



Summer Newsletter



Kids and staff enjoying the simple pleasures of bike riding!

Can You Spare An Hour A Week To Help A Child?

According to Merriam-Webster, **Mentor** is defined as “someone who teaches or gives help and advice to a less experienced and often younger person.” According to Chamberlain’s staff, a Mentor is “Someone who does their best to spend time with a Chamberlain’s child that needs a little extra help.”

Recently someone asked us “**What does a mentor DO?**” A mentor is paired with a child in need of someone who can spend time just with them. Someone that they don’t have to share and is there just for them to talk to while they live at Chamberlain’s. A mentor helps to show the child what a positive and healthy relationship looks and feels like. Through weekly visits, the two develop a trusting friendship and do all sort of activities from simply walking around the campus chatting, swinging at the playground, baking in the learning kitchen, reading, riding bikes or playing basketball. As the relationship deepens, the two can go off campus for outings and visits to the mentor’s home. The bottom line is to spend time together doing what they decide to do together.



Chamberlain mentors come from varied backgrounds and range from 18 years to retiree age. Our mentors are people you probably already know like **Alana and Roger Miller, Marianne Burns, An Nghiem, Sunny Underwood, Charlie Campbell, Viridiana Vasquez, Jessica Gomez, Marissa Ortiz and Larry Diaz** to mention a few. These mentors have committed to giving their time and friendship to many of our kids and this commitment has made a huge difference in the child’s lives and not surprisingly their own lives!

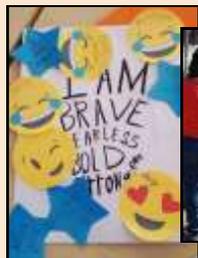
Mentor **An Nghiem** recently said her mentee and her like to “hang out” outside, play video games, make friendship bracelets, cook and lots more. She became a mentor to give back to her hometown and gain experience in her chosen major; Psychology. Ms. Nghiem said she wanted to “give her mentees a better life experience”.

Alana and Roger Miller both became mentors recently. They found the experience “so easy!” Alana said “It feels good making a difference in a child’s life. It doesn’t take a lot of time and it doesn’t cost anything except an hour a week. The rewards are immeasurable!” She and her mentee do things such as playing with the kittens and riding Alana’s horse at their home. Roger takes his mentees around their property and they have a great time being together no matter what they do! (Mentors continued on pg. 7)

College Interns:

We are so blessed to have so many local college students serving as interns at Chamberlain's! While getting hands-on experience in their chosen field, our kids get back so much more from these giving and talented students.

Carmen Sanchez completed her Capstone project at Chamberlain's and graduated from **CSUMB** May 2017! Congratulations, Carmen! Her Capstone project was to give the children cooking lessons which ended with a hands-on graduation celebration! The "final" was each kid had a part in cooking and serving a meal for the staff! Each child received a Certificate of Completion and a set of measuring cups for future cooking! *Thank you, Carmen. We wish you much success!*



Another **CSUMB** intern is **Gabby Zuno**, who taught awesome gardening lessons last semester, has taken the lead this summer in making sure our *Teen Girls' Life Skill* course goes smoothly. She's responsible for every aspect of eight week course including teaching some classes herself and getting presenters for the other subjects such as financing, problem solving, getting into college, healthy cooking, grocery shopping on a budget, positivity, stress management and *lots more!* *The girls are learning so much to assist them for a successful future! Thanks Gabby!*

SJSU intern is **Geoffrey Tracy**. Geoff takes fitness seriously so teaching our kids weekly fitness classes was a natural choice for his internship! The kids are *really having fun* but at the same time learning about the benefits of stretching, exercise, and team building! Each cottage gets to choose their activity every week and so far volleyball and basketball seem most popular! *Thank you Geoffrey!*



CSUMB intern **Alyssa Clifford** served here last semester by teaching the children cooking in the Wellness Center's Learning Kitchen! Alyssa came on Saturday mornings and some of the lessons were baking and decorating cupcakes, making easy and healthy smoothies and more. She also fit in a few arts and craft classes right after the cooking lessons! The children really enjoyed this activity, which helps prepare them for their future. We wish you well in your future endeavors, Alyssa!



Lastly is **Chelsea Jones** with **Azusa Pacific University College** who just started. She is working in the clinical office and will get firsthand experience by learning direct client services under the supervision of one of our licensed clinicians. She will also be learning and assisting with Chamberlain's state and federal documentation which is so crucial to Chamberlain's. The goal is to have Chelsea conduct both individual and group sessions with our children, teaching them valuable social and coping skills. Thanks for choosing Chamberlain's and we look forward to your contribution to Chamberlain's staff and especially the kids.



Notes from the Classroom: By Matt Morrison

In March we applied for three grants and lot of volunteer power through **Kohl's** that allowed our staff at our Keith Thompson Non-Public School to realize a dream! When their students are having a particular hard day, sometimes the best remedy is to have them spend some quiet time with a staff member in the room referred to as "Classroom Two" (also known as the "Calm Room"). This room's purpose is to provide respite to the student, allowing them time to calm down, talk out their troubles with staff, all with the goal of rejoining the regular class as soon as possible.

This was a *significant* project that required lots of **Kohl's** employees and our staff to a) clean out an old shed and move/organize all the equipment into the new storage area. b) clean out the previous sports equipment room and prepare it for refurbishing into the new "Classroom Two". c) do LOTS of painting! Soothing greens and blues were chosen by staff and included one wall dedicated as a chalk board wall in a calming teal! Without the dedicated and hardworking team from Kohl's, this new space would not have happened in such a quick timeframe. **Thank you Carolyn Trimble and your fantastic team for all your help!**



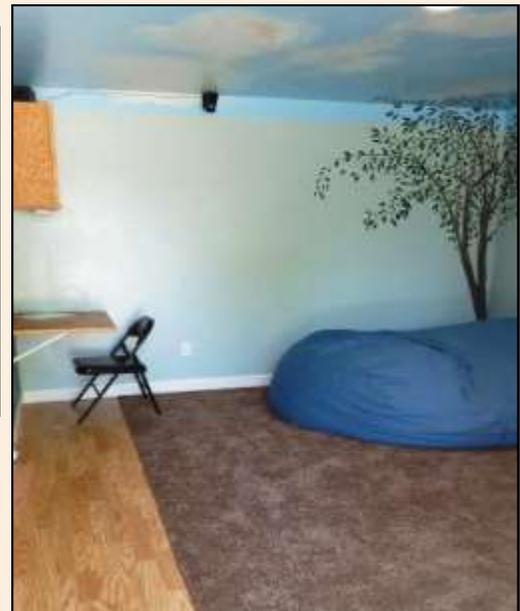
With the **Kohl's** grants, we were also able to install a new hardwood floor entry, an a/c-heating unit, a double pane window, lighting fixture, a very large bean bag, a small sound system and desk, and new carpet! The room has been transformed into a space that, on its first day of being open, brought peace to an agitated student in record time!



Thank you Kohl's!



Above: Chamberlain's kids helped with the painting! **Center:** Maintenance man **Albert** installs the new window. **Right:** The finished room was completed with a ceiling painted with white clouds and a tree. Thank you to the talented local artist **Trisha Harvey** for your contributions. Amazing transformation! **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE INVOLVED!**





This new fundraiser in May was the “brain child” of the **Community Foundation for San Benito County** with the focus on helping local non-profits raise critical funds. Partnering with local news organizations **BenitoLink** and **Mission Village Voice** to help get the word out, 24 local non-profits signed up and help raise over \$35,000!

Chamberlain’s focus was on raising funds for our 2nd Annual **Summer Life Skill course** for our teen girls. Due to our fabulous donors, we raised \$2,490! Community Foundation supplied the matching funds! And because an anonymous donor donated \$10,000 to the **Community Foundation**, prize money could be earned by the participating non-profits in various categories! Chamberlain’s earned the “Happy Hour” \$1,000 prize and the “Last Donor of the Day” \$500 prize! The Life Skills class was fully funded because of so many caring donors coming together to help *make a difference!*



Executive Director Patrick Ellis took one for the Chamberlain team! A huge LA Dodger fan, previous E.D. Robert Freiri challenged Patrick to wear SF Giants gear for 3 long hours for a donation! Thank you Patrick for being such a good sport (even though you wore a Dodger blue shirt!) and thanks to Robert for the fantastic idea!

The winner of the Pietra Santa tasting for 8 was donor Charity Scott-Guerrero. Congratulations!

Without the fantastic leadership from the **Community Foundation for San Benito County**, this fundraiser would not have happened. A heart-felt THANK YOU to those who made this event possible: Executive Director Gary Byrne and staff Sharlene Van Rooy and Raul Ceja for all your hard work creating this successful event.

Also thank you to the great teams at **Mission Village Voice** and **BenitoLink**. The publicity you provided was appreciated and really made a difference!

The Chamberlain’s board, staff and children applauds each and every one of you!



Chamberlain’s San Benito GIVES Donors:

- Alvarez, Carissa
- Alvord, Karen
- Bertao, Calla & Augie
- Boltinghouse, Jennifer
- Bravo, Josie
- Brigantino, Vince
- Brown, Chantal
- Byrne, Gary
- Cauthen, Dorothy
- Cauthen-Wright family
- Curiel, Natasha
- Curtis, Esther
- Deirdre, Jara
- Dierkes, Suzette
- Ellis, Patrick & Amalia
- Firstbrook, Ron
- Fortino, Vicki
- Freiri, Robert & Bridget
- Jones, Krystal
- Kane, Anita
- Klauer, Karson
- Kops, Nancy
- Kuhlmann, Erik
- Laine, Jennifer
- Lomanto, Krystal
- Martinez, Becky
- Meraz, Dave & Patricia
- Mission Village Voice
- Rea, Tina
- Rigot, Tanya
- Sattler, Joan
- Stoppel, Jane
- Scott-Guerrero, Charity
- Sunseri, Tonia
- Sylvia, Jaime
- Teixeira, Yvonne



We apologize if we inadvertently missed a donors name.

Appreciation for our annual Spring Cleaning volunteers!

The last Saturday of every April for many years is “Spring Clean Up” day at Chamberlain’s. Started as a project from local LDS members, this year realized its largest volunteer group: over 325 volunteers (that’s not a typo!) who did over 1,500 hours (not a typo either)!!! Many requested projects were completed from a “Wish List” such as fixing damage walls, installing new pathways and fixing old ones, grading the roads and filling in pot holes, painting the therapy room and some outside building walls, fixing roofs, deep cleaning the cottages, weeding, preparing a fantastic BBQ lunch and so much more! *GREAT DAY, GREAT PEOPLE!* **A special thank you to the leadership at Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for their fantastic work of matching our projects to local, talented volunteers. Also thank you to the following special groups who came out in force: Sunnyslope Christian Center, Boy Scouts Troop 455, Kohl’s and Banana Republic employees and many individuals who helped make Chamberlain’s better.**

Lastly, thanks to RECOLOGY for their donation of compost and dumpsters.



CCC Briefs:



VFW Post 9242 comes through again for Chamberlain's! The big storm in February did a lot of damage at our campus. A tree toppled in front of a cottage. An outside door blew off by very strong winds. AND SIX fences fell! Staff **Matt, Patrick and Albert** and volunteer **Dan Wright** were able to take care of the tree and door but the fences were a HUGE project. One call to then Commander **Bernie Ramirez** who brought a team of talented, caring Veterans to fix them. After two long, hot days these guys had all the fences reinstalled. We are forever grateful for their willingness to give their time and talents to keep our children and

staff safe. Thank you Veterans of Post 9242!

San Benito Olive Festival is coming back! SAVE Saturday, October 14 for an incredible day of olive oil tastings, artisanal food, fine chocolates and world-class wines and craft beers! Enjoy celebrity chef cooking demos, live music, kids crafts and much more! NEW convenient location: *Brigantino Park*. To purchase tickets (early bird pricing only available until August 31) visit SanBenitoOliveFestival.com. This event donates to local participating non-profits, including **Chamberlain's!** We are looking for volunteers to help us at the TICKET SALES BOOTH welcoming attendees and selling tickets, which gives you free entrance into the event. Contact Denise at denise@chamberlaincc.org for more info.



Congratulations Lorna Gilbert! The staff & students of our Keith Thompson Non Public School said "Congratulations!" to Dr. Lorna Gilbert, who retired as the San Benito County Office of Education Director of Special Services on June 30th. She made a tremendous impact on our school program from coordinating student placements to ensuring that students were receiving appropriate school-based services. The influence she had on our program, staff and students will be felt for many years to come. The children hosted a surprise retirement party for Lorna complete with a specially written song sung by the kids as well as a special "quilt" picture handcrafted by the students. We all wish you well on your new journey in life!



Right: Madisson and family just getting started.
Above: It is finished!

4H All Star Projects! A big "THANK YOU!" to members **Ary Palmer** and **Madisson Ricker** of **Sunnyslope 4H** for choosing Chamberlain's for both your All Star Projects! Our Tranquility Garden was made much more tranquil with your leadership, hard work, and beautiful ideas! Much thanks extended to you, your helping family and friends for a job well done!



Ary (grey shirt- back row) and her team!

Sunny Underwood has been a mentor for a number of years and said “Mentoring the two wonderful young children of Chamberlain’s has been a blessing and a rewarding experience to me. As a mother and a health care professional, I have witnessed the healing power of love. Being a mentor gave me the opportunity to give that love where it is most needed. Children can sense genuine caring and love and will open up and listen. Then life lessons regarding importance of education comes in and of course, if they are open to it, faith and hope will bring more healing. I feel that I have learned as much or more from these two resilient kids as I have intended to teach.

It doesn't matter how long the visit is, it will make a difference for these children to see that there are still humans out there who support one another. The outcome is out of our hands but we can sure love and pray and have hope for a better future. Thank you for the opportunity.”

Another long time mentor is **Larry Diaz** “I have had a life changing experience since I made the decision to mentor. I began with CASA over 10 years ago, and to this date I still keep in contact with that young man. I came to CCC about 3 or 4 years ago to be a part of a child's life. Little did I know that he would impact my life. The experience to take on this blessing is one of challenges. Challenges to step up as a man and teach someone's child that there are people that love them and care for them. Challenges to teach them to love themselves for who they are and that they matter to society.”



“I have had the honor to mentor two young boy's at CCC and even though I personally don't know how they are doing now, I know that the seeds of hope, love and purpose was planted in their hearts. I have now become a father to the fatherless. I love these children and with every opportunity I get, I go and spend some time with them. If you are considering on becoming a mentor to a child, I warn you to be prepared to fall in love with whomever you are given.”

Want to learn more about becoming a mentor?

Mentors do not need special training but do need to complete an orientation that includes a tour of Chamberlain’s and discussion on mentoring. After completing the required paperwork, clearing a Livescan and TB test, the mentor’s file is delivered to the clinical team who best matches a child in need with the mentor. Then the mentor and mentee meet and get to know each other. It is easy and comes with a guarantee: Your life will change for the better by helping a child in need.

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



DONATION FORM- every dollar counts!

**Please make your tax-deductible check payable to:
Chamberlain’s Children Center, Inc.**



Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Amount Donated _____

Mail to: Chamberlain’s Children Center PO Box 1269, Hollister, CA 95024-1269

Donating by credit card? Please visit www.chamberlaincc.org and click on the “**Donate Here**” button.

Federal Tax ID# 94-2357401



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

Nonprofit
US Postage
PAID
Hollister, CA
Permit No. 49



Every arriving child receives "Welcome" items to help ease their transition to Chamberlain's. These items are donated by various organizations like Women's Club, St. Luke's, Family Giving Tree, Pinnacle Quilters Guild, Lions Club and more. They get a filled backpack of daily essentials & clothing, a filled school backpack, a homemade quilt and pillow case and a plush animal, all which they keep forever!

Mission Statement:
Chamberlain's 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.

Board Roster:

President Susie Swing, VP Josie Bravo,
Secretary Nancy Kops,
Treasurer Rick Champion, Johna Hepner
Executive Director Patrick Ellis.

We are looking to add to our current board. If you can spare a few hours and want to help shape the future of Chamberlain's, please contact Denise at 831.636.2121 x129