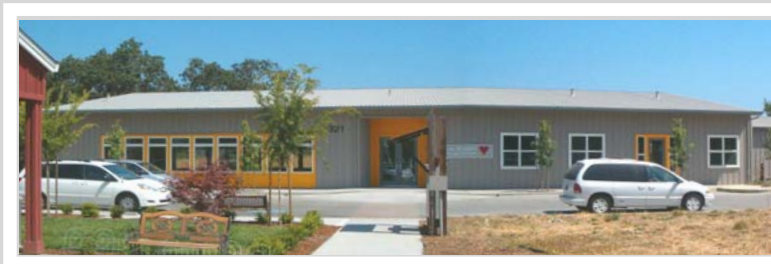
A lot has happened these last nine months since the Village has been open. Now it's summer and the kids are playing and having fun in their new home. This home, this Village, is very special and extensive, with Village parents, grandparents, volunteers and administrators all on site, standing by to serve these kids. Children are running back and forth between their new "family homes," forming ongoing friendships with other kids, sharing or "trading" toys, teasing and laughing. More and more they are feeling relaxed, and are definitely developing that sense of belonging we had hoped for. All one has to do is spend five minutes among these kids to feel an incredible sense of satisfaction about what has been accomplished here.

All this is the result of years of preparation, and the buy-in of the community at large! Thousands of volunteer hours and dollars have created it. Thank you so much! *And there is so much more we need to do* - our job isn't over yet. We have to continue to support this incredible opportunity for children in foster care. Foster-care funding alone isn't enough to sustain the enriched program we provide. We need you to stay part of our Circle of Families and keep up your donations. We have a wonderful and fun opportunity for you to do so by attending **Vintage Hollywood**, our signature event August 10 (see flyer insert!). Please do sign up right away - it's coming up soon and you will have a great time.

Our children are remarkably resilient. They are so courageous. And they are also generous. Just today, I observed one of our younger ones, seven-year-old "Johnny," offering one of his little special toy cars to a Village parent who was "surprised" at a kid-organized birthday party. Johnny insisted it wouldn't be a birthday party without presents. These moments bring tears to your eyes.

But don't let these kids fool you; they are also incredibly vulnerable and they need you to be there for them for the long haul. Thank you for stepping up to the plate and doing what you can.

**The Children's Village of Sonoma County celebrates its
One Year Anniversary and Grand Opening of the G. K. Hardt Village Center!**



Tuesday, August 28, 2007
11:30am - 1:00pm
Refreshments will be served.

As a donor, supporter, or volunteer for the Village,
you are invited to share in this milestone event!
Short program, and tour of Village available.

GOVERNING BOARD

PRESIDENT: Walter Scruggs,

Commercial Banker

VICE PRESIDENT: Melinda Moir,

Health Administrator

SECRETARY: Jody Edwards,

Human Resources

TREASURER: Jeff James,

Financial Advisor

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Maurine Christ, *Retired Educator*

Patricia Eames Dickinson, *Business Management*

Dan Garcia, *Financial Advisor*

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Claire Hobbs, *Accountant*

Marty McCormick, *Consultant*

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Denise Perkins, *Realtor*

Robin Ratner, *Clinical Social Worker*

Padi Selwyn, M.A., *Bank Marketing Executive*

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M. Teresita Stark, *Community*

Volunteer

HONORARY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

CO-CHAIRS

Jennifer and Joe Montana

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Arnold Rosenfield, *Sonoma County Superior Judge*

David Brown, Jr., *President-CEO, Sonoma County Family YMCA*

Jacque Gillespie, *Attorney at Law*

Janet Condron, *Former Mayor, Santa Rosa*

Jeanne Buckley, *Retired, Superior Court Commissioner*

Judy Brown Hull, *Retired Associate Pastor*

Tara Harvey *Deputy County Counsel, County of Sonoma*

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Nancy LoDolce, *Attorney At Law, Juvenile Law*

John Lowry, *Executive Director, Burbank Housing Development Corp.*

Lee Pierce, *Vice Mayor, City of Santa Rosa*

Debbie Meekins, *President, Sonoma National Bank*

Cheryle Stanley, *Executive Director, Women's Recovery Services*

STAFF

Executive Director, Lia Rowley

Program Director, Jackie Hardman

Social Worker, Richard Bailey

Social Worker, Lisa Beytia

Office Manager, Donna Doncaster

Office Assistant, Debra Widen

Volunteer Coordinator, Lisa Schoutsen



Group hug after the talent show.

Kids' Corner

On Talent, Birthdays, and Puppies

This first summer at The Children's Village is filled with the sounds of a busy summer, with our creative kids cooking up fun for themselves and everyone in the neighborhood. Recently, they made special plans for that old summertime standby - a talent show.

For two weeks meetings were organized, plans were made, and talent was scouted - all by the children and on their own initiative. Colorful

posters began showing up around the Village, inviting Village Parents, Grandparents, staff, and volunteers to attend.

On the big day of the show, the garage of House D became a theatre with comfortable audience seating on the driveway. With the garage door as the curtain (expertly maneuvered by a 12 year-old tech person), the show included boom box music, impromptu costumes worn with pride, and the performers helping each other remember their parts and words to songs. The audience of about twenty cheered the production, and more than several tears of joy were shed. At one point the performers all got so giddy that, in Office Manager Donna Doncaster's words, "...pandemonium broke out and they were all up there dancing and giggling."

The children even cajoled Grandpa Hank Mattimore and Social Worker Richard Bailey into contributing their talents as song and dance men, in a routine of which they can be proud - probably.

The children's days are filled with lots of typical childhood activities: bike rides, skating, ball games, jump rope and hopscotch; adult-supervised outside trips to the movies, museums, and parks; and weeks away at various camps. Many of the paid activities are donated by long-time supporters and volunteers, and often by the businesses themselves.

And much like the talent show, the kids enjoy creating events themselves. Surprise birthday parties for Village Parents and staff are a favorite pastime. Our oldest, "Joey", thrives on organizing the rest of the kids. For fun-loving Village Parent Jim's birthday, he planned a location and time for the party, instigated the decorating, and made sure there was a cake.

For several months now, four boys in our Village have had the privilege of helping to train puppies for The Assistance Dog Institute (ADI), which trains service dogs for people with mobility impairments. The pups are now 6 months old and have 12 months to go. The ADI pups are brought to the Village three times a week by their handlers, and our kids learn how to take the pups through practicing various commands. Needless to say, the pups and kids love the time they spend together, and our four boys get to learn about dog behavior and about contributing to society at large. Soon our younger children will join in, when younger puppies (newborns to a few weeks old) are brought to the Village for "puppy petting" which helps socialize these assistance-dogs-to-be.



Children's names have been changed for confidentiality

WISH LIST

For Activities

Balls for all sports
Art supplies
Building blocks
Construction sets, Legos
Fishing poles/gear
Gift certificates for activities: museums, movies,
zoo, ferry rides, Disneyland, concerts, plays, etc.
Gift certificates for "fast food"
Jump ropes
Musical instruments, rhythm instruments
Skates, skateboards and protective gear
Portable stereos (boom box)
Summer camp certificates
Suitcases or duffle bags
Umbrellas for patio table
Wrapping paper & ribbon

School Supplies

Blank journal books
General school supplies
Bulletin boards
Computers: 500 mghz; Pentium III
minimum - IV preferred; XP Pro; 512 ram
Monitors – flat screen
Printers – Canon i550
Educational software
PlayDoh

For Village Center Activity Room

Bean bag chairs
Folding chairs
Folding utility tables, 6 – 8 ft
Picture frames
Round Tables
Shelf Units

For Village Office

Large bulletin boards
Patio furniture
Monitors – 17 inch flat screen
Printer cartridges – 3e & 6e
Computers (see school suppl. list)
Computer chairs
General office supplies
Ladders, fiberglass – 6ft & 10ft
Printers – Canon i550
PowerPoint projector for computers
Sand box toys – therapy figures
Volunteers with IT experience

Other

Jumper cables for 4 vans
Car seats for over 40 lbs

Yes! I want to join The Children's Village Circle of Families.

NAME _____ I've moved— please update
PHONE NUMBER _____ your records with info below.
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____
HELP US KEEP YOU INFORMED BY EMAIL _____ @ _____

_____ I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A ONE-TIME DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____

_____ I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MONTHLY PLEDGER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____

MY CHECK IS ENCLOSED _____ OR MY CREDIT CARD INFORMATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

CARD NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____ 3 digit code on back of card _____

THIS DONATION IS IN HONOR/MEMORY (CIRCLE ONE) OF _____

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

The Children's Village of Sonoma County is a non-profit 501c (3) organization, #68-0412763 Facility 496 801 926
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