



# Eldridge Press

## Message from the Executive Director

by James E. Rogers

**A**s 2012 begins, I look back at the year ending with great pride and appreciation.

“Pride” for the amazing employees in a variety of disciplines who continue to persevere and move forward through difficult times, on behalf of the people they serve. “Appreciation” for the dedication demonstrated to help the residents achieve their potential through person-centered planning, services, and support.

As employees, you recognize the importance of helping those you work for succeed in their lives, by modeling the SDC values of serving others, respectful relationships, managing resources, and demonstrating leadership.

I wish each of you and your circle of support, a healthy, safe, and productive New Year!



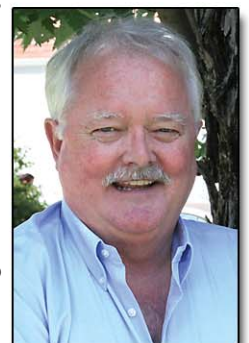
*“Spring Lake”  
[wet tissue on canvas by a person  
living on Cohen residence]*

## Markley S. Sutton Retires

**M**arkley S. Sutton, Senior Supervising Psychologist, retires after thirty-one and a half years at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) and thirty-six and a half years in state service. Dr. Sutton started his career at Napa State Hospital on October 31, 1975 and transferred to SDC on January 1, 1980. Prior to being the Senior Supervising Psychologist for eight years, Dr. Sutton worked as a Staff Psychologist, Program Assistant and Program Director in residential programs, education services and quality assurance.

When asked about his job and what he did, Dr. Sutton said, “I was the director of Psychology Services and the supervisor for the psychologists at SDC. I did all the supervisory duties; I assisted the Department of Psychology with data, resources and information. I was a member of the Executive Committee and advised the Executive Director in matters of psychology, Department of Justice, legislation and regulation, provided information and resources to the facility, and was a resource to interdisciplinary teams for difficult and complex individuals and circumstances.”

What Dr. Sutton loved most about his job was: “I loved the ability to assist teams, psychologists and other staff with situations that were difficult or trying to them. I also enjoyed the development of the Department of Psychology.” What he will miss most is: “the ongoing interaction with the people of SDC.” When asked about memorable moments, Dr. Sutton has had many including: “meeting Governor Brown at Napa State Hospital, establishing and running the Northern California Consortium of Psychology Interns at SDC for 10 years, working as a consultant for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to eliminate the use of time-out rooms, doing mock surveys at all the DDS facilities over the years, my many relationships with people throughout the state, and the wondrous retirement party that I was able to have.”



*Markley S. Sutton*

Dr. Sutton retired on July 1, 2011 and plans on: “being involved with my family in Southern California and continuing to teach at Brandman University. I am on the Board of Directors for the California Psychological Association and the Board of the Napa Solano Psychological Association. I will be going to Yosemite, doing a lot of crossword puzzles and eating at all the Michelin Star restaurants of Napa Valley.” When asked if there is anything he would like to add Dr. Sutton says, “Be bold, do good, and have happiness. Love and peace to you all.”

# Have You Heard?

## Paul Nieuwenhuijs Retires

**P**aul Evert Frans Nieuwenhuijs, Recreational Therapist from Central Program Services, says goodbye to Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) after thirty-three years at the facility. Mr. Nieuwenhuijs started his career working on the residences including Lathrop, Roadruck and residences in the Nelson Building.

Mr. Nieuwenhuijs recalls working on the residences with teachers and psychiatric technicians in implementing leisure skill training, and providing recreational opportunities. In Central Program Services (CPS) he worked with other therapists in planning and implementing facility-wide activities and special events, tours, fundraising, and much more. What he loved most about his job was: “overnight camping trips, the Blues Brothers Band, hallway racing, Nelson pool tidal waves, teamwork, mat work, singing, spooky stuff, and great take-down crews.”

He goes on to talk about how much he loved providing enjoyment for the people who reside at SDC and teaching them to be the best they could be. He talks about missing “my partners in CPS and the special events we put on together.” When asked about special memories, Mr. Nieuwenhuijs takes a deep pause and is obviously humbled by this question. There are too many to list—“everyday was memorable to me.” Mr. Nieuwenhuijs plans on spending time with his family. He plans on: “going fishing, cooking, music, gardening, sports, and spending time with his Labrador.”

Mr. Nieuwenhuijs retired on July 15, 2011. In closing he states, “It was a good experience on the residences I was assigned to; but I will always have fond memories of the Nelson Tribe. These past many years in CPS have been very fulfilling, challenging, and perfect. I have learned so much from sharing and working with great partners and being part of a creative team, which included many helping hands from many departments. I have been most fortunate to have spent some time in the good city of Eldridge. Great memories!!”

## Sarita Nichols Retires

**S**arita Nichols, Occupational Therapist from Central Program Services, says goodbye to Sonoma Developmental Center after twenty-four years of service. Ms. Nichols started her career in 1971 at Outland Multi-handicapped School in Saratoga, working with



*Paul Nieuwenhuijs*

many children affected by rubella. From there, she ran a child development center for United Cerebral Palsy in Kaneohe, Hawaii. After taking some years off to raise her two children, she came to SDC in 1987 as an Occupational Therapist.

Ms. Nichols started working on the Empanan A residence with “super staff that eased me into the government system.” She eventually transferred to the Bentley residence where she stayed for “thirteen wonderful years.” She goes on to say, “It was great being a part of team that only had the clients’ best interests at heart and respected each other’s contributions. All together we made Bentley a showcase.” What she loved most about her job was: “helping the clients and our system be the best it could be, all the while I got to drive to a beautiful place and work with people who shared my interest in solving people issues.”

What she will miss most is: “contributing to the lives of the SDC folks and working with staff that has shared my ideas.” When asked about memorable moments, Ms. Nichols said: “bringing my young children to Fourth of July wheelchair races at Empanan, supporting the Employee Recognition Committee, and chairing the Health-Related Restraint Committee.”

She plans on filling her days with activities with her husband, enjoying their home, and visiting their new grandson in Sacramento. Ms. Nichols plans on a multitude of activities including honing in on her grandmothering techniques, doing more cooking, exercising and volunteering. She goes on to say, “Thank you all for your recognition. I leave feeling very appreciated, valued, and will remember our life together with pride.” Ms. Nichols retired on August 1, 2011.



*Sarita Nichols*

## Water Efficiency Project Pays Off!

*Submitted by Plant Operations*

**A**round 2002, the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) Sanitation District, approached Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) with a proposal to fund a water efficiency retrofit project. By replacing SDC’s older, more water-intensive fixtures with modern industry standard water efficient fixtures, SDC could save money on water and sewage costs while conserving precious natural resources.

It took a few years to work all the bugs out, but a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was finally ad-

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# Have You Heard?

*Water Efficiency, continued from previous page*

opted in August of 2006, outlining the many details of the projects, as well as a comprehensive pay back plan that uses the savings the project created to pay back the loan to SCWA. The return on investment was only 1.4 years!

The project was off and running by January 2009 and completed around June of the same year. In total, SCWA funded and installed 296 low flow toilets, 46 low flow flushometer valves, 88 low flow shower heads, 23 low flow culinary nozzles, 39 faucet aerators, and 14 high efficiency clothes washers.

SDC's final financial obligation was \$72,000, which was to be paid back on a quarterly basis, included on SDC's sewer bill. In the first year following project completion (July 09–June 10) SDC reduced its wastewater volume by 11.5 million gallons, and by 10.8 million the following year. In total, since project completion, SDC has saved \$162,510 in sewer costs and will continue to enjoy these financial savings for many years to come.

## We were prepared!

**R**esidents and staff at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) had to shelter in place after a natural gas leak was discovered during the early morning hours on December 15, 2011.

At about 6:00 AM, a staff member at SDC identified a possible gas leak behind the boiler room. PG&E was contacted via the emergency response number and immediate notification was sent to the SDC Executive Team. The SDC Incident Command Center was established and areas near the area were evacuated.

The gas valve to main kitchen was shut down and traffic control was put in place. The boilers were taken off line due to the rising gas levels in the powerhouse and all other areas were placed on a shelter-in-place status.

A full campus evacuation/relocation plan for residents and staff was determined, should the need arise. PG&E crews arrived on scene and secured the leak.

The incident was resolved at about 9:00 AM and employees were able to return to work locations and business returned to normal activities.

There were no injuries to residents or staff, and no damage to the facility buildings or infrastructure.

### *How did we prepare?*

Sonoma Developmental Center activates a simulated emergency drill during the months of May and November. The primary focus of the training exercise is to test the effectiveness of the major emergency procedures for accounting and reporting for clients, staff, and all others, as well as implementing "building ownership" responsibilities.

The scenario includes damage to buildings, with full participation by all programs and departments. Buildings are assessed to identify major structural damage and all persons on the campus are accounted for through a standardized reporting system. The Incident Command Center is fully activated and the Resource Room provides up-to-date information that enables appropriate plans to be executed.



*Administrative Services Director Karen Clark (left) leads a planning meeting for the November Emergency Preparedness drill*

## Statewide Approaches Update

**T**he leadership of the Developmental Centers Division of the Department of Developmental Services and the Executive Directors of Developmental Centers have made a commitment to the development of statewide structured and standardized qualitative systems in the delivery of services and supports for people residing in developmental centers.

Formal planning efforts have been underway since the fall of 2009 and led to the formation of statewide workgroups being selected and assigned to five key areas including Physical and Nutritional Support, Healthcare Services, Behavior Support Services, Active Treatment, and Protection from Harm. Each of the five workgroups has representatives from every developmental center and the Department of Developmental Services.

All five workgroups have finished the first phase of this project, creating guidelines that will improve the delivery of services and supports for the men and women who reside in the Developmental Center (DC) system. The next step in the process is for the DCs to perform a self-assessment



*The Behavior Support Services Workgroup*

relative to the applicable guidelines. This process has already begun and continues at the present moment.

Jim Rogers, Executive Director, had this to say, "I am excited to see how far

we have come and continue to evolve, in identifying and achieving excellence in areas that will have a measurable impact on the people living in developmental centers. I am impressed with your commitment to meeting the deadlines involved with this project."

# Have You Heard?

## Annual Giving Campaign

**S**onoma Developmental Center (SDC) officially kicked off the annual giving campaign, held in conjunction with the California State Employees' Charitable Campaign, on Tuesday, October 25, 2011.

The speakers included Liz Stoddard, California State Employee Charitable Campaign Coordinator and Sonoma Regional Project Director; Karen Clark, Administrative Services Director; Jenny Chamberlain, Development Officer for United Way; and Susan Katz and Lara Magnusdottir with Community Child Care Council.



*Kick off meeting on October 25*



*Pasta Feed on December 13*

On Tuesday, December 13, employees and residents, as well as the public, were invited to attend a pasta lunch of spaghetti (with marinara, pesto, or meat sauce), salad, bread, and beverage

for a \$6 donation, with all profits going directly to Community Child Care Council.

The meal was underwritten through donations from the Parent Hospital Association, with a raffle sponsored by Giving Campaign Committee members. At the event, there were various informational tables staffed by representatives of several deserving non-profit agencies.

This was the sixth annual Pasta Feed held to raise funds and awareness of local charities. Over the years, Sonoma employees have made a huge impact in their community through their generous contributions to charitable organizations.

## Wellness Fair

**S**onoma Developmental Center held its annual Wellness Fair on August 3, 2011 from 10 AM to 3 PM inside the facility gymnasium and on the outside lawn area.



*Free mini-massages at the Wellness Fair*

The event, sponsored by the Wellness Committee, a committee made up of SDC employees, featured live music, a dance performance by the Redwood County Cloggers, and informational booths such as the Sonoma County Water Agency, Kaiser Permanente, Glen Ellen Village Market, Sonoma Holistic Center, and other public entities. In addition, environmentally friendly vendor booths offered organic and natural-dyed clothing, soaps, oils, and potions; vitamins and healthy food products; as well as massage therapy and natural household products. Over twenty vendors were present with live demonstrations beginning at 10:00 AM. The event was free and open to the public.

The Wellness Committee proudly continues to seek and provide reliable resources for those interested in obtaining information on products and services that may assist them in continuing to make healthy lifestyle choices and changes in their lives, as well as to improve their health, prevent disease, manage health problems and improve their quality of life.

Participants had the opportunity to learn about water conservation, recycling, land conservation, how to get involved with various organizations, and learn to "be the change you wish to see in the world." Sandwiches and a salad bar were available for purchase during the event. There was also a free raffle.

## Holiday Open House

**T**he Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) Executive Committee, the Parent Hospital Association (PHA) Board, and the Eldridge Foundation, co-hosted the annual Holiday Open House on the afternoon of December 15<sup>th</sup> at the ARO Multipurpose Room.

The Executive Committee takes this opportunity each year to show appreciation to staff by working the kitchen, where all the hors d'oeuvres, drinks and desserts are purchased with their own funds, as well as monetary donations from the PHA Board and Eldridge Foundation. All staff were invited to attend the Open House where holiday music played softly and festive decorations created a joyful mood.

Tasty offerings included bacon wrapped dates, shrimp, veggies, chips, dips, mini quiches, jalapeño poppers, pizza bagel bites, meatballs, sweet and sour chicken, and other warm snacks. Sweet treats included pies, mini cream puffs, mini éclairs, cookies, mini cheesecakes, and candies.

Coffee, tea, water, and Teresa Murphy's famous berry punch were also offered. This well-attended event has become a yearly tradition at the facility.



*Teresa Murphy serving her punch at the Open House*

## Annual Golf Tournament

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Sonoma Developmental Center Golf Tournament was held on August 5, 2011. Hosted by the Employee Recognition Committee, the Golf Tournament is the only fundraiser to benefit the Employee Recognition Program, which includes Employee of the Month, Supervisor of the Quarter, and the Sustained Superior Achievement Awards. These awards acknowledge individuals and groups for exemplary work that demonstrates the facility values of serving others, respectful relationships, managing resources, and demonstrating leadership.



*Putting contest at the annual Golf Tournament*

The Golf Tournament was held at Oakmont West Golf Club in Santa Rosa, California, and began with a shotgun start at 1:00 PM. The tournament included divisions for men, women, and mixed teams (four person scramble).

Following the tournament, hors d'oeuvres were served during announcements, including awards for the putting contest held at noon, as well as longest drive, and closest to the pin. Raffle winners were also announced. Forty-seven people participated in the event and more than \$3,700 was raised.

## Employee of the Year, 2010

The Employee of the Year for 2010 is Pat Barker, Automotive Equipment Operator I from Motor Pool. His nominators state, "Pat exemplifies the qualities of an employee considered for this distinction. The word 'standard,' is not part of his vocabulary. His work ethic, positive attitude, and his respectful relationship with co-workers, clients, and staff, are evident throughout SDC."



*Pat Barker*

Pat is described as someone who consistently demonstrates exemplary teamwork and leadership skills, and is respected throughout the facility as someone who gives 100% effort in every situation.

His nominators go on to say, "Pat has been an invaluable member of the Motor Pool since 2002 and he has been a true pleasure to work with. He goes out of his way to meet the needs of the clients who live here and the staff that work here. Pat is always sharing ideas for improving service, and is always willing to cover all routes as needed and has become very knowledgeable in the vehicle

reporting system process." Congratulations, Pat, on being selected the Employee of the Year for 2010!

## July Employee of the Month

The Employee of the Month for July is Lina Pascual, Psychiatric Technician Assistant from Program Six. Her nominator describes her as someone who, "Is very much a team worker with a good attitude, willingly steps up when needed in a variety of situations, has positive interactions with the residents, and interacts with all respectfully and in a helpful and supportive manner." Lina is an active participant in annual conferences and special meetings providing valuable insight about the residents she serves. Her nominator goes on to say, "Lina demonstrates her commitment to our values of service, leadership and respectful relationships." Way to go, Lina!



*Lina Pascual*

## August Employee of the Month

The August Employee of the Month is Amber Sandoval, Office Assistant from Program Three.

Her nominator states, "Amber truly epitomizes the SDC values of serving others, fostering respectful relationships, managing resources, and promoting leadership." She, at a moment's notice, assists with covering phones for the Executive Office and Central Program Services (CPS), sometimes for several weeks at a time. "During these temporary assignments, Amber brings projects that she is doing for Program Three staff so that she can work on them when her Executive Office and CPS duties are completed." She is also said to have great computer skills. Nice job, Amber!



*Amber Sandoval*

## September Employee of the Month

Jocelyn Hiteroza, Licensed Vocational Nurse from Program Three, is the September Employee of the Month. Jocelyn is known as the "go to person" for the Nelson B residence. She is described as the anchor of the AM shift, "She is always the first person people go to when something is needed and she always accommodates the request



*Jocelyn Hiteroza*

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# Recognition

*September Employee of the Month,  
continued from previous page*

willingly.” She is described as cheerful and willing to do for others, and is always composed, setting the tone for the residence. “Jocelyn often helps others with ER 2000\* questions and promotes the SDC values of building respectful relationships, managing resources, and promoting leadership.” Congratulations, Jocelyn!

\*ER2000 is our electronic records database for medical and dietary orders.

## October Employee of the Month

The October Employee of the Month is Crystal Garrison, Dispatcher/Clerk from General Services.

Her nominator states, “Crystal is always helping to keep information updated at the switchboard and has shown enthusiasm and willingness to help other departments within General Services as needed.” Crystal is described as someone who organizes her time well and her relationship with coworkers and her helpful attitude sets the positive example for everyone. “Crystal takes on new tasks with enthusiasm and her ability to complete tasks effectively has made her a valuable and integral part of our department’s success and accomplishments this past year.” Way to go, Crystal!



*Crystal Garrison*

## November Employee of the Month

The Employee of the Month for November is Nancy Decelles, Clinical Dietitian from Nutrition Services. Her nominator states, “Nancy has extensive clinical experience and is always helpful to her peers in sharing her many areas of expertise. She juggles a large caseload and always meets critical deadlines.” Nancy is the Nutrition Services ER2000 local expert and volunteered to be a part of a facility committee to facilitate diet order issues.

“Nancy demonstrates all four SDC values of serving others, managing resources, respectful relationships, and leadership. I can’t think of a better person who is deserving of this award.” Nice Job, Nancy!



*Nancy DeCelles*

## December Employee of the Month

Karen Kuehl, MDS\* Coordinator from Nursing Services, is the December Employee of the Month. Many of her MDS team members nominated Karen

saying, “Karen is our lead MDS Coordinator and went above and beyond to get the MDS 3.0 together. She is a strong advocate for us and the residents.” Karen is described as easy to talk to, professional, responsible and with a good sense of humor. Her nominators go on to say, “Karen works well with program managers and her supervisors, ensuring a cohesive working environment. She is well appreciated and long overdue for special recognition.” Congratulations on your award, Karen!



*Karen Kuehl*

\*MDS is Minimum Data Set

## Awards Luncheon

Sonoma Developmental Center recognized exemplary employees at the Annual Sustained Superior Achievement Awards, including the Centennial Award, which is Sonoma’s most prestigious award, on November 9, 2011. The awards are given to staff that have shown dedication and outstanding commitment to the values of the facility over at least a two-year period. Employees were recognized from all areas of Sonoma including Administrative, Clinical, Medical and Centralized Nursing Services. Fellow employees treated the honorees to a gourmet luncheon and an entertaining theatrical performance.



*On stage at the awards luncheon,  
L to R: Becky Jasperse, Roy Johnson, Becky Zyskowski & Ron Vongober*

The luncheon and awards were paid for by earnings from our annual Employee Recognition Golf Tournament, held every summer.

The theatrical performance was a hilarious musical comedy written by Assistant Administrative Services Director Teresa Murphy, entitled *Jersey Techs* and based on the famous Broadway musical, *Jersey Boys*. Ms. Murphy transported the Jersey boys and girls to Sonoma Developmental Center, and entertained everyone with witty observations about working here and featuring new lyrics to well-known songs. Cast members included Roy Johnson, Jason Moore, Ron Vongober, Becky Jasperse, Becky Zyskowski, Jim Tallent, and Rosanne Groshan. Deirdre Egan provided the music and Kris Culp painted the backdrop (the Executive Director’s office) on old sheets.

*Award winners begin on the next page.*

# Sustained Superior Accomplishment Awards

PRISCILLA AYALA, CHRISTY MONTOSA, KARON TYLER AND ERIC JONES, Registered Nurses from the Central Nursing Services department, are the key developers of a program to provide competency training for licensed staff that began in June 2010. The training offers a comprehensive two-day, 16-hour event including didactic and return skill demonstration for 12 essential clinical skills. The program has proven to assure greater skill levels for level-of-care staff and an increased comfort level in knowledge. As of September 2011, 180 licensed staff have been trained. Great job and congratulations to this fine group of trainers!



*RNs from Central Nursing Services:  
Karon Tyler & Christy Montosa  
Not shown: Priscilla Ayala & Eric Jones*

WILLIAM CALAUNAN, Psychiatric Technician Assistant on Poppe, has wonderful relationships with his staff, peers, and the clients he serves. His tireless efforts and proactive strategies have been essential in team building and overall morale on the residence. He is a true gentleman who feels good service for the people who reside here is crucial. He is a team player, committed and dedicated to his work. He is well respected by others. Thank you, William!



*William Calaunan*

SUSAN CAMBRON, Senior Psychiatric Technician, has an outstanding work ethic. She has excellent attendance and works many extra hours, including her days off, for the good of the residence. She devises helpful forms and record-keeping systems that are efficient and well thought out. Her work is thorough and precise. Her organizational skills are exceptional. Her arrangement of the medication cart and medication/treatment records encourages accuracy and helps reduce the possibility of medication errors. She sets a fine example for others to follow and is highly respected by her peers. She works well without supervision and always assures quality care for the clients living on Bentley.

*Sorry,  
no  
photo  
available*

She is a strong advocate for the clients and is obvious-

ly well liked by them. She has many special relationships with the residents and her consistency provides stability in their daily routine. She is truly an asset to the people who live and work here. Thanks, Susan!

YOLANDA CHAVIRA, Supervising Housekeeper, works on the PM shift. Her commitment to the overall function of the facility is outstanding. One of her talents that has been most valuable to Housekeeping is her skill as a trainer. Whether in a classroom or side by side, Yolanda patiently assists the custodians in skill development. She is an expert at deployment and her commitment to positive outcomes makes her a success in her job. Yolanda should also be feted for no unscheduled absences for a month. Congratulations, Yolanda!



*Yolanda Chavira*

ROBIN COHN, Recreation Therapist, is a member of the Malone team and provides recreation activities for the men and women of Program Four. Robin is kind and patient and works to assure all the individuals she serves have opportunities to learn and excel in social and leisure activities. She is also an integral part of the Chico State University CAVE program, which provides college students with an opportunity to spend weekends working face to face with the residents. Thank you for your commitment to your discipline and the people who live and work here, Robin!



*Robin Cohn*

LAURA CRAFTER, Senior Psychiatric Technician: The clients of Program Two benefit from the Laura's leadership each and every day. For example, there was an individual who enjoys moving about the residence in her wheelchair, which on occasion, proved a bit problematic. In her leadership role, Laura worked with the team to assure an outcome that was positive to the resident and accepted by the team. This is effective leadership. Laura was also instrumental in some residential changes for people living in Program Two that meant inclusive team planning. She is a person with a strong professional future and merits this award. Thanks, Laura!



*Laura Crafter*

# Sustained Superior Accomplishment Awards

**RINA DEMESA, Psychiatric Technician:** Corcoran is a very active and busy residence, but Rina assures the residents are motivated, healthy and look stylish each and every day. She is a mentor and guides the residents in a positive and reassuring manner, resulting in successful outcomes and sound relationships. Rina has a talent that goes beyond her skill as a clinician. She takes the time to create contemporary and stylish hairdos for the men and women she serves. She helps them look good, which is so very important for self-esteem. Thanks, Rina, for giving your all!



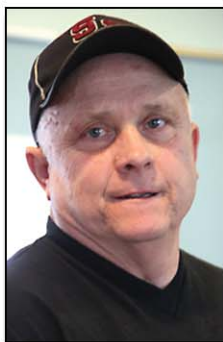
*Rina DeMesa*

**MARIE FAY, Nursing Coordinator:** There is no better role model than Marie Fay. She is a manager that creates, develops, and celebrates her long career at Sonoma. Not only does she hold the Nursing Coordinator job, which is in itself demanding for its staffing and management requirements, but she is an Equal Employment Opportunity investigator, conflict resolution volunteer and teaches CPR in between. Rather than say, "This is the way we always do it," she asks, "How can we do it better?" Program Six is fortunate to have her skill and commitment. Good job, Marie!



*Marie Fay*

**LARRY HAREN, Carpenter,** came to Sonoma in 1996 as a Limited Term Building Maintenance Worker, who was quickly acknowledged for his skill and his ability to work in a team. He was hired the next year in a permanent position and promoted to Carpenter in 2000. According to Mario Pasquini, Chief of Plant Operations, Larry has never shied away from the challenge of the toughest jobs. No matter what shop needs the support, Larry is the guy who steps up to the plate. He has received commendations from the Sonoma County Office of Education, Central Program Services and Sunrise Industries, to name a few. He is an annual participant in the Hanna Boys Center program where facility staff share life experiences with the boys. Larry opens his heart and his life to these boys and is a true role model for them and for us. There is only one Larry Haren and we are lucky to have him with us!



*Larry Haren*

**ART HERRERA, Office Technician,** is an innovator who has brought General Services into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by the nature of his skill. He has developed spreadsheets to track fuel usage, mileage and expenditures. This has saved countless hours of tedium, and improved the quality of reports that go to headquarters monthly. He has also saved actual dollars by repairing the copy machines in the mailroom when there is a minor glitch. In the past year he has assisted as a link between the Motor Pool and the programs to enhance transportation services. In addition, he has developed skills in writing service orders, and improved relationships with vendors. During the closure of Agnews, he assisted in the procurement of surplus property and was never shy about volunteering his time for this arduous task. One and all have been touched by his gentle can-do demeanor. Congratulations, Art!



*Art Herrera*

**WARREN HUBER, Supervising Clinical Laboratory Technologist,** has stepped up to managing the Lab and in doing so, he has demonstrated the highest commitment to the Center's values; he particularly excels at managing resources. He was instrumental in working with a new courier system to deliver lab specimens to Sonoma Valley Hospital. He developed a two-year contract for lab tests that cannot be performed in-house, and he has been responsible for using a new way to identify cultures that has been successful and resulted in cost savings. He truly respects the residents and is always looking for better ways to communicate with care providers. Thank you, Warren, for your good work!



*Warren Huber*

**CATHIE IRWIN, Recreation Therapist,** has been responsible for the leisure skill development for the same individuals for over 10 years. She works on Nelson D and has provided full-time services in spite of working half time. Her energy has meant the success in the following areas: participation in the annual Art Show and Bell Choir, participating in the Eldridge Performing Arts theater, and



*Cathie Irwin*

*continued next page*



# Sustained Superior Accomplishment Awards

*Irwin, continued from previous page*  
continually assuring the residents have community access. She also shares her skills with the Chico State University students on weekends. From paperwork to play, Cathie excels at her profession. Well done, Cathie!

PATTI LAMB, General Services Administrator II (GSA II), joined the Sonoma staff as the Executive Secretary and now shares her extensive leadership background from her days in Caltrans as the GSA II for Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC). No matter what technical task or special need is requested, Patti responds in a positive manner. In the past two years, she has managed the arduous task of transporting the surplus equipment from Sierra Vista and Agnews Developmental Center. This required extensive travel and extensive patience. Her department has managed the cell phone recall, the vehicle reductions, and more than any department's fair share of drills in those respective areas. She is a support team member in the consolidation process and has excelled in every way. Patti has also been the seamstress for the Eldridge Performing Arts productions and has worked very diligently to assure housekeeping services are maintained with very limited resources. Since her arrival at SDC she has become a key player and someone who is valued very much in Administrative Services. Way to go, Patti!



*Patti Lamb*

LAURA LOPEZ, Unit Supervisor, has been a member of the Central Program Services team since 1999. However, since March of 2011 she has been the managing Unit Supervisor for seven Senior Psychiatric Technicians, 16 Psychiatric Technicians, 25 Psychiatric Technicians Assistants, and two Teaching Assistants—serving 320 residents. And all of this is under Laura's superior supervision! She is vigilant about making rounds for quality assurance goals and welcomes input from the staff about improving off-residence services for the residents. According to Tori Mathis, Program Assistant, Laura responds quickly to feedback and doesn't hesitate to offer suggestions to management for program improvement. Thanks for your hard work, Laura!



*Laura Lopez*

JOANNA MORAT, Social Worker, has demonstrated the highest level of sophistication when it comes to building trust between the residents, their families, and staff. She excels in problem solving—for example, she worked diligently with a person to encourage and assist him in preparing to go to an off-site dental clinic without sedation and without his mother—for the first time in his life. This kind of growth is the result of a strong sense of service, respectful relationships and leadership. She is a very interactive team member and is willing to go the extra mile for a happy ending, for a person on her caseload from Bemis or Judah in Program Four. Great work, Joanna!



*Joanna Morat*

LEATHER NEVAREZ, Physical Therapy Assistant/Psychiatric Technician, has worked for the State of California for 28 years and joined Sonoma in 1995. She serves as a Physical Therapy Assistant and has been an innovator in this area for all of that time. Aleanna Carreon, Program Director, stated that Leather is an excellent communicator and her thirst for knowledge has led her to implement some creative programs in Physical Therapy. She has been part of developing a trampoline balance program with weighted balls, challenging walking exercises, and hydrotherapy. Her warmth and humor are welcome in the workplace and create an atmosphere of growth. Thanks for the great work, Leather!



*Leather Nevarez*

JACK NOE joined Nutrition Services in 2000 and has become absolutely irreplaceable as the office technician for one of the largest departments at the facility. The staff of Nutrition Services rely on his clerical and computer skills; and when he has aided in the improvement or editing of a form or document, the staff call his positive contribution, "The Jack Effect." He provides leadership by being a floor captain for emergency drills, is the primary staff responsible for processing, tracking and distributing ER2000-generated client diet order changes. In a recent internal review of timekeep-



*Jack Noe*

*continued next page*

# Sustained Superior Accomplishment Awards

*Noe, continued from previous page*  
ing errors, Nutrition Services had no deficiencies due to Jack's dedication to perfection. He is positive, creative and always ready with a smile and a helping hand. Great job, Jack! [ER2000 is a database for creating and tracking medication and diet orders for residents.]

JUN REPIEDAD, Psychiatric Technician Assistant: According to Program Director Mary Antone, it doesn't matter whether Jun has a microphone, a washcloth, or a razor in his hand, the outcome is going to be quality, consistent, caring and plain fun. He works with a song in his heart, which he shares throughout the day when he cares for the residents of Nelson B. He is so in tune with his music and the residents that he has been instrumental in assuring a non-sedated successful clinic visit occurring after he was the chosen escort. He takes care of the unit linen; he attends Individual Program Plan meetings; and he can be seen and heard cheerfully making Nelson B a residence that runs beautifully, and with great joy. Thanks, Jun!



*Jun Repiedad*

THE PLUMBING SHOP: STEPHEN MAYFIELD, Plumber Supervisor; CHARLES DARNELL, Plumber I; CHRIS PETERSEN, Plumber I; DANIEL JOSEPH, Plumber I; and GASPAR VALERA, Plumber I: On any given day these men truly are the unsung heroes of the Center. In the dead of winter they might be found waist deep in freezing water; they un-stop toilets at random hours of the day and night; they search for leaks in lines that fracture for unknown reasons. All of this they do with precise detection and stamina that could frankly cause others to faint. Last winter in front of King Cottage, there were five water pipe fractures that occurred simultaneously. The story was all about mud, water and no repair clamps big enough to hold the mains. Water was turned off and the back hoes were working overtime along with the plumbing shop. It took several days, but their spirits were good in the worst of conditions! Thank you, Plumbers!



*The Plumbing Shop: L to R: Stephen Mayfield, Charles Darnell, Chris Petersen, & Daniel Joseph. Not shown: Gaspar Valera*

SARAH SILMARO, Psychiatric Technician, works in Program Four and does her best to be a role model for the residents, as well as her peers. She is the perfect example of service and respectful relationships in the challenging atmosphere of the Bemis residence. She guides by being gentle and gets great results that mean success and independence for the men and women she is charged with serving. Unit Supervisor Lauren Griffin expects Sarah to be a candidate for upward mobility because of her professional demeanor and adherence to policy. Good work, Sarah!



*Sarah Silmaro*

SANDRA WHITTEN-McCORMACK, Psychiatric Technician. Ms Whitten-McCormack is the model employee for her attentiveness and caring attitude. She is dependable and models the values of serving others and respectful relationships. Her can-do attitude is inspiring and her willingness to assist others in time of need is infectious. She has a great sense of humor that makes the workplace warm and cheerful. Thank you for your hard work, Sandra!

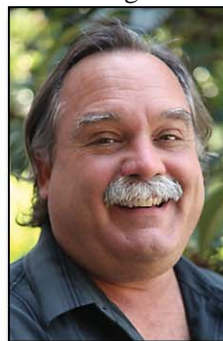


*Sandra Whitten-McCormack*

## Centennial Award

Mario Pasquini, Chief of Plant Operations III, came to Sonoma Developmental Center in October of 1996 as a Mason. In 2001 he promoted to Supervisor of Building Trades; in 2004 he was promoted to Chief of Plant Operations I; and in 2006 he was promoted to his current position of Chief of Plant Operations III.

Throughout his career, Mario has been a man who has demonstrated a quiet strength in deliberating on how to plan, act, and complete major projects that support the infrastructure that keeps the men and women of Sonoma Developmental Center safe and free from harm. From the water we drink to the roofs over our heads, he manages to keep the facility in operating order. His style of leadership is one that relies on consensus, honesty and integrity.



*Mario Pasquini*

Even with the responsibility of road maintenance and heating and cooling, Mario has been known to man the

*continued next page*

# Community Happenings...

## Centennial Award

*continued from previous page*

barbecue at events or cook mounds of bacon at the annual Administrative Services Christmas breakfast.

He is a master at resource management when his budget is cut; he is focused on service—whatever the time of day; he is respectful of his vendors, families, staff and management; and is a leader that everyone can count on in a crisis or in a celebration.

Thank you for your good, hard work, Mario!

## Fashion Show

**S**onoma Developmental Center (SDC) held its annual Fashion Show on Thursday, June 23, 2011 at the facility's outdoor gazebo. Residents modeled the latest fashions from First Impressions, the facility's clothing store. This year's theme was "Fashion, Fitness and Fun."

Approximately forty residents of the facility modeled the latest sports clothes and accessories as they walked down the colorful runway. All of the fashions included the latest sporting clothes and accessories available at the clothing store. Teresa Murphy, Assistant Administrative Services Director of the Center, was the Fashion Announcer and gave a description of each outfit, relating them to a variety of sporting events, thus the theme "Fashion, Fitness and Fun."

First Impressions offers the residents of SDC a great variety of new clothing materials and accessories. All of the clothing displayed is purchased from catalogs, clothing stores and private vendors.

Family members, other residents, licensing, and employees of the facility cheered the models on as they strutted down the runway.



*At the Fashion Show*

## Independence Day

**S**onoma Developmental Center (SDC) celebrated its annual Fourth of July festivities on Wednesday and Thursday, June 29–30, 2011. Like most communities, the Center has been observing the Fourth of July for many years.

The other three facility-wide events include a Cinco de Mayo Celebration, Celebrate Sonoma (a multicultural event that includes ethnic food, music and games) and Hal-

loween. The facility also has many other events year round including an Art Show, Talent Show, Mardi Gras Dance, Horse Show, Tree Lighting Ceremony, a Black and White Ball, and much more.

The Independence Day festivities began the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup> with live music from The Rocketeers and a fireworks show at dusk.

On June 30, a centralized event was held; the area was decorated in red, white and blue décor with live music occurring throughout the day. The bands this year included the Sean Sarscadden Band and the Allegra and Ze Americanos Bands.



*Independence Day festivities*

There were photo booths with Fourth of July-themed backgrounds, an arts and crafts booth, a temporary tattoo booth, and visits by the Eldridge Farm animals. There were also many game booths with prizes including the pendulum firecracker bowl, firecracker bowling, and others. The celebration continued in the afternoon with more live music, servings of fresh fruit, cotton candy, shaved ice treats, as well as other refreshments.

## The Sonoma County Fair

**T**he Sonoma County Fair ran from July 25<sup>th</sup> through August 12<sup>th</sup> and was attended almost every day by those residing at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) with support staff from a variety of disciplines. The Sonoma County Fair is one of the events outside of SDC that both the residents and staff look forward to every year. This year was no exception.

Whether it was the excitement of riding the ferris wheel, feeding the farm animals, buying some freshly-made fudge, winning a prize at one of the game booths, or enjoying the abundance of savory fair food, it was obvious from the smiles and laughter, that everyone was having a good time.

Many of the residents and their support staff made their way through the exhibit halls, looking at submitted pieces of artwork. Then off to the flower show, which is the largest themed flower show in the United States, and included a stunning showcase of the region's best garden designers, both pro and amateur. This year, Sonoma residents entered artwork and won ribbons for their work.



*At the Sonoma County Fair  
[photo by JJ Fernandez]*

# Community Happenings...

## Celebrate Sonoma

**O**n September 8<sup>th</sup> staff and residents of Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) celebrated their diversity at the annual Celebrate Sonoma event.

The decades-old event began with a luau-style picnic.

As the popularity of the event grew, the Center broadened the focus to other ethnicities and backgrounds. Today, the all-day event is held to honor the heritage of all those that live and work at the Center.

The food served at Celebrate Sonoma begins the previous evening, with a ceremonial burning of oak logs *Italian ices at Celebrate Sonoma*



in a pit in the ground. A whole pig is roasted in the pit, along with several whole turkeys. Volunteer staff stay up all night to supervise the roasting pit. At the event the following day, everyone is treated to a luau-style feast of rice, fruit, roasted pork and turkey with a variety of sauces to choose from, as well as a variety of refreshments, including flavored shaved ice treats. There was a roaming photographer offering photo opportunities with Loki the sheep, from the Eldridge Farm, as well as some other farm animals.

There was a diverse array of entertainment venues including music and dance demonstrations by the Sean Carscadden Band, the Bollywood Dancers and the Shodan Taiko Drummers.

Jim Rogers said, "I was very pleased to see so many residents, staff, family members and others associated with Sonoma coming together, giving us the opportunity to appreciate all the wonderful things this campus has to offer."

## Remembrance Day

**T**he California Memorial Project presented the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Remembrance Day Ceremony at Sonoma Developmental Center at the Butler Gazebo on Monday, September 19, 2011.

The California Memorial Project is a collaboration by the California Network of Mental Health Clients, People First of California, and Disability Rights California to honor people who have lived and died at state institutions. They established the third Monday in September as Remembrance Day.

The California Memorial Project hosts simultaneous events in



*Music at Remembrance Day by Melissa Preston (L) & Olga Kulikouskaya*

Ukiah, Stockton, San Jose, and Manteca as well as developmental centers and state hospitals throughout California. Each event is open to the public and features remembrances, poems, songs, and refreshments. Those in attendance observe a moment of silence at 1:55 PM to show respect for people with developmental or mental disabilities who have died.

Speakers at the Sonoma event included James E. Rogers, Executive Director; Leonard Alfaro of Disability Rights California; Reverend Thomas Kuglar; Tobias Weare, Clients Rights Advocate for Area Board IV; and others.

Many of the residents at the Center created a colorful array of paper doves that adorned the Butler Gazebo during the ceremony in honor of the individuals being remembered.

## Halloween

**S**onoma Developmental Center (SDC) celebrated Halloween on Thursday October 27, 2011 with the annual Halloween Parade and Carnival.

The day started with the Halloween Parade, which has been a tradition at the Center for over 40 years. It began at approximately 10:00 AM and featured floats, as well as ambulatory and stationary entries.

Parade entry was open to all who live or work at the Center, with the residences generally entering as themed groups. With staff assistance, most people living at SDC participated in the fun.

All entries were judged in various categories including most humorous, traditional, scariest, and the ever popular, grand prize trophy. Awards are given during the carnival later that day. Everyone who participated in the parade received an award. There were over twenty entries this year with the grand prize trophy going to, "Alice's Tea Party" from Program Two.

Judges this year included James E. Rogers, Executive Director; Dawn Percy, Clinical Director; Karen Clark, Administrative Services Director; and Teresa Murphy, Assistant Administrative Services Director.

Later in the afternoon, the annual Halloween Carnival took place and participants were able to play a variety of games, listen and dance to live music, enjoy ghoulish

*continued next page*



*"Alice's Tea Party"  
Left: Lino Vicente as the Mad Hatter  
Below: Alice & the Queen*

# Community Happenings...

*Halloween, continued from previous page*

refreshments of lemon plasma (lemonade) or blood punch (fruit punch), and have their photo taken in a haunted house booth.

## Eldridge Farm Events

**T**he Eldridge Farm held two events during the month of November, the annual Blessing of the Animals and Farm Day.

The annual Blessing of the Animals event at the Eldridge Farm took place on Friday, November 4, 2011. The yearly occasion is in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of animals, birds and the environment. The event entailed the blessing of the Eldridge Farm animals.

During the blessing of the farm animals, residents and staff participated by bringing the farm animals forward so Father Patrick Leslie could bless them. Many of the residents participated by bringing forward their favorite Eldridge Farm pet.

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, Farm Day was held at REACH (due to the weather) with snacks and refreshments, an arts and crafts booth, and live music. Some of the farm animals came for all to enjoy, including Mijo, the miniature donkey, Loki the sheep, and some of the rabbits.

Everyone was having a great time, especially the animals that seemed to be enjoying all the attention they were getting from the many individuals who came out to see them.

## Christmas Ornaments Make Their Way to Sacramento

**R**esidents from Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) created over forty ornaments for the annual State Capitol Tree Lighting Ceremony in Sacramento. The 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Capitol Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> on the West Steps of the State Capitol.

The tree was decorated with approximately 900 hand-crafted ornaments created by children and adults with developmental disabilities who receive services and support from the state's developmental centers and 21 non-profit

regional centers. The tree was illuminated by 10,000 ultra-low wattage LED lights.

SDC has participated in creating ornaments for the State tree for more than 20 years. The ornaments included colored glittery pinecones, foamed windsocks, decorated CDs, hand made Christmas trees, and many individualized ornaments made from paper and paper plates that were laminated to protect them from rainy weather.



*Above:  
Fr. Leslie  
blesses a  
farm cat*



*Left:  
A hug at  
Farm Day  
[photo by  
Nancy Tallent]*



*Some of the Christmas ornaments before they were sent to Sacramento [photos by JJ Fernandez]*

## Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

**S**onoma Developmental Center (SDC) held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 1, 2011 outside the facility's gymnasium between the hours of 3:30 PM and 5:00 PM.

The large tree on the lawn outside the gymnasium was adorned with lights and ornaments, and was lit at 4:30 PM. The Peace On Earth sign that has been a tradition at the center for many years was also lit and could be seen from Arnold Drive at the four-way stop sign.

The atmosphere was festive, with Christmas carolers singing holiday favorites, snowflakes falling from the sky—thanks to an artificial snow machine—and refreshments being served, including hot cocoa and pumpkin pie. Santa also made an appearance and was available for photo opportunities.

There were 20 decorated Christmas trees lining the sidewalk on Harney Circle. Various programs and depart-

*continued next page*

# More Community Happenings...

*Tree Lighting, continued from previous page*

ments throughout the facility participated in the event by decorating a tree for all to enjoy during the month of December. Those in attendance were able to vote for their favorite tree, with the top three winners receiving trophies from Santa. And the winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> prize: Program One, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: Program Four, and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize: Health and Safety and the Fire Department.



Above: Tori Mathis (left) takes a photo of a client with Santa



Above: Decorated trees, with the Peace on Earth sign in background.  
Left: Clinical Director Dawn Percy and Santa announce winners



Program 1



Program 4



Health & Safety and Fire Department

## Holiday Craft Fair

**S**onoma Developmental Center (SDC) held its annual Holiday Craft Fair on December 6 and 7, 2011 at the facility's gymnasium.

The Center has held a Craft Fair for over 20 years, to raise funds for resident activities that are not funded by the state. SDC continued the tradition with a two-day sale at the facility's gymnasium.



The Holiday Craft Fair

Items available for purchase included knitted hats, pottery, bags with your name embroidered on them, handmade dog bowls, beauty products, ornaments, holiday baskets, handmade jewelry, baked goods, handmade toys, potholders, body lotions, candles, ceramics, one of a kind gifts, and much, much more.

There was a lot of great holiday gifts and decorations and with more than 20 vendors each day. You were sure to find that perfect item!

## Note:

If you would like to receive the *Eldridge Press* electronically, please e-mail your request to [Jorge.Fernandez@sonoma.dds.ca.gov](mailto:Jorge.Fernandez@sonoma.dds.ca.gov).

## Submitting articles to the *Eldridge Press*:

The *Eldridge Press* gladly accepts submissions of articles about events at Sonoma Developmental Center, news about the Center's departments and programs, employee recognition, and other information of interest to the Center's employees, consumers and other stakeholders. Articles may be edited for grammar, punctuation, and clarity. To submit your article, send it to the Office of Planning and Communications, Room 102, Sonoma Developmental Center, P.O. Box 1493, Eldridge, CA 95431. Deadlines are the 15th of the month prior to the publication date (for instance, March 15 is the deadline for the 1st Quarter 2012 issue).

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