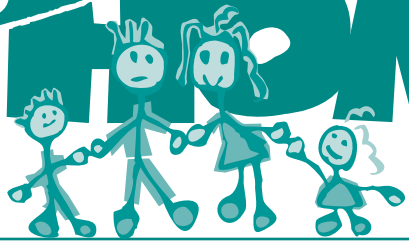


25 YEARS
since 1983



FALL 2007

HOMECOMING

THE NEWSLETTER OF SIERRA ADOPTION SERVICES

DISCOVERING THE JOYS OF FAMILY Preteen Proves “Unadoptable” Label Wrong

After nine foster families, one failed adoption placement, and years of emotional outbursts, Amber finally can breathe. She is home. Nancy and Steve adopted her this summer, right there in front of the judge, and now she enjoys the comfort and security of a forever family.

Now almost 13, Amber entered foster care when she was only five. As she bounced from one foster home to the next, she felt the bewildering pain of being unwanted, and her anger grew. By the time she ended up in a group home, she had been labeled as “unadoptable” and “incapable of connecting.” Amber lived in a group home that was run by Nancy and Steve Duncan, the couple that would one day adopt her. For the first couple of years, her behavior was ruled by anger. “It was hard to get close to her,” Nancy explains, “she was so angry. She felt attacked if you bumped into her.”

Amber admits that even in school, she was violent and threatening, and her grades were poor. With individual and group therapy, as well as a loving and structured home environment, she learned that she can choose how she reacts to situations. In time, her winning personality emerged, as well as creative gifts in poetry and art. (Her work can be enjoyed on pages 6 & 7.)

“A year ago she became excited about learning,” Nancy says, “and that thrilled my soul to see her happy, healthy and productive. Now she has the same opportunities as other kids.” Amber recently transitioned into a less restrictive school environment, and her goal is to attend a regular public junior high school.

Nancy and Steve initially had no idea they could adopt her, having been told incorrectly along the way that care providers are not eligible to adopt. (In fact, they can be considered on a case-by-case basis.) While Nancy and Steve have two biological daughters of their own — Nellie, age eight, and Payton, age five — they fell in love with Amber as well. They were delighted to begin working with Jessica Stahl, a social worker at Sierra Adoption Services, who walked them through the adoption process.



Payton, Amber and Nellie Duncan

The day Amber’s adoption finalized is one of their favorite memories. Amber recalls, “My dad doesn’t cry, but he did that day, just like when he saw Nellie and Payton being born.”

What excites Amber most about her new family? That it is permanent. “I’m in a forever family, and they’re not going to leave me,” she says. As she thinks of children still waiting to be adopted, Amber encourages, “It can always work out in the end! Don’t give up — you can be happy. Even if you’re not a young child, you can still be adopted.”

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Welcome Home | 3 |
| Kids Are Waiting | 4 |
| SAS Calendar | 5 |
| The More You Know | 8 |
| Champions for Adoption | 11 |
| Thank You | 12 |
| Gift Annuities | 14 |

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!
www.sierraadoption.org

ABOUT HOMECOMING

Homecoming is a publication of Sierra Adoption Services. Donations and/or correspondence may be sent to:

Sierra Adoption Services
8928 Volunteer Lane, Suite 240
Sacramento, CA 95826
email: dcollins@sierraadoption.org

EDITOR Danielle Collins

EDITORIAL BOARD Parrish Geary
Sandra Hallsted
Sara Hanson
Cassandra Heyward
Jackie McWilliams
Kim Rhineholder

DESIGN/LAYOUT Circle Design

CONTRIBUTORS Ann Aune
Sandy Boyd
Tiffany Kelly

MISSION STATEMENT

We transform the lives of children in foster care by building and nurturing permanent families.

Sacramento Center

8928 Volunteer Lane, #240
Sacramento, CA 95826
Tel: (916) 368-5114
Fax: (916) 368-5157
E-mail: sassac@sierraadoption.org

Nevada City Center

138 New Mohawk Road, Suite 200
Nevada City, CA 95959
Tel: (530) 478-0900
Fax: (530) 478-0970
E-mail: sasgv@sierraadoption.org

Auburn Center (Placer Kids)

11990 Heritage Oak Place, Suite 3
Auburn, CA 95603
Tel: (530) 887-9982
Fax: (530) 887-9994
Toll free: 1-888-387-9982
E-mail: placerkids@sierraadoption.org

Chico Adoptive Family Resource Center

520 Cohasset Road, Suite 140
Chico, CA 95926
Tel: (530) 879-3861
Fax: (530) 896-1792
E-mail: saschico@sierraadoption.org

California Department of Social Services/Adoptive Family Resource Center

Warm Line: (800) 268-2967
Fax: (916) 484-0430
E-mail: dsalisbury@sierraadoption.org



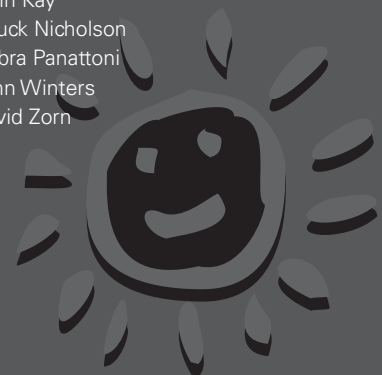
SAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chuck Horton, President
Eric Ratinoff, President Elect
Jerrri Hunt, Secretary
Phil Grybas, Treasurer
Elfrena Foord, Immediate Past President

Tom Bogetich
Blanca Castro
Dave Cohen
Bill Coyne
Sarah Krevans
Dick Osen
Jeanne Reaves
Kate Renwick-Espinosa
Tom Tapken
Kathy Van Osten
Skip Reynolds
Alan Wolf

SAS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Fran Barker
Bob Earl
Greg Finch
Debbie Hesse
John Kay
Chuck Nicholson
Debra Panattoni
John Winters
David Zorn



WELCOME HOME | Recent Finalizations



THE MORA FAMILY

Frank and Elisa Mora are excited to announce the adoption finalization of their handsome son, Kody, age four, on April 10, 2007.



THE TAYLOR FAMILY

On April 24, 2007, Lisa and daughter, Grace, joyously celebrated the adoption finalization of their new little son and brother, Michael Joshua, age one and one-half.



THE ANDERSON FAMILY

Sean, Vanessa, Faith, and Seth Anderson celebrated the adoption finalization of their handsome son and brother, Cooper, 9 months old, on May 1, 2007.



THE BAILEY/GOWEN FAMILY

Brett, Richard, son Richard, and friends are proud to announce the adoption finalizations of brothers, Eric and Daniel, ages six and two, on May 2, 2007.



THE MORENO FAMILY

On June 27, 2007, Vicky, David, and daughter, Isabella, celebrated the adoption finalization of their darling daughter and sister, Gabriella, seven and one-half months old.



THE TURNER FAMILY

William, Michelle, and Tori Turner joyously celebrated the adoption finalization of their beautiful daughter and sister, Nicole, age one and one-half, on July 11, 2007.



THE GRASS FAMILY

Stephen and Diane Grass are pleased to announce the finalizations of their four new children: Arianna, age 12; David, age 9; and Lexis and Lorenzo, age 7. Their adoptions were finalized May 8, 2007.



THE M FAMILY

On April 17, 2007, Locksley and Miriam M finalized the adoptions of their three beautiful children: Gabriel, age seven; Kharisma, age five; and Jeremy, age four, who were from the Southern California area.



KIDS ARE WAITING*



Jordan

JORDAN is an outgoing 14-year-old girl who is a lot of fun. She enjoys singing and dancing to top 40 as well as R&B. When she isn't practicing for American Idol, Jordan loves to walk around the mall and shop for anything green (her favorite color). Not only does Jordan love the mall, she enjoys being outside playing at the park and picnics. After working up an appetite by playing outside, Jordan loves to eat spicy things like hot wings!



Laticé and Tylique

LATICÉ (10) is a sweet and friendly young lady. She enjoys playing basketball and designing clothes. Laticé is an expressive individual who enjoys writing, singing and doing different hair styles. She is very protective of her brother, Tylique.

TYLIQUE (6) is an enthusiastic child. He enjoys bike riding, coloring and playing video games. Tylique likes to be outdoors. He enjoys outdoor sports and playing in the park. Tylique also enjoys spending time with his sister. Laticé and Tylique are loveable children who will do best in a structured, loving home where they can continue to be together.



Andrew and Darin

ANDREW (6) and his brother **DARIN** (5) are respectful and outgoing African American boys who complement each other. They both enjoy watching television, playing outside, going to the park, playing games, and competing in sports. Darin likes to give and receive positive praises, while Andrew takes some time to warm up to the interaction.

The boys are in good health and are open to trying new things. They both enjoy tasting different foods and going out for meals.



Devon

DEVON is a friendly eight-year-old boy who is active and very engaging once he is comfortable in his surroundings. He enjoys riding his bike, playing video games and swimming. Devon is easily entertained with basketball, action figures and model cars. He loves to discuss animals and draw characters.

**For more information,
call Sierra Adoption Services at (916) 368-5114.**

**Information current at time of newsletter production.*

THANK YOU

Many thanks to KTXL FOX40 for continuing to be a strong supporter and advocate for local children. On the first Monday and Tuesday of each month, they profile a different waiting child, and each month we receive many calls from prospective adoptive parents. Watch the first Monday of the month at 10pm or the following morning at 7am to receive more information regarding local waiting children.

SAS CALENDAR: EVENTS AND CLASSES

EVENTS

For more information about these events or to volunteer please call Sierra Adoption Services at 916-368-5114.

NOVEMBER 2-25, 2007

HEART GALLERY OF SACRAMENTO

This heartwarming exhibit is a collection of photographs taken by locally known photographers, featuring children and youth from the Sacramento area foster care who are waiting for adoption. The gallery showing can be viewed by the public throughout November at the Discovery Museum Gold Rush History Center, located at 101 I Street in Old Sacramento.

NOVEMBER 17, 2007

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY CELEBRATION

Join us for an informative adoption fair and fun-filled family celebration from 10:00am-2:00pm at Granite Park, located on Ramona Avenue off of Power Inn Road (behind William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse). The event promises to be informative for those considering adoption as well as a day of celebration for those whose lives have been touched by adoption. There will be informational booths representing multiple children services and adoption agencies, children's activities, balloon artists and face painters, live music and more. Please bring your family and friends to the celebration!

Looking Forward...

MARCH 2008

5TH ANNUAL KARTS FOR YOUNG HEARTS

This event is an adrenaline-pumping, action-packed, high-speed go-kart race. Event is held at: Race Place Motorsports on Bradshaw Blvd, date to be determined.

APRIL 2008

5TH ANNUAL "FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN" BUON APPETITO ITALIAN PASTA DINNER

This event is an evening of great homemade pasta, wine and a silent auction. Hosted by the Frank and Delma Carson Foundation for Others, this will take place on April 5 at St. Ignatius Parish on Arden Way.

MAY 2008

DERBY DAY

This event is held at the 500-acre Luchetti Ranch in Wilton. Gorgeous outdoor setting with hundreds of fresh red roses, fantastic food and drink, exciting activities such as horse vaulting, weiner dog races, frisbee dogs, a hat contest, silent auction, and a live telecast of the Kentucky Derby – on May 3, 2008.

MAY 2008

SIERRA ADOPTION SERVICES CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF FAMILY!

We will celebrate our Quarter Centennial on May 22, 2008 at the Aerospace Museum of California. For more information: Danielle Collins 916-368-5114 ext. 234.

CLASSES

Classes, trainings and support groups require a reservation.

Second Monday

EXPLORING ADOPTION I (Orientation). 6:00-9:00pm.
Sacramento SAS office. Call (916) 368-5114, ext. 221.

Dates & Times

To Be Announced

EXPLORING ADOPTION II.

Sacramento SAS office. Call (916) 368-5114, ext. 262.

Second Wednesday*

SINGLE & GAY/LESBIAN ADOPTIVE PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS. 6:00-8:00pm.
Sacramento SAS office. Call (916) 368-5114, ext. 262.

Second Thursday*

ADOPTIVE PARENT SUPPORT GROUP. 6:30-8:00pm. Sacramento SAS office. Call (916) 484-0410.

Fourth Monday

ADOPTIVE PARENT SUPPORT GROUP. 12:00-2:00pm. Marysville. Call (800) 268-2967.

Third Thursday*

PK ORIENTATION FOR FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION. 6:30-8:30pm.
Auburn Placer Kids office. Call (530) 887-9982. Call (530) 886-2893 to arrange for childcare.

Wednesday*

PRIDE TRAINING. 6:00-8:30pm. Classes 1-9 beginning September 26-December 5.
Children System of Care. Call (530) 886-2893 for childcare.

Wednesday*

CONCURRENT PLANNING WORKSHOP. 6:00-8:30pm.
Classes 1 & 2 beginning September 12 & September 19. Additional classes beginning December 12 & December 19. Children System of Care. Call (530) 886-2893 for childcare.

Second Thursday*

FOSTER/ADOPTIVE SUPPORT GROUP. 6:30-8:30pm. Auburn Placer Kids office.
Call (530) 886-2893 for childcare.

Fourth Thursday*

FOSTER/ADOPTIVE SUPPORT GROUP. 6:30-8:30pm. South Placer at Cirby Hills.
Call (530) 886-2893 for childcare.

Dates To Be

Announced

CONCURRENT PLANNING WORKSHOP. 6:00-9:00pm.
Sacramento SAS office. Call (916) 368-5114, ext. 221.

*Childcare available, please make childcare reservations when calling in to sign-up for class.

THE ART OF

HOME SWEET HOME

Home is where it keeps you safe keeps you dry
Home is where people care
Home is where you can play and have fun
Home is where people love, love is home
And home is love, home sweet home
Amber N Duncan

THEY BELIEVED IN ME

God believed in me
My parents believed in me
My sisters believed in me and my brothers
Staff believed in me
Grandma and Grandpa believed in me
They all believed in me when no one else did
They made me believe in me and I love them for that
I will give back with all of my heart.
They lifted me up to reach the stars
They loved me when I was mad at them
They kept me going straight on a curvy road.
They kept me on the ride that goes in a loop
They kept me
I truly love them
Amber N Duncan

THE TALLIT

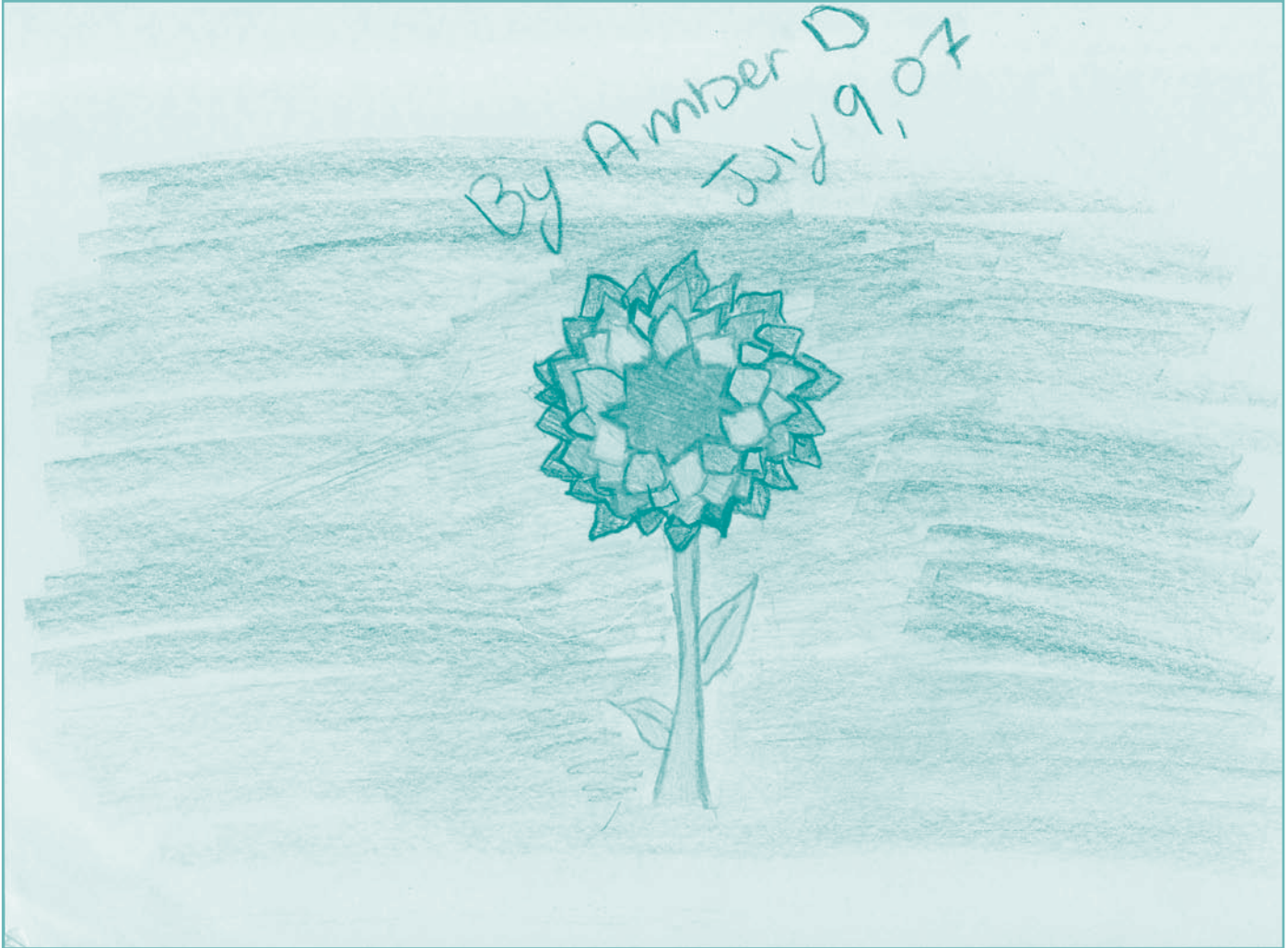
To find a tallit for me to wear,
My grandma took me through a
cobblestone street in Israel.
I thought about how far I'd traveled
from a foster home into my mom's life,
and from my mom's house to Israel.
I remember walking into a lit up store.
There were thousands of tallits.
I thought I would never find one.
Then I saw a dark blue tallit with
Jerusalem outlined in silver, with
strings hanging from the end.
I'd found a necklace with a pool of golden
sunlight glowing brightly from the center.
I like the way it shined even in the darkness.
The outside of the necklace was the rim
around a warm summer sun shining softly
A powerful life.
Had you followed that girl's tallit you would have
arrived here where it hangs around my neck.
Look how they hang, draping
Down on my neck.
They follow me everywhere I go.
Bringing life to everything I touch.
My best friends,
My life, my dream come true.

*Rebekah Leah Gerber
7th grade, California Middle School*

*Tallit: (tah-leet) a shawl-like garment of wool,
silk, or the like, with fringes, or zizith, at the four
corners, worn around the shoulders by Orthodox
and Conservative (sometimes also Reform) Jews,
as during the morning service.*

FROM DICTIONARY.COM

ADOPTION



Do you know an adopted child with a flair for art or poetry? HOMECOMING wants to hear from you! To submit artwork or poems by adopted children, contact Sierra Adoption Services at (916) 368-5114.

The More You Know...

FROM THE DIRECTORS' DESKS

Executive Directors, Kim Rhinehelder and Bob Herne

As we lead Sierra Adoption Services into our 25th Anniversary and beyond, we feel strongly that it is important to share our commitment to you. Commitment comes in many forms and measures and as your new leaders we are committed first and foremost to our mission of transforming the lives of children in foster care.

Additionally,

- We are committed to leading the staff and managing the organization in an honest and ethical manner.
- We are committed to being transparent with our donors, volunteers, community partners, and stakeholders.
- We are committed to collaborate with stakeholders and state and county partners where we can share resources and knowledge to meet the needs of children in foster care.
- We are committed to exercising financial stewardship and fiscal responsibility.
- We are committed to engaging the Board of Directors in a way that inspires them to be actively involved.
- We are committed to innovation and the development of best practices.
- We are committed to ensure quality and effective programs that serve children in foster care and their families.
- We are committed to develop future leaders to move the agency to newer and higher levels.
- We are committed to representing and advocating for Sierra Adoption Services and its mission at all times.

In this next year, you will be hearing about our goals and vision for moving the agency into a new era. We thank you for your support and look forward to working with you in the coming months. Should you have any questions, feedback, or suggestions, please feel free to contact us at (916) 368-5114 or by email.

Thank you.



Kim Rhinehelder
krhinehelder@sierraadoption.org



Bob Herne
bherne@sierraadoption.org

WORDS

WHERE'S GAIL?

Those of you who have followed my work at Sierra Adoptions for the last 22 years know that I have a passion to improve the lives of children who have lost their families through abuse and neglect. That passion has shaped my career and honed my skills. I've been an entrepreneur, a planner, a storyteller, a boss, a cage-rattler, a leader and a nag. I've had time to learn where my talents lie and am very pleased to move into my new role.

I am setting up Mission Focused Solutions as the umbrella for my work. We will be providing support to the child welfare and human services community, everything from basic Gail wisdom, to permanency technical assistance, systems improvement support and technology. My priority will continue to be increasing the options for permanency but will be open to other opportunities that catch my interest. My new email is gail@missionfocused.org.

This new chapter is very exciting. And, oh yes, I'll also be enjoying my new role as Gail Johnson Vaughan.



Gail Johnson Vaughan
Mission Focused Solutions

FROM OUR BOARD

The team of Bob & Kim brings a fresh leading-edge approach to the management of Sierra Adoption Services. I am excited about what is possible with them at the helm.

*Chuck Horton, Hware-Consulting for Visionary Results
Sierra Adoption Services' Board President*

With Kim and Bob leading, the agency will move to the next level. We are thrilled!

*Elfrena Foord, Financial Planner, Foord, Van Bruggen, Ebersole & Pajak Financial Services
Sierra Adoption Services' Past Board President*

I'm excited!! What more can one say other than we have just given the leadership reigns to the "Amazing Duo." Kim Rhinehelder and Bob Herne are seasoned professionals with the can-do experience to take Sierra Adoption Services far beyond our vision and expectations for this agency.

*Tom Bogetich, Adoptive Parent
Sierra Adoption Services' Board Member*

Kim and Bob have brought together their talent and experience in a unique and collaborative partnership that is poised to make a significant impact in meeting the challenges of securing forever families for children in our community. I am so impressed with their passion for our mission and their willingness to grow the number of adoptions in our community. It's an exciting time for us with new challenges and possibilities.

*Jeri Hunt, Corporate VP, Human Resources, Waste Connections, Inc.
Sierra Adoption Services' Board Member*

SAS STAFF STORIES | EXCITING GROWTH



Sandy Boyd

“Exciting and challenging” is how SANDY BOYD describes her role with Sierra Adoption Services. Hired in September, 2006 as a Social Work Supervisor, Sandy oversees the Placer Kids collaborative and supervises Nevada County program staff.

Sandy explains, “The Placer Kids collaborative between Sierra Adoption Services and Placer County is a very complex but exciting endeavor. It requires weekly coordination, communication, and compromise as we work with Placer County to recruit, train, and support resource families to adopt children from that community.”

With a Master of Arts in Psychology from California State University, Sacramento, Sandy worked for Nevada County Child Protection Services for 17 years. Before joining Sierra Adoption Services, she worked with a private adoption agency.

On a personal note, Sandy is a proud native of Nevada County which she regularly explores on her mountain bike. She volunteers in the community with a number of organizations, including the California Youth Authority, and recently she began volunteering with the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release project.

Sandy is inspired by her fellow staff at Sierra Adoption Services. “All the staff have been wonderful to work with,” she says. “I am fortunate to have walked into a wonderful agency which was built on a strong foundation... My hope is to contribute to the further growth that has already begun.”

PLACER KIDS—Our Unprecedented Partnership Turns 10!

For 10 exciting years, Sierra Adoption Services has partnered with the Placer County Children’s System of Care. Placer Kids is a virtual merger of all foster care and adoption activities in the county.

Since its inception a decade ago, Placer Kids has placed over 440 children with permanent families. In the year prior to our partnership, the Children’s System of Care found permanent families for eight children. Now, after 10 successful years of collaboration, 54 children were placed in fiscal year 2006-07, an increase of over 500%. We are especially excited that almost half of the placements last year were older children ages seven and up!

In a recent article in the Auburn Journal, the Honorable Colleen Nichols of the Superior Court says, “It’s been a

wonderful experience for the department and the courts to see the increase in permanent placements for children. The Placer Kids partnership has made all the difference.”

Our Placer Kids office in Auburn also offers Exploring Adoption classes, individual therapy, and support groups to prospective families. By providing excellent support and training for those parenting foster and adopted children, Placer Kids helps build healthy families for children.

Placer Kids is currently seeking families for approximately 50 children. For more information on how to be an adoptive or foster parent, please call the Placer Kids toll free number (888) 387-9982.



CAR DONATION: 1-866-321-KIDS (5437)

Donate your car, truck, or boat to Sierra Adoption Services and receive a tax deduction. Your vehicle will be towed away free of charge. Most vehicles are accepted. For more information, please call 1-866-321-5437. Your vehicle donation will help to secure a permanent adoptive family for a child who waits.

CHAMPIONS FOR ADOPTION



We Are The Champions!

Do you have what it takes to be a Champion? WE ARE NOW LOOKING FOR TEAMS. Hooray to the Champions for Adoption teams who have pledged to raise at least \$5,000 this year:

- Abbott & Kindermann, LLP
- Air Systems
- Julia Amaral & Mark Strate
- American Building Supply
- Jim & Jackie Anderson
- Bank of America
- Donna Benner & Roger Ramseier
- California Backyard
- Marcelo Campos, Lyon Real Estate
- Frank & Delma Carson
- Deacon Charitable Foundation
- East Lawn Memorial Parks & Mortuaries
- Families, Fidos and Felines
- Harbison-Mahony-Higgins Builders, Inc.
- Philip Joffe & Margaret Carrera
- Karen & Dan Mason
- Mercy General Hospital
- Nicholson & Olson, CPAs
- Placer Electric
- Premier Homes
- Kate Renwick-Espinosa
- The Root Family
- Sacramento Business Journal
- Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality
- Seniors in Sneakers
- Sundt Foundation
- SureWest Foundation
- Umpqua Bank
- Weintraub Genshlea Chediak
- Williams + Paddon, Architects + Planners

CHAMPIONS FOR ADOPTION is an innovative program where community leaders, businesses and adoption advocates join together and commit to placing a child by raising \$5,000 — the amount needed to place one child or sibling group into a permanent family. The teams devise a variety of different strategies to raise the \$5,000 — making a single donation, doing pledge drives and contribution-matching programs, mailing letters to friends, contractors and/or vendors, putting on golf tournaments, having book and bake sales, taking part in biking and hiking treks, hosting receptions or dining events...the possibilities are endless!

Since its inception, the Champions for Adoption program has helped place over 300 children with adoptive families. Just last year the program raised over \$140,000, helping find permanent families for 42 local children.

Our 2006-2007 Champions for Adoption Celebration took place this year on August 17, 2007 at Sun City Roseville. In addition to recognizing Champions for Adoption teams, donors and volunteers were also acknowledged for helping children in foster care find permanent families.

If you would like to be a part of the Champions for Adoption program or would like more information, please contact Tiffany Kelly at (916) 368-5114 ext. 238, or send an email to: tkelly@sierraadoption.org.



Steve Drlica, Cameron Little and Karen Little make a splash at our Under-the-Sea extravaganza.

THANK YOU

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to the individuals, companies and foundations that make it

A RACE TO GIVE A PLACE TO LIVE 2007

Dr. Kevin Chang, a Roseville dentist, decided he wanted to make a difference in the lives of local children in the foster care system. Last year, he started an event, "A Race to Give a Place to Live," a fun day of go-kart racing for the children. This year's event on July 14 at Race Place Motorsports provided joy for the kids as well as raised \$5,000 dollars, the amount it costs Sierra Adoption Services to find a child a forever family.

When asked why Kevin created this great day for the kids he explained, "We all have our excuses when things don't go well in our lives...these children do not have such a luxury as we have. I thought about helping their dental needs, but then realized that their basic foundation of life isn't even met. What good are beautiful teeth when they don't even smile?"

We are so grateful for Dr. Kevin Chang transforming children's lives in foster care through "A Race to Give a Place to Live," both by raising money and community awareness. And we especially thank him for bringing smiles to the children's faces.



The Diefenbacher Family's children are all suited up for the race, from the left, Tonaë (age 11), Queen (age 13), and Murphy (age 11).

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME

On July 22, Sierra Adoption Services and Placer Kids were thrilled to have nearly 100 children and their parents attend Adoption Awareness Night with the Sacramento River Cats. Thanks to the Sacramento River Cats, Bayside Church of Roseville, Lincoln Soroptimists and the National Active Retired Federal Employees, all of the families' tickets and food vouchers were provided at no cost.

During this special evening, the kids were able to participate in some fun opportunities, such as throwing out the first pitch. "It was really cool to be able to throw out the first pitch at the game. I just got back from a week-long softball camp, so my arm was pretty loose," shares 12-year-old Stephanie Hourigan, who did an outstanding job throwing the first pitch.

Other fun activities included waving from the field and leading the entire ballpark in a rousing rendition of *Take Me Out to the Ballgame*. "Our boys were so thrilled to go down to the field to participate. They said that they felt like they were 'famous,'" shares Eileen Johnson, mother to James (6) and Brian (8).

Thank you to our sponsors and to the Sacramento River Cats for making the kids feel so special and for building adoption awareness in the community.



Celebrating Adoption: Steve and Eileen Johnson with their adopted sons James (6) and Brian (8).

possible for us to find permanent homes for the children who wait

LAW FIRM HAS A HEART FOR CHILDREN

On September 29, Cohen♦Durrett, Attorneys at Law, hosted its 4TH ANNUAL HAVE A HEART FOR CHILDREN GALA at the Scottish Rite Temple in Sacramento.

The event had a bit of a twist to it this year as it was a hoedown, complete with cowboy-style entertainment, great local barbeque from Ludy's in Woodland, as well as silent and live auctions. And as a special treat, comedian Stephen B, who has been featured on Comedy Central, served as the evening's emcee and entertainment.

"This event is very special to the staff and partners of Cohen♦Durrett. The event grew out of our law firm's commitment to our community," says David Cohen, partner. "We are honored to help place local children with permanent families while at the same time building adoption awareness in our community." He continues, "Adoption has always had a special place in my heart because my wife and I adopted our son and he has truly enriched our lives."

The last four events combined have raised over \$120,000 to help 24 children find forever families. David concludes, "We are excited to see how many additional children we will help through the success of this year's event."

On behalf of the children and families that we serve, Sierra Adoption Services wholeheartedly thanks Cohen♦Durrett, Attorneys at Law, for continuing to support adoption in our community.



TOP: Diann and Dave Cohen celebrate adoption

FESTIVAL IN THE FOOTHILLS A HUGE SUCCESS!

On Sunday, September 30, over 450 people attended the fabulous FESTIVAL IN THE FOOTHILLS — an outdoor culinary extravaganza featuring gourmet food and wine, live music, plus a live and silent auction in the beautiful Sierra foothills. Brenda Horton and co-chair Sue Hudson with KNCO led the effort with the help of their incredible steering committee.

The event raised over \$100,000, which will allow 20 or more foster children to be placed with forever families. Thank you to Brenda and Chuck Horton, the Horton Family, wine and food vendors, sponsors, donors, guests, and dozens of outstanding volunteers for making Festival in the Foothills such a success!



ABOVE: Hosts Brenda and Chuck Horton

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES PAY OUT HIGHER RATES!

When do CDs mature? Mark your calendar now. Low yields and early withdrawal penalties are the prices you could pay if you miss CD maturity rates. With current yields on Certificates of Deposits at or near record lows, inadvertently rolling over a CD could lock you into another term at a rate you didn't expect. Take time to mark maturity dates on your calendar, and re-evaluate those investments based on your financial objectives and current yields.

If you plan to donate the asset in the future, you might want to consider a charitable gift annuity now. A combination of a gift to charity and an annuity, a charitable gift annuity pays a fixed amount to you or someone you designate for life. For seniors, annuity rates can be as high as **11%**.

If you would like to make a meaningful gift, but want to increase the income you currently receive from your stocks, certificates of deposits, or bonds, a charitable gift annuity might interest you.

For more information, please call Danielle Collins at (916) 368-5114 ext. 234. We can put you in touch with a professional who will personalize a charitable gift annuity illustration for you. It's free, and there is no obligation, so call today.

Before implementing any plans, be sure to seek the advice of your professional tax or financial advisors.

PENSION OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA 2006) created a new opportunity for tax-free charitable giving. Through the end of 2007, Congress is allowing individuals with traditional or Roth IRAs to make tax-free gifts directly to a qualified charity.

This means that an IRA owner age 70 ½ or older may make a direct transfer of up to \$100,000 to a charity in 2007. Individuals who are required to take unneeded IRA

withdrawals and others who have experienced limitations on tax benefits in the past will find the law particularly interesting.

For more information, please call Danielle Collins at (916) 368-5114 ext. 234, or email dcollins@sierraadoption.org.

It is important to consult with qualified legal, tax, or financial advisors with respect to your estate planning.

WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY.

Make a miracle, today and tomorrow.

Help ensure that waiting children in the future are placed into permanent, loving homes.

Remember Sierra Adoption Services in your will.

In doing so, you will join a growing number of our friends who, over and above their regular support, have taken steps to help Sierra Adoption Services remain strong and successful. Call Kim Rhinehelder with questions at (916) 368-5114 ext. 233.

When the next generation of children don't have to move from home to home, they'll have you to thank!



VOLUNTEER PROFILE

THE ROOT FAMILY

Dan and Suzy Root have adopted three siblings from Sierra Adoption Services (SAS), but the relationship did not end there. Dan, Suzy and their three daughters, Jasmine (9), Mikayla (8) and Amanda (2) have continued to be active with SAS as volunteers. Dan, Suzy and the girls have generously given their time to SAS by attending numerous events, both small and large, to share their family's story of adoption. "We are so happy to give back to Sierra Adoption Services, after all, it is because of their great works that we have formed our family," shares Dan Root.

Not only has the Root family often volunteered for SAS, but they have also decided to spearhead a Champions for Adoption (CFA) team for 2007/2008. The team is already off to a great start with the "Phone-raiser" effort – a collection of hundreds of old cell phones from over seventeen locations in Sacramento, including Raley's corporate office, American River Bank, Air Systems, and Technify. The phones will generate money that will go towards their CFA team. Dan says, "We thought that this would be a great way to get the word out to the community that there are still many children waiting as well as it has become a great fundraiser."

Many thanks to Dan, Suzy and the girls for being such great friends to SAS.

EXPRESSIVE GIVING

Happy Birthday

Dajion Jacobs

Cora and Ruenell Adams

Tracy Plant

Louise Arias

Chuck and Shirley Faxon

Thomas and Layna Fortunato

Kathleen Garcia

Lyn Hunt-Russell

Gordon and Donna Kunisaki

Linda Lasher

Myrna Neves

Susan Ong

Robin Ornelas

Renato and Susan Peruzzi

David Richardson and Laurie Melhado Richardson

David Thompson and Catherine Bucher

Larry Tract

Peter and Andrea Tweedt

Julion Ratinoff

Ken and Nancy Fahn

Happy Father's Day

Alan Wolf

Terri Wolf

In Honor Of...

Chris Thompson and Katherine Carlyon

Rob and Jolaine Collins

The Kennedy Family

Roger Bryan Fluker

John Griffing

Peter and Debora Kennedy

Gino and Kristin O'Callaghan & Family

Marian Jewett

In Memory Of...

Ralph Andersen

Sharon Roseme

Susan Wong

Sharon Whalen

THE RIGHT STUFF:

Sierra Adoption Services' Quarter Centennial

Get your Tang and fire your boosters, Sierra Adoption Services is celebrating our Quarter Centennial! In the adventurous spirit of *The Right Stuff*, a movie that came out the year we were founded, we have ambitious goals for our 25th anniversary.

Celestial highlights include:

- Reaching for the stars with a goal of placing 250 children with permanent families — an agency record!
- Partnering with Raley's, who has generously pledged a \$250,000 challenge matching grant to help us place the children!
- Launching an alumni association that will bring previous board members, adoptive families, and adopted children back into our orbit!
- Celebrating in astronaut-style our Quarter Centennial in May 2008, with an event that will be outta this world. Details to follow!

Thank you for being part of our success. For more information on our Quarter Centennial, call Mission Control at (916) 368-5114, ext. 235.

Raley's

Family of Fine Stores

BELAIR NOB HILL FOOD SOURCE

"Every child deserves a permanent, caring family and Raley's is proud to partner with Sierra Adoption Services to help make that a reality. Our \$250,000 challenge matching gift is designed to leverage additional community support, which will help twice as many children find permanent homes."

BILL COYNE

Raley's President and CEO



Sierra
Adoption
Services

8928 Volunteer Lane, #240
Sacramento, CA 95826

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #1234
Sierra Adoption Services
Sacramento, CA 95826