



Summer Newsletter

Client Spotlight: Knoelle G.



Many of our children come to Chamberlain's feeling defeated. They have often been bounced around from home to home because they need more support than a regular foster family can give them, leaving them feeling unwanted and angry. This was the case for former resident Knoelle. She says that her anger is what initially brought her to Chamberlain's, and that the families that she had been placed with lacked the resources to address her issues. When discussing her circumstances, she remarks "I was angry with everyone around me and it was only because everyone else had some-

thing I didn't... a family." Her acknowledgement that the families she spent time with were not equipped to deal with her issues is an indication of just how far she has come - many children misinterpret situations such as these, believing that they were once again abandoned. However, with the help of Chamberlain's Children Center staff, Knoelle was able to move past the anger and go on to thrive in an adopted family who loves her. Although Knoelle was excited to find a place where she could finally relate to the children around her, she quickly found it difficult to get along with the other children at Chamberlain's. She was, however, extremely comforted by the love and support offered by the staff members who she had contact with while she was here. She says that "they were my hope and inspiration while I was there... these people were my family." She credits them with teaching her lessons in life

New Website!
We have redesigned our website and streamlined the online donation process. The result is an online home that is easier to navigate, more visually appealing, and more informative.
Visit us at
www.chamberlaincc.org
to see our new look and support our work!

that have attributed to her success since leaving. She learned that if she continued to hold on to the anger she felt, she would lose out on important opportunities in life. They also encouraged her to believe that she could accomplish anything she wanted by doing so. She took that lesson to heart, and is taking steps to turn her dreams into reality. Today she is living with a loving family who adopted her, getting great grades in school, and planning on taking premed classes in college. Chamberlain's Children Center staff provided her the support she needed to allow her to flourish. She has become an ambitious young lady that Chamberlain's is so proud to know.

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.



Earn money for our school just for signing up with eScrip! When you register your customer cards with eScrip, a portion of your purchase is automatically donated to our organization's Keith Thompson Non-Public School. Our eScrip Group ID is 6647199. Visit www.eScrip.com today to register. This is a free way to support us by doing something that you were going to do anyway.



Chamberlain's Children Center
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Chamberlain's Summer Highlights

Summertime at Chamberlain's, like for most families, is filled with wonderful opportunities for our children to explore the community, practice social skills, achieve personal growth and of course to have fun! Over the summer, our staff continued their commitment to providing positive opportunities for children to engage in the community and have a good time while doing so.



The children were regular visitors to many of our communities offerings. At the Hollister Downtown Farmers Market, kids enjoyed unlimited complimentary jump and play time courtesy of The Bounce Company, sampled local fruits, spent allowance money to support our local economy and received weekly donated boxes of nutritious produce from Swank Farms, Pinnacle, and Heirloom Organics. Carrying their goods was made

easy by Calvista Insurance Agency, who donated reusable shopping bags to our children. We filled time with visits to local parks and the San Benito High School swimming pool. The kids had a blast at the San Benito County Saddle Horse Show & Rodeo, the Kids at the Park annual event, the Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School and the Hollister Downtown Association's Movie Under the Stars.

In addition, this was a summer of first time experiences for many of our kids. Day trips included: the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Cal Academy of Science in San Francisco, Lawrence Hall of Science at UC Berkeley, Great America, an Oakland A's game, Ringling Bros Barnum & Bailey Circus, Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk and Raging Waters. Many of these activities were made possible by generous donors through the Community Access Ticket Service of the bay area.

Thanks to this community, our support network, and our hard working staff, the children had a ton of fun while learning valuable life lessons in social and self-awareness, socialization in large groups, money management, and shopping etiquette.

Keep Up -to-Date!

If you would like to join our email list, please contact Kim Meininger at kim@chamberlaincc.org. We will still be sending out our regular newsletter, but will have an email version, too. We will also use this new feature to send out special announcements.

Mari's FUNd Day: Another Successful Event



May 19th turned out to be a great day to invite the community to Chamberlain's campus for a BBQ Fund and friend raiser. It was a beautiful day and we had a great crowd of approximately 100 guests who participated in a Zumba demonstration, enjoyed the food prepared by Hollister Rotary Club, bid on auction items, and had fun with face painting and the bounce house. This year we continued the tradition of bestowing the Rose-

mary Cardinalli award upon an employee whose hard work and dedication exemplified the values that Rosemary upheld during her time with us. Gracie Lucatero's hard work and dedication made her this year's obvious choice for the award. Her commitment to the wellbeing of our children inspires us all. We also took a moment to recognize Ted Davis's Teknova for their long time support of our work. Their help has enabled us to continue to work hard to support our children.

We were able to surpass this year's fundraising expectations and have fun raising money to further provide for the children in our care. Keep an eye out for more information about next year's Mari's Day – we would love to have you join us!

Where do they go? Cont'd

activities when she was on level three and four. She has just graduated to go on to a more permanent foster family with whom she is an excellent match. One of our boys recently graduated to be reunified with his biological family after making progress in positive communication, anger management, frustration tolerance, and participating in therapy sessions with his family. In addition to returning to their families or to lower level foster care families, our children will sometimes get adopted by an adult who got to know them while they were here. We have had both staff and volunteer mentors make this permanent commitment to remain a huge part of a child's life.

Mari's FUNd Day Acknowledgements

Event Sponsor:



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Update : Endowment Match Challenge

In our spring newsletter, we told you that the Community Foundation for San Benito County was running an endowment match challenge that would double the impact of gifts made to us through them. For every dollar that you send to them, they will double it until all of the allotted money has been matched (in this case, it is \$150,000). Our Board of Directors took strategic measures to maximize this opportunity and as a result of them and a generous donor, our endowment has been increased by \$60,200!



There is still time to maximize your contributions! There is still just under \$50,000 available to be matched as of newsletter print date. If you would like to make a donation towards our endowment, please send your donations directly to the foundation. We appreciate your support!

Where do they go from here? Snapshots of success after Chamberlain's



We open our homes to up to 24 children at a time in an effort to offer them resources that traditional foster families are unable to provide. Many of our children live here for quite some time, but they all move on eventually. People frequently ask us where the children go after they have lived here at Chamberlain's. Although some of our children end up needing an even higher level of care, or move to different group homes to be closer to their families, many of them successfully graduate from Chamberlain's into a more permanent placement. We have had several recent graduations that exemplify the positive outcomes we hope for with every child who walks through our doors. One young girl participated in group and individual therapy as well as the behavioral treatment program while she was here. She also enjoyed positive relationships with mentors and advocates, remained in horseback riding lessons, and had the freedom to participate in other local

Employee Recognition

Chamberlain's has been undergoing some exciting new changes internally. We have been restructuring and strengthening the clinical and case management department. There are new faces that have joined us in caring for our foster youth. We would like to introduce you to one of our new staff members:



Vercila Chacon, LCSW
Clinical Supervisor

Vercila has 25 years experience working with children, youth and their families. She has an MSW, LCSW, and LTRT. She believes that the child and youth guide the direction of the pain that needs healing within the family. We merely need to see with our minds and speak with our hearts. Vercila enjoys living in Hollister and learning to grow flowers.



Yolanda Soza
Childcare Counselor I & Teacher's Aide

We would like to recognize an employee who has dedicated herself to Chamberlain's Children Center the longest. Yolanda Soza has been with Chamberlain's for 38 years. In that time, she has dedicated herself to the care and wellbeing of our children in both of her roles as childcare counselor as well as teacher's aide in our school. Colleagues note that she has a firm but fair approach when it comes to her dealings with the children, and she is always consistent in the boundaries she sets and her follow through. She is always willing to take an active role in keeping the children busy whether it is by taking them on a walk or engaging them in a game. We are deeply thankful for her commitment

Executive Director Report:



A smile is the light in your window that tells others that there is a caring, sharing person inside.

Denis Waitley

I like that quote, I'd like to think Mr. Waitley is talking about me! I know he is talking about my staff here at Chamberlain's! We are fortunate to have many children cross our paths, sometimes for only a few months, sometimes for a few years. I know that each child is greeted at the door our homes by a loving, caring, nurturing staff member. I also know they are greeted by our clinical staff with compassion, dignity and respect. I know emphatically that they are greeted warmly with open arms by our administrative team. Looking through the window are caring, sharing people whose goal is to make sure the children in the care of Chamberlain's are here to learn life skills in a nurturing home-like environment! Whether it's a staff member like Frankie who has been with us for only a few months or a seasoned veteran like Yolanda who has been with us 38 years! Let me say that again – 38 years! Can you imagine the number of children she has guided, supported, mentored, hugged, giving clear boundaries to, cried with, and loved? How do I know the work we are charged with is getting done? Well quite obviously I see it when I visit the houses or the children visit me. But even more so, it's when I see it *through my windows*. For those of you that have not been to my office, on one side I have an amazing view of the Hollister Hills and on the other an amazing view of our wonderful gardens. But it's what's in between that is most beautiful! I see our children sit with each other and staff, and pick tomatoes, peas and beans from the garden. I see them riding their bikes and jumping off the ramps. I see a relatively new child get coached and encouraged by a staff member on how to ride a bike. I see them climb the stairs to the Wellness Center next door to my office. A few seconds later I *hear* the weights clicking together, exercise bikes and elliptical machines whirling, I *feel* the footsteps hit the floor in rhythm as they start to dance. On Fridays, I see the whole campus of children and staff members walk by on their way to the park for Fun Fridays.

You see the light in my window shows me smiles, shows me hugs, shows me purposeful discussions, shows me friends, shows me mentors, shows me leaders, shows me love, and shows me *caring, sharing people both inside and out!!!!*

Robert

Robert Freiri
Executive Director



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