Through our next few newsletters, Sierra will highlight the various paths to permanency – A child’s forever family can look as different as the children we serve: returning to one’s birth family, going to live with relatives, adoption, or perhaps a permanent guardianship. Our priority remains providing each child in foster care with a safe and permanent family who will nurture and help the child reach their full potential. We begin by sharing the touching story of our 2010 Family of the Year: The Morris Family. The Morris’s journey involves reunification support and adoption.

Don and Cindy, a mature couple who share a successful law practice, decided after 16 years of marriage, that it was time to begin their family. They had a deep desire to adopt and began researching options. They were introduced to Sierra Forever Families while watching A Place Called Home, a segment on FOX40 TV that features children who are living in foster care and in need of a permanent family. They had also heard of Sierra through the Heart Gallery of Sacramento that shows professionally photographed children and youth who are living in foster care awaiting a permanent family.

The couple liked what they learned and in December 2005 chose Sierra as the agency to help them build their family. Sierra social work staff worked with Don and Cindy to complete the application and homestudy processes. In December 2006, they were approved as a foster/adoptive family (which we now call a resource family). In January of 2007, they began their search for the children they hoped to join their family.

Three months later, two siblings, Kaitlyn (9) and Abbygale (5) were placed into protective custody due to abuse and neglect by their birth parents.

Removal from their birth family is incredibly difficult for children. They are confused, and often feel guilty that they are the source of the problem. Kaitlyn and Abbygale were no exception. The… continued on page 13
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: sffsac@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 (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@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

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David Zorn
HEROES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

Our Family Developer recently received the following email that brings to life our mission and efforts:

“My husband and I attended Monday night’s orientation. I have to say that when the topic of ‘concurrent planning’ initially came up my thought was, ‘Heck No!’ However this week I have been doing a lot of thinking and soul searching and I have noticed that my heart and my thinking on this issue has started to shift. My husband said something to me that really helped me. He said, ‘We have to decide whether or not we are willing to step in and be a hero to a child.’ The word ‘hero’ really resounded with me because that is exactly what it is…willing to take on a risk in order to minimize the pain for someone that can’t help themselves. This expresses that we are so excited about the idea of exploring concurrent planning and we are excited to take the next step with Sierra.”

We believe that no child should grow up in temporary care and that all children deserve and need a forever family! Research indicates that the fewer times a child has to change families and the quicker a lifetime family is acquired, the better chance a child has of reaching healthy adult outcomes. Concurrent Planning is one program that Sierra offers. Concurrent planning families assist a child in reunifying with their birth parents. If that is not possible, the concurrent planning family adopts the child. Either way, the child is going to have the security of a lifelong family without the trauma and loss of multiple moves within the foster care system. These Concurrent Planning families are heroes in shielding ‘our children’ from a large system of unknowns that would baffle any adult, never mind a child.

We have many heroes within our community. There are the families that continually come forward to create a loving, secure home for children and teens. There are the mentors that are willing to provide a sense of Wonder to youth living in foster care. We have a cadre of dedicated volunteers that continually support the organization from filing to assisting at events. Our staff continually advocates and works tirelessly to create forever families. Our dedicated Board of Directors steadfastly promotes our mission and we are privileged with a community of supporters that provide the resources the agency needs to build and nurture forever families. In my eyes, you are all heroes and I feel grateful to be a part of this wonderful community that is transforming the lives of children and teens.

Thank You.

DID YOU KNOW? There were changes made to the federal Adoption Tax Credit…

The federal adoption tax credit was made refundable for the first time! This means you can claim it for a refund even if you don’t owe taxes. Families who adopt a child with special needs from foster care can claim the credit without needing to incur or document expenses. The credit per-child is now $13,170 for adoptions finalized in 2010. Now that the credit is refundable many more families will benefit; even families who adopted earlier than 2010, but didn’t have enough tax liability to access the credit in previous years. Families that finalized adoptions in 2005-2009 can carry forward unused tax credit to their 2010 return and claim it as a refundable credit.

Since this is new, some tax consultants may not be aware of the changes. Help to educate them of the recent updates to the federal credit by referring them to the IRS instructions for Form 8839 and NACAC’s fact sheets. To learn more about the adoption tax credit and how it might benefit your family, visit the following resources:

- Visit the IRS (Form 8839): http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/article/0,&amp;=177982,00.html>
- Visit VFA’s board organization (NACAC) for helpful fact sheets at http://www.nacac.org
- Contact Voice for Adoption at voiceforadoption@gmail.com or 202.210.8118 or www.voice-for-adoption.org

The information listed here is not intended to be professional tax advice, please check with a professional tax consultant.
EVENTS: For more information or to volunteer, please call 916-368-5114.

SUNDAY, MAY 29

Sierra Forever Families’ Wonder Mentoring Program was selected to partner with Hope Productions Foundation as one of the beneficiary nonprofit organizations for 2011 WALK ‘N ROCK!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 29, 2011 – we’ll be walking and rocking for Wonder!

Go to www.walknrock.org/sierraffwonder to join our team and/or make a donation.

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.

February 16

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

February 23

MENTAL HEALTH MODULE Part 1: Is There a Genetic Link? 6:00-8:00pm. Sacramento SFF Office. Call (916) 368-5114.

March 23

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

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 to rsvp for child care.

First Tuesday*

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

Second Thursday*

FOSTER/ADOPIVE 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 to rsvp for child care.

Fourth Thursday*

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

February 2, 9, 16, 23/March 2, 30

EXPLORING PERMANENCY II. 6:00-8:30pm. Sacramento SFF office. Call (916) 368-5114.

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.

Fourth Thursday*

ADOPTIVE PARENT SUPPORT GROUP. 6:00-8:00pm. Nevada City office. Call (800) 268-2967.

Fourth Thursday*

ADOPTIVE PARENT SUPPORT GROUP. 12:00-2:00pm. Marysville. 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.

February 11

BEHAVIOR WITH A PURPOSE: THOUGHTFUL SOLUTIONS TO COMMON PROBLEMS. Speaker: Richard Delaney, PhD. 9:00am-4:00pm. Chico Masonic Family Center. To RSVP: (530) 879-3861.

February 12

BEHAVIOR WITH A PURPOSE: THOUGHTFUL SOLUTIONS TO COMMON PROBLEMS. Speaker: Richard Delaney, PhD. 11:00am-5:00pm. Cooper Avenue Baptist Church. To RSVP: (800) 268-2967

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

REGISTER ONLINE AT SIERRAFF.ORG
WELCOME HOME: RECENT FINALIZATIONS

THE FISHPMAN FAMILY
On May 5, 2010, Greg, Debra, and Jayna celebrated the adoption of their new daughter and sister, Danielle, age ten.

THE WEBBER FAMILY
Twins, Kai Grant and Layla Georgia, age two, were adopted by their happy parents, Doreen and Cindy on June 4, 2010.

THE SEELEY FAMILY
Shawn, Margie, and Andie are pleased to announce the adoption finalizations of their three new daughters and sisters, Veronica Marie, Alyssa Jordan, and Maya Mikelle, ages eight, five and one half, and three and one half, on February 11, 2010.

THE STEPHENS FAMILY
Aaron and Brooke joyously celebrated the adoption finalizations of their two children, Keon Ty, age six, and Daysha Zoe, age two and one half, on June 1, 2010.

THE ANGLE FAMILY
Nikki and Devon are proud to announce the adoption finalization of their new son and brother, Micah Joseph, age ten months, on June 22, 2010.

THE SANDERS FAMILY
Tony, Chris, Kayla, Maria, and Mia are excited to announce the adoption finalization of their daughter and sister, Ava Meredith, age four and one half, on December 21, 2009.

THE DILEGANE FAMILY
Matthew, Joshua, and Justin are excited to announce the adoption finalization of their new son and brother, Joseph Jelile, age four and one half, on June 2, 2010.

THE SANDERS FAMILY
Tony, Chris, Kayla, Maria, and Mia are excited to announce the adoption finalization of their daughter and sister, Ava Meredith, age four and one half, on December 21, 2009.

THE NORTON FAMILY
On July 15, 2010, Christopher, Konine, Brita, Mathew, Kayla, Elijah, and several other siblings not pictured joyously celebrated the adoption finalization of their new daughter and sister, Sheila Grace, age twelve.
KIDS ARE WAITING

Sibling set **FAITHLYNN** (4) and **JOSHUA** (7) are waiting for a forever family. Joshua, like most boys, loves playing baseball and has lots of friends on his team. He does well in school and takes great pride in bringing home A's and B's. Faithlynn loves to do cartwheels and play with toys. She has participated in early intervention services and is making real progress with some minor speech delays. They have been in the same foster home for three years. They understand that our Wendy's Wonderful Kids' Recruiter is working to find them a forever family. The siblings would love to have puppy dogs and maybe even a kitty for Faith. Despite some pretty significant abuse and neglect early on, these two demonstrate amazing resilience. All they need now is a family to call their own.

*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

ODE TO MOM AND DAD

Mom and dad, you're always there.
Mom and dad, I know you care.
Mom and dad, I love you so.
Mom and dad don't let me go.
I want to stay with you forever.
Like birds, we flock together.
Karrisa

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.
NEVADA COUNTY AWARDS SFF NEW CONTRACT

The Nevada County Family Preservation Team has become a reality. The County of Nevada Child Protective Services office has awarded Sierra Forever Families a contract to provide Family Preservation services to families at risk of child abuse, neglect, and/or mandatory CPS intervention. This program will use a strength-based, multi-disciplinary approach to preserve permanency for families and prevent children from entering the foster care system. Services will be provided in-home and will include case management, mental health treatment and parent education.

We are currently adding the rest of our team and brainstorming how our program can best serve the families of Nevada County. On board so far, we have Supervisor Dawn Bateman; our Social Workers/Family Facilitators Jennifer Wynne and Stacy Green; Parent Educator Marianne Sippel; Clinician Sabrina Speroni; and Intake Worker Sylvia Pichitino. Our staff brings rich experience in the areas of wrap-around, children with disabilities, residential care, foster care, adult mental health, CASA, individual and group therapy, parenting skills, social services, Medi-Cal, education, advocacy, and child abuse prevention.

Already, three of our staff have participated in evidence based, Positive Parenting Program (PPP) Level 4 training. With the PPP curriculum, Marianne, and her counterparts in Nevada City and in Truckee, will be able to provide in-home parenting training to parents who can benefit from strengthening their parenting skills. We are very excited to offer this effective 10-16 week training for parents when our program starts up in late January/ early February.

DESTINATION FAMILY EXPANDS

Sierra Forever Families’ Destination Family Youth Permanency Project was transformed by the December 11, 2009 award of a Sacramento County mental health funding contract. Destination Family Youth Permanency Program began in 2003 when SFF submitted a proposal to find permanency for youth in foster care ages 11 to 18. The proposal was funded for five years (2003-2008) by a Federal Adoption Opportunities grant and has been hugely successful in changing the belief that older children and youth were unadoptable. With years of collaborative partnerships in place, Sierra Forever Families transformed Destination Family’s’ structure to include additional resources such as a Parent Partner, Youth Skills Trainer and Clinician to enhance the efforts of two preceding Youth Permanency Workers. This team is now able to support the caregiver/parents, teach youth social skills and life skills to help facilitate their success, and address the emotional and mental issues that surface when youth and children move closer to permanency. The two Youth Permanency Workers act as case managers, engaging the youth and organizing the service delivery, while keeping the team focused on the goal of permanency. The ability to receive mental health funds for the work we have been doing for years, ensures the continuation of the Destination Family mission that no youth we serve will emancipate from foster care without a permanent connection.
Sierra Introduces a New Post Adoption Resource Specialist

With the recent retirement of Donna Salisbury, REBECCA BUCHMILLER joins the Sierra Forever Families team as the new post adoption resource specialist serving families and children living in Nevada, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba Counties. As a former foster, kinship and adoptive parent, she has a passion for supporting families who offer permanence to children. We are pleased to have her join our mission!

Placer Kids Gains a New Foster Parent Liaison

BANETTA BACCHI joins the Sierra team as our new Foster Parent Liaison for Placer County. Her role provides support for our adoptive and foster families. Banetta hosts two monthly support groups and meets regularly with families to discuss questions and concerns throughout the licensing process and beyond. She also works hand in hand with the Foster Parent Association planning activities throughout the year.

In addition to raising one biological son and two adoptive sons, Banetta and her husband have been foster parents for 24 years, typically fostering teen youth. They have helped 67 children throughout the years and keep in close contact with many of them.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE:

WONDER GUIDE TUPPER HULL

In the Spring of 2005, Tupper became a Guide with Wonder after hearing about the program from a mutual friend. Tupper decided to join Wonder because he had raised three children of his own and always enjoyed parenting and mentoring. He was now at a point in his life where he had the time to give. What really appealed to him was the opportunity to give directly to another person and see face-to-face the impact. After completing training, Tupper was matched with a 9 year old boy.

Tupper and his Explorer, Justin*, are now on their 6th journey together. Tupper met Justin when he was just a “young boy and now he’s a 6-foot, mature, athletic, young man at 15.” What Tupper enjoys most about being a Guide is the transformation he witnessed in Justin. Despite barriers, Justin is growing up to be happy and responsible. He believes there is a benefit in “seeing a young person continue to thrive and be successful in circumstances that would be trying for any other kid.” Tupper does not want to give the impression that Justin has been successful due to him, but rather he believes, “Justin thrives on his own intelligence.”

Tupper would advise other men to consider mentoring. He recognizes that the idea of mentoring can be intimidating, but says “it is incredibly rewarding to be a positive influence in a young person’s life.”

*Name changed to protect confidentiality of child
Jennifer Highley was honored by Congresswoman Doris Matsui from California’s 5th District as an Angel in Adoption. The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's Angels in Adoption™ Program provides Members of Congress the opportunity to honor an individual, couple, or organization from their district that have made an extraordinary contribution on behalf of children in need of homes. These heroes hail from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, representing the wide spectrum of individuals involved in the adoption and foster care process.

Jennifer has worked for Sierra Forever Families for over 20 years and is currently the agency’s Senior Social Work Supervisor. She began her career after receiving her Master’s Degree from the University of Southern California School of Social Work. Over the next 11 years, she worked for three Southern California adoption agencies. Jennifer then moved to the Sacramento area and began to work with Sierra in 1990. Her focus is working with families and preparing them to care for children in foster care who need a permanent safe, loving and nurturing family. Jennifer supervises a team of social workers and oversees the Wonder Mentoring Program. Each year she also trains a student in a Master’s Degree program by providing a one-year internship that educates and prepares them to understand the world of permanency for children in foster care.

“After 35 years of working in this field, I am just as excited to come to work today as I was in 1975,” said Jennifer when hearing about the nomination. The Angel of Adoption honor focuses on Jennifer’s long-term commitment to adoption and permanency. As a social work professional, she has devoted her entire career to the field of adoption giving great diligence to working with families and the community. Jennifer was Sierra’s first supervisor for Capital Kids are Waiting – a 15-year-old program with Sacramento County Child Protective Services where the agency finds adoptive homes for children with the most challenges. Jennifer is an active Board Member for the Sacramento Heart Gallery, an organization that brings media attention to children who wait.

Jennifer contributes leadership and enthusiasm in all she undertakes. In her personal life, she is the proud mother of two grown sons, Brett and Justin and a daughter, Kristine. The “cupcakes” of her eyes are her grandchildren. Jennifer is also very creative and enjoys ceramic painting and gardening; she uses those talents to brighten the lives of others. Jennifer is a caring and dedicated individual deserving of this award that acknowledges her hard work and commitment to the adoption community. Sierra Forever Families is proud to have such a dedicated and caring staff member receive the Angel in Adoption honor. Congratulations, Jennifer!
DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY

You may have heard of the recent pledge by Warren Buffett and Bill & Melinda Gates to give away half of their estate to charity. This inspired a grass roots effort in California that resulted in the California Legislature proclaiming October 1 as the annual California Plan Your Giving Day. Individuals from all walks of life are being asked to pledge publicly their intention to give at least 10% of their estate to charity through their will. Many already have made that pledge!

In November, Sierra Forever Families received an extraordinary gift from the estate of Mr. Howard Boscus. To many, Howard may have been an ordinary individual. He loved family, and quietly gave to many causes that helped at-risk children and the needy. This ordinary man did something quite extraordinary – he gave away the majority of his estate to eleven charities through our community.

On November 19, Mrs. Dottie Linden, the estate’s co-trustee, presented Sierra’s Board a check for its endowment totaling $1,210,000. It represents the largest single gift in the agency’s history. With those funds invested in Sierra’s endowment, a portion of the earnings will help children find a forever family for years to come!

“In his estate planning, Howard merely continued what he had done in life. In addition to taking care of his immediate and extended family, he also wanted to leave a legacy in the community,” shared Dottie. “It was also important to him that the agencies he selected have administrative and Board leadership that was focused, involved and credible.”

Dottie shared with the Board that Howard hoped his legacy gift would inspire others to do something extraordinary – to experience the joy of giving.

We are grateful for Howard and the impact his generosity will have on our ability to help children. He is our newest Tomorrow’s Legacy Club (TLC) member.

What is the TLC? The TLC is a very special club consisting of individuals who have named Sierra Forever Families in their will, trust, or any other type of planned gift. Those gifts will provide a lasting legacy to help children find forever families for years to come.

How can you become a TLC member? Simply let us know of your plans to include Sierra Forever Families in your estate plans. It is that easy.

TLC members’ stories inspire others to give. The TLC really does provide tender loving care for the children. Making a planned gift can be a great way to do something special, especially during a challenging economy. DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY!

If you would like more information about Sierra’s Tomorrow’s Legacy Club, contact Bobby Cobbs or Kimberly Cox at (916) 368-5114, or bcobbs@sierraff.org, kcox@sierraff.org.

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.

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 Forever Families remain strong and successful.

Call Bobby Cobbs or Kimberly Cox with questions at (916) 368-5114.

When the next generation of children don’t have to move from foster home to foster home, they’ll have you to thank!
QUIET HERO MAKES BIG DIFFERENCE

In life, Howard Boscus, worked hard, loved family, and quietly gave to help others in need. In death, he gave the vast majority of his wealth away to benefit eleven local charities that help children and others in need. On November 19, Mrs. Dottie Linden, co-trustee of the Howard Boscus Trust presented Sierra’s Board of Trustees a check for the organization’s endowment of $1,210,000. “Howard chose to benefit Sierra and one other local charity through the sale of his home in Carmel,” explained Linden.

“Sierra Forever Families is most grateful for this tremendous gift for our endowment,” said Executive Director Bob Herne. “The impact of this gift is almost beyond words and will have lasting benefit for our mission for many years to come.” As part of the endowment, the funds will be invested, with a portion of the earnings made available each year for programs and services support.

“Howard did not desire recognition for his contributions, but instead, he wanted his legacy to inspire others to consider charitable contributions in their estate planning,” said Linden. “He always wondered why more people who were capable of giving chose not to include charitable gifts in their estate plans. He felt they missed experiencing the true joy that comes from giving to your community.”

Howard Boscus came from humble beginnings. In the early 1930’s, his family owned a hardware store and lived in the attached home. His family, though not wealthy, instilled in the children a sense of community and a responsibility to give back. Throughout his life, Howard practiced the lesson taught by his parents.

One example was when Howard returned home after World War II. He sent a gift to help a group of nuns he befriended in Europe. When he learned they had not received the gift, Howard wrote the Pope to ask where the money had gone and if it was in route to the sisters. “That demonstrates the type of dedication Howard had to helping others,” explained Linden.

“Howard was a hard working, frugal, quiet gentleman who loved business,” shared Linden. “He spent his career working with Wells Fargo.” Throughout his life he quietly made a variety of annual gifts to a wide range of causes and organizations. Over time, he developed a particular focus on supporting a handful of agencies whose missions provided care for at-risk children and youth.

In receiving the check, Bob Herne expressed thanks to Dottie. “Many children will be helped thanks to Howard’s generosity,” shared Herne. “He is a quiet hero who had made a big difference. I wonder how many other Howards there are in our community.”

If you would like information about planned giving, please contact Bobby Cobbs at (916) 368-5114 or bcobbs@sierraff.org.

FEATURED GRANTOR

CITY OF ROSEVILLE/GRANTS ADVISORY COMMISSION

The City of Roseville, through its Citizens Benefit Fund, has awarded Sierra Forever Families a grant of $7,500. The purpose of the grant is to enhance Sierra’s recruiting efforts to find families in Roseville who intend to adopt children from Placer County foster care. Staff members at Placer Kids, the unique public/private partnership between Placer County Children’s System of Care and Sierra Forever Families, now have funds for media promotion, printing materials, renting venues, and other recruitment needs that focus on residents of the City of Roseville. We are deeply grateful to the Roseville City Council and the Grants Advisory Commission for this opportunity to find more forever families for children in Placer County foster care.
A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to all of the Sponsors, the Players and the Volunteers who contributed towards making the Sierra Forever Families 6th Annual Golf Classic for Kids a huge success.

SIERRA FOREVER FAMILIES
6TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC FOR KIDS
RAISED OVER $146,000!

BECAUSE OF YOUR INVOLVEMENT,
WE CAN NOW FIND FOREVER FAMILIES FOR 24 CHILDREN CURRENTLY GROWING UP IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM.
THE MORRIS FAMILY continued from page one

girls were placed into a temporary foster home. Soon they began visiting Don and Cindy. In June 2007 the girls moved in with the couple. Initially, the goal was adoption. That soon changed when the County reconsidered and wanted to work toward reunifying the girls with their birth family. Don and Cindy agreed to support this plan feeling the best interest of the girls was most important.

In the months that followed Don and Cindy made sure that the girls were available for scheduled visits with their birth family. While increased visitation was taking place, their goal remained to do what was best for the girls, even though they felt as though they were on an emotional roller coaster. The Morrises continued to maintain the girls’ school, community and church activities.

After a period of time, plans once again changed and the County believed that the adoption would be in the best interest of the girls. In May 2009, Kaitlyn and Abbygale were available for adoption. By September, the Morrises were in Adoptive Placement and by November, their adoption was finalized. Don and Cindy were now the proud parents of Kaitlyn and Abbygale.

This path to permanency took place over multiple years. Throughout this journey Don and Cindy held on to their faith and their intent to do whatever was best for the girls. The two feel blessed with their beautiful family. Kaitlyn and Abbygale have continued to grow into a happy addition of the Morris family. The girls have been able to work on their feelings of loss through therapy. Contact with their birth family has remained. Sadly, the various health problems of the girls’ birth mom took hold of her and she passed away this past summer. The entire Morris family attended the memorial and the girls were able to meet many of their extended family, including biological aunts and uncles. Kaitlyn has continues to work hard in school and receives compliments from teachers. She is passionate about singing and is part of her school choir. Abby is now in third grade and enjoys her involvement in Brownies. Both girls are active in sports and have just earned their red belts in karate.

It was a long journey for everyone involved, yet permanency and the best outcome for the children was the guiding force which led to a happy ending.

“This path to permanency took place over multiple years. Throughout this journey Don and Cindy held on to their faith and their intent to do whatever was best for the girls.”

PATHS TO PERMANENCY DEFINED
THE MORRIS FAMILY JOURNEY INVOLVED TWO PATHS TO PERMANENCY: REUNIFICATION SUPPORT AND ADOPTION

REUNIFICATION SUPPORT: When a family commits to welcoming a child or children into their hearts and home while they simultaneously know a plan exists for the child to return to their birth family if it is legally determined that the birth family can provide a safe, loving and appropriate home for the child. This is the best case scenario for a child living in foster care because it offers them stability while they wait to return to a family who has worked hard to bring them back home.

ADOPTION: When a family provides a permanent, loving home for a child whose reunification plan has proven unsuccessful.
PARTY WITH A PURPOSE

SHIRLEY THOMAS TURNED 60 AND SHE WANTED TO DO MORE THAN JUST PARTY – SHE WANTED TO PARTY WITH A PURPOSE!

As the wife of Greg Finch, a member of Sierra’s Board of Directors, Shirley has been actively involved with Sierra Forever Families through various activities. She has shared her passion for children and youth in foster care to find permanent loving families with the people close to her, and has participated in fundraising events like Walk ’N Rock and Joe Genshela’s special benefit show at the Crest Theatre. Shirley has also offered her time and expertise to Sierra’s staff conducting team building training.

Still, Shirley felt like she wanted to do more for the kids. With her 60th birthday celebration nearing, Shirley made the unique decision to request that those wishing to give her gifts, do so in the fashion of making a contribution to Sierra on her behalf. Not only did Shirley give her birthday gifts to Sierra, she also shared her birthday party. She and Greg hosted a birthday celebration with raffle and auction prizes where sales benefited Sierra Forever Families. The party was full of glamour and excitement as guests enjoyed wishing Shirley a happy 60th year and raising over $5,000 for Sierra Forever Families.

Shirley Thomas celebrated her birthday in style and for a cause she believes in. You, too, can celebrate those you love in this special way by making an “Expressive Giving Gift.” The next time you think about the special people in your life, join the friends of Sierra who donate to honor Birthdays, In Memory of, Happy Mother’s/Father’s Day, Happy Anniversary, Congratulations, Graduation, Best of Luck, and the ever special, Just Because.
EXPRESSIVE GIVING
EXPRESSIVE GIFTS MADE BETWEEN JULY 1, 2010 AND JANUARY 1, 2011

Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday
Shirley Thomas!

Sandra Acevedo
Olga & Luis Aleman
Maeliza Amaranto
Dennis & Maelyn Arendain
Oliver & Janet Balcita
Tess Barba
Shirleen & Orson Bartido
Maricar Batoon
Richelle & Frida Bautista
Glister Belleza-Carvin
Melinda Bieren
Jean-Pierre & Karen Briede
Lisa Cotton Brown
Brian & Mindy Burley
Malouredes & Constantino Cariaga
Samantha Clark
Bobby & Cheryl Cobbs
Claire Cole
Jemina Creer
Coy & Carol Cross
Corey Lynne & Mordechai Darf
Sarah Doucette
Tina Ferguson
Recco Finch
Calvin Fong & Mary Lee-Fong
Elfrene Foord
Frances Garrett
Debra Ann Glaeser
Daniel Grochala & Salvacion Trebringan
Anthony Gruneisen & Angela Schepman
Robert “Bob” Herne
Robert & Melanie Holmer
Melissa Hughes
Law Offices of Gordon Egan
Jocelyn Littlejohn-Romero
Arnold & Miriam Magno
Angie Marin
Justin Massaro
Maura Metz
Alison Murray
Rosana Ortiz
Ceasar & Sheryl Paredes
Bill & Rose Pevec
Ming Heui Phou
Jennifer & Demetrio Pulanco
Edna & Diomedes Rebosura
Florisa Ricafrente
Brian & Annelie Steele
Jeannine Stewart
Katelyn Sullivan
Brook Tapia
Joe Thomas
Del & Alta Tura
Peter & Christine Weiss
Wilson Yen
Renato Jonathan Zafran

Happy Birthday Al Wolf
Donald & Dianne Pauser

Happy Birthday
Dorene Clement
M.H. “Bud” Getty

Happy Birthday Shawn Dunn
Joseph Dunn

Special Mentions...

Congratulations Abby Edber
Scarlet & Harvey Edber
Thank You,
Ram Lahchandani, M.D.
Jim Miner

Joe Genshlea:
“So” of “A Sense of Place”
Dennis Campos
Gene Cecchetini
Daniel & Nancy Cole
John & Karen Dowdell
Charles & Betty Gray
Clement Kong
John Jackson
Jim & Judy McKibben
Warren & Ann Nelson
Jeanne Reaves
Hal & Diane Steuber
Richard Thompson
Stanley Van Vleck
Malcolm & Judith Weintraub
William “Bill” & Carolyn Wilson
Happy 50th Anniversary
Tom & Fran Bogetich
Ian & April Johnson
Juli Kramer
Happy 50th Anniversary
Royce & Beverly Clemo
Marian Jewett

In Memory Of...

Lucy Banfield
Anonymous
Tim & Pam Connor
Gary & Debbie Shahbazian
Dick & Arden Christian
William Berkman
Donna Karnofsky
Howard Boscus
Sierra Forever Families
Helen Custer
Fran & Tom Bogetich
David “Dave” Collier
Jerri & William Glover
Robert & Doris Isaacson
Francis Dillion
Sierra Forever Families Development Staff
Robert B. Dow
Jeff & Kristi Hunter
Arlie Hansen
Sibley Hansen
Jan Howard
Tom & Fran Bogetich
Robert Kantor, M.D.
Bill & Linda Greig
Ida Little
Jane P. Myers
Frank & Judy Podesta
Deanna Saggs
Judy Podesta
Barbara A. Scott
David R. Scott

Austin & Becky Westall
Christine Westall
Al & Terri Wolf
Peter & Susan Colby

In Honor Of...

Chelsea & Ali Gifford-Barkley
Betty M. Farrell
Diane Knorr
Ron & Kathy Davis
Richard “Dick” & Doris Knorr
Jeanette Schmidt
Clay Schmidt
Diane Stanton
Chuck & Geri Willis
Mark Tabak
Carolyn Mervau

WINTER 2011 | HOMECOMING | SIERRA FOREVER FAMILIES | 15
SUNDAY.MAY.29.2011

WALK 'N ROCK FOR KIDS
A FUNDRAISING WALK AND BENEFIT CONCERT TO SUPPORT LOCAL CHILDREN'S CHARITIES
RALEY FIELD, WEST SACRAMENTO

THE WALK
The day kicks off with a morning 5K walk. Funds raised in this portion of the event go to our Wonder Mentoring Program. The more revenue we are able to generate, the more the children we serve will benefit. Creating a team is a simple way to make a positive impact in the lives of our community’s children.

THE CONCERT
The evening will lend itself to a star-studded, VIP reception and benefit concert for corporate partners, supporters, and the community at large. Headliner will be announced after March 2011. Tickets go on sale January 16 through ticketmaster.com.

JOIN US: BECOME A CORPORATE PARTNER OR FORM A TEAM.
CORPORATE TEAMS are endorsed by a company. Employers set a goal for their company and encourage employees to make individual teams to raise those funds. There may even be an opportunity for matching gifts.

FRIENDS & FAMILY TEAMS set a goal and raise funds through personal contacts such as family, friends and neighbors.

Log on to walknrock.org/sierraffwonder and sign-up to support Wonder, a mentoring program of Sierra. For more information, contact April Johnson in our office 916.368.5114 ext. 342 or email her at ajohnson@sierraff.org.

PLEASE VISIT WALKNROCK.ORG/SIERRAFFWONDER TO JOIN OR DONATE