As we continue to highlight the multiple paths to permanency, in this Forever Family feature we share a heartwarming story of Kinship and Adoption. Over the last several years, kinship placements have increased due to a larger number of family members coming forward to care for the children of relatives. Kinship allows children to stay strongly connected to their birth and extended families and can be a great alternative for children in danger of entering, or who have entered, the foster care system.

When Jamie and her brother Jeremiah were ages three and one, their maternal grandmother Annette saw that the children needed a safe and stable home rather than the household turmoil they were experiencing. During this tenuous time in their lives, she willingly helped care for them for brief weekend visits to long extended periods. “It was hard to see the situation unfold as it did,” shares Annette. “So many times, I would go over and take the kids out of the home. I knew this could not go on any longer.”

Eventually, Child Protective Services (CPS) removed the children from their home. At the time of the removal, the children’s parents understood that they were not providing them with a stable and safe environment and supported the children getting placed in kinship placement with Annette. Both parents were offered reunification services. During this period, neither completed their programs which resulted in the termination of parental rights. Annette knew that she was doing what was best for the young children, even if it meant that her daughter could not retain custody.

Since Jamie and Jeremiah were unable to reunify with either of their parents, their grandmother Annette was happy and willing to adopt them. She wanted to give them the stability they need and the environment they deserve to thrive as happy and healthy children with bright futures.

Annette, a dynamic energetic woman with a warm and engaging personality, had already raised two biological children, Natasha, the children’s mother who lives independently and Steven who is nineteen and resides in Annette’s home. Steven shares with a twinkle, “I think that my mom is awesome! She has sacrificed a lot to make sure that the kids are all right.”

...continued on page 12
MISSION STATEMENT
We transform the lives of children in foster care by building and nurturing permanent families.

Sacramento Center
8928 Volunteer Lane, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95826
Tel: (916) 368-5114
Fax: (916) 368-5157
E-mail: sfsac@sierraff.org

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

Auburn Center (PlacerKids)
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@sierraff.org

Chico Adoptive Family Resource Center
520 Cohasset Road, Suite 140
Chico, CA 95926
Tel: (530) 879-3861
Fax: (530) 896-1792
E-mail: sffchico@sierraff.org

California Department of Social Services/Adoptive Family Resource Center
Warm Line: (800) 268-2967
Fax: (916) 484-0430
E-mail: rbuchmiller@sierraff.org

SFF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Eric Ratinoff, President
Alan Wolf, President Elect
Kate Renwick-Espinosa, Secretary
Sarah Krevans, Treasurer
Chuck Horton, Immediate Past President
Katy Carlson, M.D.
Bob Earl
Jim Eldridge
Gregory Finch
Dee Hartzog
Jerri Hunt
Debra Panattoni
Jeanne Reaves
R.W. “Skip” Reynolds
Dan Root
Kathy Van Osten
Parker White

Executive Management
Bob Herne, Executive Director*
Bobby Cobbs, Development and PR Officer*
Glynis Butler-Stone, Program Director*
Linda Merrill, Finance Director*

SFF COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Julia Amaral
Sean Anderson
Fran Barker
Tom Bogetich
Dennis Cook
Elfrena Foord
Gail Johnson Vaughan
John Kay
Chuck Nicholson
Richard Osen
Megan Vincent
David Zorn

ABOUT HOMECOMING
Homecoming is a publication of Sierra Forever Families. Donations and/or correspondence may be sent to:
Sierra Forever Families
8928 Volunteer Lane, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95826
email: shanson@sierraff.org

EDITOR
Sara Hanson
EDTORIAL BOARD
Bobby Cobbs
April Johnson
Cassandra Heyward
Juli Kramer
DESIGN/LAYOUT
Circle Design
CONTRIBUTORS
Donna Aleccia
Kimberly Cox
Bob Herne
Garrett McCord
Kecia Sakazaki
Sandy Sertyn

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!
SIERRAFF.ORG
KEEPING THE PROMISE OF FAMILY

Recently, the Evans B. Donaldson Institute published an important paper titled *Keeping the Promise: Critical Issues in Post-Adoption Services for Children and Families*. The report highlights some very positive and encouraging news. One is that adoptions from foster care have grown rapidly in the last thirty years. If you do not include step parents, adopting from the child welfare system constitutes 67% of the adoptions in the United States. Another positive highlight is that most adopted youth are functioning within the ‘normal range’ on standardized measures of behavioral and emotional functioning. The paper indicates that, “adoption outcome studies show that over 90% of parents in any type of adoption are satisfied with their adoption experience and would chose to adopt again knowing what they now know.”

Are there any predictors for success? The report discusses the importance of families having realistic expectations. In one study the perceptions and expectations of the parents were more important than any other category. Another predictor of success was the agency’s ability to provide extensive preparation and information for families. This information and training needs to be on-going and throughout the adoption process.

The majority of the article however centers on the need for best practices in post-permanency services. The authors remind the reader that adoption is a lifelong process and that there needs to be a continuum of services and supports if families are to be successful. These services and supports range from advocacy to education to permanency competent therapeutic services. The report acknowledges the development of evidenced based practices and several successful models but that a lack of funding has hampered the field in moving forward.

Sierra Forever Families is committed to providing and enhancing post permanency services. We were the first agency in Northern California to open an Adoptive Family Resource Center. Each of our offices provide information, referrals, support groups and engages in permanency competent therapeutic supports. In collaboration with the State, Sierra provides post adoption supports to an additional nine rural counties in Northern California. Sierra is also part of the Community Champions Network Collaborative that recently developed a post adoption website for the Sacramento area.

Sierra is continually striving to provide enhanced supports to our children and families in order to strengthen a ‘forever family’. I invite you to read *Keeping the Promise* at www.adoptioninstitute.org and the post adoption website at www.postadoptionlink.org and to join us on our journey.

GOING GREEN!

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR RESPONSES letting us know your newsletter distribution wishes. Your responses have allowed us to reduce the number of newsletters printed and mailed by a significant amount. This cost-saving effort to “go green” will permit us to utilize our resources in other areas, specifically, family recruitment.

WE'RE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE LUCKY WINNERS OF THE DESIGNER SUNGLASSES (GENEROSLY DONATED BY VSP GLOBAL):

- Barbara Calvey
- Tracey Huntington

WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO SEND YOU NEWS AND UPDATES FROM SIERRA!
EVENTS: For more information or to volunteer, please call 916-368-5114.

SEPTEMBER 2011: SIERRA FOREVER FAMILIES 7TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC FOR KIDS ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 at Serrano Country Club in El Dorado Hills. Join us for a day of golf at one of the areas most beautiful golf courses and help provide permanent families for children living in foster care. Sponsorships available: $500-$25,000.

CLASSES: Classes, trainings, workshops and support groups require a reservation.

SACRAMENTO

Second Monday
EXPLORING PERMANENCY I. (Orientation). 6:00-8:30pm. Sacramento SFF office. Call (916) 368-5114.

Second Wednesday*
SINGLE & GAY/LESBIAN ADOPTIVE PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS. 6:00-8:00pm.
Sacramento SFF office. Call (916) 368-5114.

Second Thursday*
ADOPTIVE PARENT SUPPORT GROUP. 6:30-8:00pm. Sacramento SFF office. Call (916) 368-5114.

July 20, 27 (Two Parts)
ADOPTION MODULE. 5:30-8:30pm. Sacramento SFF office. Call (916) 368-5114.

Sept 21, 28 (Two Parts)
ADOPTION MODULE. 5:30-8:30pm. Sacramento SFF office. Call (916) 368-5114.

June 25, July 9 (Two Parts)
EXPLORING PERMANENCY II. 9:00am-5:30pm. Sacramento SFF office. Call (916) 368-5114.

July 30, Aug 6 (Two Parts)
EXPLORING PERMANENCY II. 9:00am-5:30pm. Sacramento SFF office. Call (916) 368-5114.

June 24
MENTAL HEALTH MODULE. 6:00-8:00pm. Sacramento SFF office. Call (916) 368-5114.

June 15
CONCURRENT PLANNING. 5:30-8:30pm. Sacramento SFF office. Call (916) 368-5114.

August 17
CONCURRENT PLANNING. 5:30-8:30pm. Sacramento SFF office. Call (916) 368-5114.

TBD
MANDATED CHILD ABUSE REPORTING. 6:00-8:00pm. Sacramento SFF office. Call (916) 368-5114.

Beginning in September
WONDER GUIDE ORIENTATION. Sacramento SFF office. Call (916) 368-5114 for dates and times.

PLACER KIDS

Wednesday*
PRE-SERVICE. 6:00-8:30pm. Ongoing. Placer County Children’s System of Care.
Call Donna (530) 887-9982 for information and child care.

First Tuesday*
K.S.S.P. SUPPORT GROUP. 6:00-7:30pm. Placer Kids, Auburn. Call (916) 774-6802.

Second Thursday*
FOSTER/ADOPTIVE SUPPORT GROUP. 6:00-8:30pm. Placer Kids, Auburn.
Call Banetta Bacchi (530) 889-6794.

Third Tuesday*
K.S.S.P. SUPPORT GROUP. 6:00-7:30pm. Kids First, Roseville. Call (916) 774-6802.

Third Thursday*
PK ORIENTATION FOR FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION. 6:30-8:30pm. Placer Kids, Auburn.
Call Donna (530) 887-9982 for information and child care.

Fourth Thursday*
FOSTER/ADOPTIVE SUPPORT GROUP. 6:00-8:30pm. South Placer at Cirby Hills.
Call Banetta Bacchi (530) 889-6794.

TBD
ADOPTION MODULE. 9:00am-4:00pm. Placer County Child System of Care.
PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED, call Theresa Bardakjian at (530) 889-6758 to register.

NEVADA COUNTY

First Wednesday
EXPLORING PERMANENCY I. (Orientation). 6:00-9:00pm. Nevada City office. Call (530) 478-0900.

Third Tuesday*
ADOPTIVE PARENT SUPPORT GROUP. 6:30-8:30pm. Marysville. Call (800) 268-2967.

Alternating Fridays*
ADOPTIVE PARENT SUPPORT GROUP. 10:00am-12pm. Nevada County locations vary. Call (800) 268-2967.

CHICO

First Tuesday
OROVILLE ADOPTIVE PARENT SUPPORT GROUP. 9:30-11:30am. Oroville Family Resource Center,
1720 Daryl Porter Way. Call (530) 879-3861.

Second Wednesday
PARADISE ADOPTIVE PARENT SUPPORT GROUP. 9:30-11:30am. Paradise Family Resource Center,
6241 Skyway. Call (530) 879-3861.

First Thursday*
CHICO ADOPTIVE PARENT SUPPORT GROUP. 6:30-8:30pm. 520 Cohasset Rd., Suite 140.
Call (530) 879-3861.

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

REGISTER ONLINE AT SIERRAFF.ORG
WELCOME HOME: RECENT FINALIZATIONS

THE FLOYD FAMILY
Keith and Aminah Floyd are proud to announce the finalization of their handsome new son, Jeffrey (1½), on November 17, 2010.

THE MACK FAMILY
On November 19, 2010, David and Cynthia Mack were excited to finally celebrate the finalization of their new son, Bryce (3).

THE TSUSAKI BENDELL FAMILY
On January 25, 2011, Kent Tsusaki finalized the adoption of his new son, Adam Thomas Tsusaki Bendell (15½).

THE VANNI FAMILY
David and Lisa-Renee Vanni are excited to announce the finalization of their handsome new son, Jonathon (1), on February 1, 2011.

THE SANDERS FAMILY
On February 8, 2011, Tony, Chris, Kayla, Maria, and Ava celebrated the adoption finalization of their new daughter and sister, Bella (3).

THE FISKE-KLINE FAMILY
Friday May 13th was anything but unlucky for Cathleen Fiske and Doris Kline when they were able to finalize the adoption of their three children; James (8), Olivia (6), and Ezekiel (4).

THE ENNIS FAMILY
Matthew, Carmen, and Trinity joyously celebrated the finalizations of their two new sons and brothers, Christopher (9), and Joey (8), on February 1, 2011.

THE HUNTER FAMILY
On March 22, 2011, Susette is proud to announce the adoption finalization of her handsome new son, Dylan (8).

THE MICHELOTTI FAMILY
Dan, Betsy, Nicholas joyously celebrated the adoption of their newest son and brother, John (3½), on April 4, 2011.

THE MARANISE FAMILY
Dante and Marissa Maranise joyously celebrated the adoption finalizations of their three new children, Daisy (4½), Dani (3), and Dante (2), on January 26, 2011.

THE FISKE-KLINE FAMILY
Friday May 13th was anything but unlucky for Cathleen Fiske and Doris Kline when they were able to finalize the adoption of their three children; James (8), Olivia (6), and Ezekiel (4).
KIDS ARE WAITING*

PICTURED AT LEFT: CASEY (16) is waiting for a forever family to call his own. Casey has been in foster care since he was five years old and has lived in multiple foster homes and group homes. He recently shared, “I’ve lived everywhere but HOME.” This funny, inquisitive youth loves to be active and enjoys playing basketball and golf. Casey would like to have a family that has a fun sense of humor, enjoys sports, and spends time together.

PICTURED AT RIGHT: LUCAS (15) is very energetic and likes to stay busy being active. He loves cars and can share about the makes and models of almost all cars! Lucas enjoys talking with friends and values being a good friend to others. He can be serious, but also has a sense of humor, and can make people laugh. Lucas would like a family who is active with dirt bike riding/BMX racing, is loving and caring, and has animals. Lucas would love to have a dog. He would also like to live in the country, so that he can spend time in the great outdoors.

*Information current at time of newsletter production.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL SIERRA FOREVER FAMILIES AT (916) 368-5114 OR VISIT US AT SIERRAFF.ORG.

THE ART OF ADOPTION

I REMEMBER WHEN by Meuy-Nai, age 13

I remember when I first met you
I was always hurt with a frown on my face
I remember when you first said “I love you”
I felt uneasy where I stood in my place
I understood that you were there for me
I remember when it took me awhile
I realized that you wanted me to be free
I remember when you became my mother and father
I cherished your love forever
I remember when we bonded with each other
I got the concept that we would always be together

SEE MORE ARTWORK ON OUR WEBSITE AT SIERRAFF.ORG

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 Forever Families at (916) 368-5114.
Kristin O’Callaghan remembers saying, when she was a young girl, that she wanted a large family – at least six children. Through their partnership with Sierra, she and her husband Gino have surpassed that goal. This family of four is now a family of nine. It all began through a chance meeting at a doctor’s office.

Before their birth-sons were two years old, (born in 1994 and 1995), they both developed Retinoblastoma, a rare eye cancer. At one of their numerous visits to the eye doctor, a five year old girl with the same eye cancer and her younger brother came in to the waiting room. There was an instant rapport among the children, and since the doctor was two hours behind schedule, there was time for all of the parents to get acquainted. They learned that the parent of the two siblings was actually their foster parent and that both of the children were in foster care and available for adoption.

Kristin and Gino worked with Sierra and, in 2003, the adoptions were finalized. As they were already certified and a part of the fost/adopt program, they then began to provide respite care for babies and children just entering the foster care system. During that time, they have adopted five children through Sierra and fostered over twenty children ranging in age from two months to eleven years. The youngest member of the family, adopted in 2007, is Chelle, now five and wheelchair-bound with Cerebral Palsy. “Chelle is our miracle child,” said Kristin. “When she first came to our home, she could only babble. She now has several words in her vocabulary. Her needs and medical care were such that Gino and I knew we needed to devote more time to our family of seven, so we stopped the respite care.”

The kids are now 16, 15, 15, 13, 7, 6, and 5 and each has an Individualized Education Program. “Nevada County educators and administrators have been wonderfully helpful to our family,” reported Kristin. Each child is participating in sports or extracurricular activities to the best of their abilities and all help bring smiles and giggles from Chelle, who basks in their loving attention.

As you can tell from this story, the families who work with Sierra come in many forms and sizes. We make a difference in children’s lives because of the commitment and dedication from our amazing families. Thank you!
Jennifer Chambers joined the Sierra Family in May 2010 as the Social Work Supervisor at the PlacerKids office in Auburn – a collaboration between Sierra Forever Families and the Placer County Children’s System of Care. Jennifer obtained her Bachelor’s degree in Psychology from California State University, Sacramento, and her Masters in Counseling Psychology from National University. She has been licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapist for ten years. “I chose this work because I always wanted to give to others what I had growing up, stability, love and a sense of belonging.” Jennifer started out working with children and, when she finished her Masters, she worked in foster care quickly realizing that foster care does not always provide what children need. She went into prevention and worked to gain stability for children through what was best for them: living with parents, relatives or foster care. She has spent several years directing a program that taught parenting for free in the home. “I loved this work and found it rewarding. Coming to Sierra is a continuation of my journey to find stability, love and a sense of belonging for all children.” Jennifer lives with her husband of 22 years and they have two beautiful daughters, ages 3½ and 2. Jennifer and her husband provided foster care for teens for many years. Family is of top priority for Jennifer whether it is her own, or a possible family for a child. Her passion is travel and her husband is a pilot. “My husband didn’t want to be away for days at a time from his family so we moved from Washington D.C. to Northern California where I was able to work so that he could stay home with the girls. A not so ordinary day would include him painting the girls toenails or having a tea party with them. Needless to say, I feel lucky!” “I enjoy working with the uniqueness of the PlacerKids collaboration and have the benefit of supervising and working as a team with staff that genuinely cares and does what they can to find safe, permanent homes for children.”
WONDER CELEBRATES A NUMBER OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS SO FAR IN 2011, including 14 new Guides in our spring training class, making a total of 34 new mentoring matches this fiscal year. Currently, Wonder maintains 93 active mentoring matches and during National Mentoring Month (January), staff had the opportunity to thank each of these dedicated volunteers at our Guide Appreciation brunch. Each Guide was thanked for the outstanding care, consistency, and fun they continue to provide in the lives of their Explorers.

For the children who enrolled in Wonder between the ages of 6-12 and have continued with their Guides for multiple years, there are new opportunities available as they journey into their teenage years. Ten Explorers have participated in the Counselors In Leadership Training (CILT) program since July 2010 and will continue in the program through June of this year. We are all amazed at their progression and leadership development in the past 10 months. The CILTs planned and hosted 3 teen group outings since the fall. Each outing was planned and led by our CILTs and every teen participant in Wonder was invited to attend! They will have a closing party in June and a new group of young leaders will begin their adventures with CILT programs this July.

Thus far, the year has been filled with stories, moments, and experiences that are changing our children’s lives and helping them thrive on a daily basis. We share with you a few of these moments and quotes from our Guides...

“On one of our outings [my Explorer] told me she’s very happy and that she felt ‘silly’ because she was having so much fun…something I had never heard her say before!”

“[My Explorer] was really cute one day when he asked how much money I get for taking him places. I told him I was a volunteer and explained what that meant. He was shocked and said how nice that was of me and was so happy to find out I didn’t mentor anyone else, just him.”

Wonder’s Graduate!

Clarence is a young man with a big heart and a lot of ambition. He wasn’t always this way. He attended multiple junior high schools and had less than a 1.0 GPA. He felt he was always in trouble and the adults in his life were there just to tell him what to do. Then Clarence met Hung, his Wonder Guide.

Through Wonder, Clarence and Hung have enjoyed five years filled with “wonder moments.” These are special moments Explorers enjoy that help them feel as though they are not going through foster care alone. Some of Clarence’s most memorable moments have been driving go-carts, eating sushi for the first time, leaving The Nutcracker at intermission because, “it wasn’t our thing,” and enjoying Camp Wonder.

Clarence, now 18 years old, graduated from Wonder this year. He has also graduated high school early with a GPA above 3.0. Clarence remembers, “Hung was always saying positive stuff about school. He encouraged me by sharing about what happens to those who don’t graduate and explained that it’s harder to go back than to finish.” Clarence has already registered for classes at a local community college and is excited to continue his studies.

When asked to describe who Hung is, Clarence replied, “A person who cares about people and whether they make it in life.” He then added, “He’s the closest friend I have. Nobody knows me as much as he does.”

As a Wonder graduate, Clarence wishes “to continue to work with Wonder because of the people and what it does for kids.” He currently volunteers as a spokesperson, helps with clerical work, and is also signed up to participate as a counselor at Camp Wonder 2011. The best advice he can share with anyone considering becoming a mentor is to, “Just go for it! Be yourself as there is a possibility to actually benefit kids.”

Sierra Forever Families congratulates Clarence on his success and we honor Hung and the other 93 Guides who are giving Wonder to the kids who need it most.
A SUPERHERO IS WAITING

Meet my friend Stanley. His picture hangs on my office wall as a reminder that inside every child is a super hero. He is also a daily reminder of the 1,600 children waiting in long term foster care that Sierra Forever Families is here to help.

Nearly half of those children and youth have been in foster care for five years or longer. Most have at least one barrier to adoption: they may be teenagers, part of a sibling set that should not be separated, ethnically diverse, or medically fragile with special needs.

Our social workers and the families they work with are super heroes too. They work to make sure that other children like Stanley can discover their true potential that only a permanent family can nurture.

Sierra is the only agency in the Sacramento region focusing on children in long term foster care. Our staff is committed to working with these children for months, or years, to prepare them for and find them a family. As a result, stable and consistent funding is critically important to help ensure that we can meet our mission to transform the lives of children in foster care by building and nurturing permanent families.

You can help!

Here are a few ways you might consider:

1.....Make a pledge that can be paid over a period of time
2.....Set up an automatic online donation monthly using “bill pay” from your bank account
3.....Give appreciated securities
4.....Donate from your retirement fund
5.....Make a donation online at www.sierraff.org
6.....Make a gift in honor or memory of a friend or loved one
7.....Please do it today!

If you would like to learn more about how you can help other Stanleys find a forever family, contact me at (916) 368-5114 or bcobbs@sierraff.org.

Bobby Cobbs,
Development & Public Relations Officer,
MSW, CFRE
bcobbs@sierraff.org

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING WONDER BY PARTICIPATING IN THE 2011 WALK ’N ROCK FOR KIDS.

TOGETHER WE RAISED MORE THAN $26,000!*

To our WONDERful Board Members, Guides, Coaches, SFF Staff and Friends...
Thanks to you all, the lives of children and youth in foster care will be enriched.

*As of June 1, 2011
MAKE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Q: What is Tomorrow’s Legacy Club or TLC?
A: The TLC members are the very special individuals who have made a Legacy Gift to Sierra Forever Families in their estate plan.

Q: What are legacy gifts?
A: It’s a gift that happens in your estate plan – your will or trust. Another simple way to make a Legacy Gift is to allocate a percentage of your retirement account or life insurance plan with a simple beneficiary change form. You are creating a Legacy to help children find permanent families forever.

Q: Why should I consider a Legacy Gift?
A: It allows you the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy – insuring that Sierra Forever Families will continue its mission to find forever families for the hard to place children who would be stuck in foster homes without you.

Q: How will my gift be used?
A: It is up to you! You can designate that your gift be restricted to a specific program or direct your gift to Sierra Forever Families Endowment, where it will help to support the entire organization for years to come.

Q: How do I include Sierra Forever Families as a beneficiary on a portion of my IRA, life insurance or other retirement plan?
A: Obtain a beneficiary designation form from the IRA or insurance company and add Sierra Forever Families as a primary beneficiary. If you are married, you will put your spouse as a primary beneficiary and Sierra as the contingent beneficiary. Remember to share your intentions with your family.

Q: How do I include Sierra Forever Families in my will or trust?
A: This process is done with your attorney, either when you were drafting your original documents or modifying existing documents. Sierra Forever Families would be happy to provide you with simple suggested bequest wording or any other information you might need to help in this process.

Q: I’m not wealthy...do you need to have a large estate to make a Legacy Gift?
A: Absolutely not! Whether your gifts are large or small – they will be deeply appreciated and help children find forever families for years to come. A Legacy Gift doesn’t require that you have a large estate...but rather a large heart!

Q: I’ve already included Sierra Forever Families in my Legacy planning – is it important for me to share that information with Sierra Forever Families?
A: Yes, please! Sharing your intentions allows Sierra Forever Families to express our gratitude and also welcome you as a new member of Tomorrow’s Legacy Club. Additionally, your gift may inspire others to also create a Legacy Gift.

For more information about Legacy Giving or the Tomorrow’s Legacy Club, please contact Kimberly Cox (kcox@sierraff.org) or Bobby Cobbs (bcobbs@sierraff.org) at 916-368-5114.

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 Forever Families in your will. Call Bobby Cobbs or Kimberly Cox with questions at (916) 368-5114.
graduated from high school, admires his mom for caring for his niece and nephew, and does his best to support her by completing daily chores, maintaining yard work, getting Jamie and Jeremiah off to bed, as well as caring for and cleaning up after the family pets. Steven continues, “I try to help out as much as possible, but she is the one who is really making this all work.”

Today, the children are completely at home and comfortable living with Annette and their Uncle Steven. They love the attention and assistance they receive. Most days, they are simply care free, running around the home and playing with their toys and in each other’s bedrooms. Steven observes, “Some things have changed, it is noisier around the house and there are toys EVERYWHERE, but it is a lot of fun as well.”

The permanency provided by Annette has helped the children both stabilize and thrive. Jamie, now six, attends kindergarten regularly and is doing much better acclimating to her new routine. She is a sweet-faced and inquisitive little girl who likes to play and be the center of attention. At home, she enjoys playing with her toys, using the computer, watching television and movies, and doing art projects. She loves having her own room which is decorated in her favorite color, pink. She is still a bit young to fully understand adoption, but she knows that she will live forever with her Grandma Annette and she is happy about this.

Jeremiah, now four, is an adorable and active little boy, who loves to play with his sister and Uncle Steven. Basically, whatever they do, he wants to jump right in and join them. He loves to snuggle with Grandma Annette while the family watches movies. He, too, has his own room filled with toys and stuffed animals. Due to identified developmental delays, Jeremiah is receiving and will continue with Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Occupational Therapy in the preschool he attends. Annette observes, “Jeremiah is doing well with his therapy and is already showing a lot of progress. We work with him every day to increase his skills.”

The family enjoys taking walks together to the nearby park. When at home, the children love having family and friends over to play games and do art projects. Annette admits, “I don’t have very much time for myself, but when I do, I enjoy scrapbooking all of the great photos of the moments we’ve shared as a family.” As for Steven, he enjoys boating, fishing and he loves computers. He recently created a computer game for his Senior Project, prior to his graduation from George Washington Carver High School of Arts and Science. He loves his niece and nephew but at times gets frustrated with them and the noise. Still he admits, “Life has changed a lot, but it’s worth it.” Steven has a very mature attitude and a good heart. He will likely be a chief support to them throughout their lives.

Despite her love for her daughter, Annette clearly wants what is healthy, safe, and best for her family and has made the sacrifices necessary to keep her grandchildren safe and well cared for. “My daughter visits with the kids and occasionally has them overnight, but only one at a time, to allow the visit to be one-on-one and more personal.” Annette continues, “However, the children no longer have contact with their father.”

For many of our kinship families, there is a deep desire to keep the original family intact, which can bring new challenges. Annette would like to share her gratitude to her son, Steven, and to her wide support network comprised of extended family, friends and coworkers. As you can see from Jamie and Jeremiah’s story, challenges can also bring new joys through lessons on what we are able to do in creating positive changes in the lives of children.

**PATHS TO PERMANENCY DEFINED**

**THE GRIFFITH FAMILY JOURNEY INVOLVED TWO PATHS TO PERMANENCY: KINSHIP AND ADOPTION**

**KINSHIP ADOPTION:** When a relative, either biological or a relative by marriage provides permanence for a child through adoption. Adoption of a child by a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or other member of the extended family creates permanence and maintains family ties. In kinship adoption, as opposed to kinship care, the child is adopted legally.

**ADOPTION:** When a family provides a permanent, loving home for a child whose reunification plan has proven unsuccessful.
The Champions for Children program was established as a unique way to raise the annual support needed to place a child or sibling group in a permanent, loving home. The success of this program relies on teams of individuals, businesses, or other organizations who devise a variety of methods to raise $5,000 in a year. Recently, the staff of Sierra Forever Families worked with our Champions for Children Chair, Jack Paddon, to establish a new leadership committee. They began enlisting the support of several community leaders who could help identify, cultivate, and recruit others to become donors of this steadfast program. This volunteer group of community leaders has been named the Champions Leadership Council.

One of the first members recruited to this new-found Council was Brad Des Jardin of DesCor Builders. “As Chairman, I am so very pleased that Brad agreed to join our Champions Leadership Council. Brad brings both heart and discipline to our fundraising efforts which is positively contagious,” says Paddon.

Des Jardin attended the very first Council meeting and then immediately got busy contacting friends and colleagues to share Sierra’s mission and explain how a Champions for Children Team gift of $5,000 can help to transform a child’s life forever.

“\textbf{I am honored to have the opportunity to work with the other leaders in the Champions Leadership Council to help children in our community find that permanent family and stable environment that will give them the best chance for success.}”

Des Jardin states: “At DesCor, our mission is to be a ‘Model of Success and a Leader in our Community.’ As leaders, we create an environment for others to succeed and there is no better place to create success than in a loving home. I am honored to have the opportunity to work with the other leaders in the Champions Leadership Council to help children in our community find that permanent family and stable environment that will give them the best chance for success.”

Each year this program raises $200,000 which helps to place more than 40 children with forever families. If you would like more information about forming a Champions Team or would like to volunteer as a new member of our Leadership Council, please contact Bobby Cobbs (bcobbs@sierraff.org) or Kimberly Cox (kcox@sierraff.org).

**FEATURED GRANTOR**

**UNITED AUBURN INDIAN COMMUNITY**

The Community Giving Committee of the United Auburn Indian Community has awarded PlacerKids a grant of $5,000. The Committee was very impressed with the work accomplished by Sierra Forever Families and the PlacerKids organization and acknowledged “your demonstrated commitment to provide support and a permanent home for children.”

We thank the Community Giving Committee for this validation of our efforts to bring permanency to children in foster care and to support them and their new families with training and counseling services.
iFoster (www.ifoster.org) is here to help those in the foster care community who raise our most vulnerable children. Our programs provide financial relief and opportunities for growth & learning that too often are unattainable luxuries for those in foster care. Our free Discount Program can save the average household over $4,500 a year with discounts at national and local retailers, grocery stores, healthcare providers (dental & vision), restaurants, movie theatres and attractions. We’ve got over 100,000 discounts now with new discounts added daily.

If you are a transition age foster youth (age 16 to 21), family (foster, adoptive, resource, kin, guardian), group home, transitional housing (ILP for emancipated youth), multi-service foster and adoptive agencies, and other organizations (e.g. CASA, government agencies, associations, foundations) supporting our children in foster care, we invite you to become a member and save!

A MESSAGE FROM iFoster:

SERITA COX, iFoster, co-founder: “As a former foster youth, I am tremendously appreciative of the wonderful people who helped me when I needed it. My husband and I started iFoster to provide support to those who are raising children in foster care. One of the greatest gaps is a lack of funding to cover a child’s basic needs. We believe the fastest and most effective way to address this gap is by making existing funding go farther. Our first program provides over 100,000 discounts at retailers nationwide that can save caregivers and transition-age youth a considerable amount of money.”

REID COX, iFoster, co-founder: “The goal of the discount program is to close the funding gap between what it costs to raise a child and what is provided. In our first 5 months, we estimate we’ve saved our community almost $3 Million. As the community grows, not only will savings grow, but we will launch additional programs to increasingly support the community.”
EXPRESSIVE GIVING
EXPRESSIVE GIFTS MADE BETWEEN JULY 1, 2010 AND JANUARY 1, 2011

In Memory Of...
Emily
Frans Brolan
Kathleen Ellen Quigley Adams
Doug & Holly Peters
Namrata Jain
Anonymous
Phyllis Klomparens
Robin Klomparens
Kay Malm
David Fenolio & Meredith Bruck
Kenneth Pillsbury
Shera Pillsbury
Robert “Bob” Pounds
Evelyn Pounds
Manuel Romo
Tony & Sue Digiorno

In Honor Of...
Tanya Curry
Robert Taylor
Harper King Kaviani
Anonymous
Harper King Kaviani
Jim & Deanne Hoekstra
Dominic & Hannah McKay
Cynthia Baker
OJ & Tammy Vellejo
Deon & Elizabeth Stein
Austin & Becky Westall
Christine Westall

Happy Birthday!
Happy 50th Birthday
Ed McCune
Robin Figueroa
Gus & Esteban Guichard
Lori Holdridge
Yvonne Igra-Wrigth
Susan Ingebretsen
Michael Jewell
Daisy Po’oi
Catherine Taylor
Anonymous
Anonymous

Special Mentions...
In Honor of Joe Gensheal
Gene & Rae Cecchettini
Sandra Geary Cook
George Cook–El Dorado Savings Bank
Roger & Carol Dreyer
Michael Lindeman
Kenneth & Cassandra Mennemeier
Bill Slaton & Margaret Newton

In Loving Memory of Loretta Luppino
Tom & Fran Bogetich
Chris & Jeanne Christopherson
G.A.L.S. (Give a Little Something)
Staff of Sierra Forever Families

IN MEMORY: FOREVER FRIEND LORETTA LUPPINO

LORETTA LUPPINO was a forever friend and volunteer at Sierra Forever Families. As a member of Alpha Nu Sigma Philanthropic Sorority, she began volunteering at Sierra in 1994 and continued until her death on February 4, 2011. When asked, she never said “No” to stuffing envelopes for mailings, to working all of the Raley’s Senior Golf Tournaments, or making beautiful centerpieces for numerous Sierra functions. Loretta was an exceptional artist and painted a 20-foot mural for Sierra’s Sacramento office. This mural featured children at play and was both welcoming and light-hearted, just like the artist.

Painting was just one of Loretta’s many talents. As a child, she dreamed of being a singer. When she was in her early twenties, she joined several Big Bands and, as part of the local USO, entertained soldiers during WWII. Loretta had a great sense of humor and was always the ‘life of the party.’ Loretta’s smile and pleasant chuckle will be surely missed by all who knew her.

Loretta was born March 31, 1924 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, married Air Force Pilot Nicholas Luppino in 1949, and moved to Sacramento in 1955. She is survived by three children, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. She is truly missed by many, including her family at Sierra Forever Families.

Loretta Luppino
7th Annual Golf Classic for Kids

Sierra Forever Families

TOURNAMENT PARTNERS: EVERGREEN FLEXIBLE BONDING SOLUTIONS, WASTE CONNECTIONS

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!

On September 12, you can help us celebrate 28 years of finding permanent forever families for children living in foster care by signing up to be a sponsor and participate in our 7th Annual Golf Tournament at Serrano Country Club in El Dorado Hills. This is a premiere golf tournament at one of the most beautiful golfing venues in the Sacramento area. As a sponsor, you will be given full recognition for your support. Sponsorships offer a variety of ways to prominently display your company’s name and show your support for children while enjoying the day at Serrano with your friends, business associates, customers or fellow employees.

To become a sponsor or to join us as a foursome, please contact:
Bobby Cobbs, Development and Public Relations Officer:
(916) 368-5114 ext. 346
Email: bcobbs@sierraadoption.org

Tournament Sponsor $25,000
Tournament Partner $10,000
Party Hole Sponsor $7,500
Award Ceremony Sponsor $5,000
Closest to the Pin Sponsor $4,000
Golf Cart Sponsor $3,500
Eagle Sponsor $3,000
Golf Course Sponsor $2,500
Lunch Box Sponsor $2,500
Birdie Sponsor $2,000
Beverage Sponsor $1,500
Par Sponsor $1,250
Tee Sponsor $500
Hole in One (Contact Sierra)
Awards Ceremony only $50
Game Pack $60
Individual Golfer $250*

* Individual Golfers will be placed on a waiting list until August 12, 2011.