



# Eldridge Press

## Message from the Executive Director

by James E. Rogers

**T**he onset of a new year compels people and organizations to evaluate, contemplate and reflect yet again about what works well and or needs changing. Sonoma Developmental Center engages in evaluation to carry out our responsibility to provide the right level of support for the evolving needs and desires of the people living here and in doing so, invigorate our sense of purpose and optimism about our organization's future and our personal and collective roles in that future. One thing that doesn't change is our task and passion for the values we hold, despite factors that we are not able to control. By focusing on things not within our control, we run the risk of becoming fearful and resistant to change and by hunkering down, narrowing our focus and compromising our values, becoming reactive instead of proactive. The future of the people we serve depends on finding the right balance between continuity and change.



*"We Can Make It Together"*  
by Nelson C students of the  
Sonoma County Office of Education

## Statewide Approaches to Developmental Center Services

**T**he ongoing initiative to develop "Statewide Approaches to Developmental Center Services" through leadership and strong support and commitment by the Department of Developmental Services, Developmental Centers Division, Developmental Center leaders (executives and many talented employees) has been discussed previously in the *Eldridge Press*. In addition to routine responsibilities—through numerous conference calls, web/other meetings, email, etc.—members of various workgroups completed and submitted comprehensive draft standards to the Developmental Centers Division headquarters and field leaders. Sonoma Developmental Center employees participating in the workgroups are:

**Physical and Nutritional Support**—Judy Curme and Joan MacDonald

**Healthcare Services**—Dr. Carol Castillo and Chris Gephart

**Behavior Support Services**—Jim Rogers and Dr. Brad Backstrom

**Active Treatment**—Mary Antone, Patty Bullington, JJ Fernandez and Dr. Lura Tibbets-Kleber

**Protection from Harm**—Deborah Dado and Terri Sievers



*Mary Antone addresses the  
Active Treatment Workgroup*



*Dr. Castillo and Chris  
Gephart at the Healthcare  
Services Workgroup*



*The Executive Team greets the  
Behavior Support Services Workgroup*

# Have You Heard?

## Golf Tournament

**T**he 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament was held on August 6. The fundraising event supports programs sponsored by the Employee Recognition Committee including Employee of the Month, Supervisor of the Quarter, and the Sustained Superior Achievement Awards.

This year's event had over 55 golfers participating, including former and current administrators from Sonoma Developmental Center and the Department of Developmental Services. The event ended with a dinner celebration and awards were given out in the following categories; Winning Coed Team, Winning Women's and Men's Teams, a Pot o' Gold, Men's and Women's Putting Contests, Long Drive and Closest-to-the-Pin Contest. The raffle winners were also announced. The event raised over \$5,000.00.

The Golf Committee would like to thank the many donors and volunteers that helped to make the event the success that it was.



*Golfers at the Golf Tournament*

## Annual Giving Campaign

*by Liz Stoddard*

**T**his year Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) officially kicked off the annual giving campaign, held in conjunction with the California State Employees' Charitable Campaign, with a brunch and meeting held on October 14. Speakers from Social Advocates for Youth and from United Way spoke about their programs.

Over the years, Sonoma employees have made a huge impact in their community through their generous contributions to charitable organizations. On October 21, a special tea was held in honor of staff that contributed last year at the Bear and Pillar levels (\$500 and \$1,000 respectively). Many staff generously volunteered their time, talents and resources to beautifully decorate the room, prepare and provide for the afternoon event. The honorees, campaign committee members, and volunteers were recognized during the event.

On November 9, our fourth annual benefit pasta feed and raffle, generously underwritten by the Parent Hospital Association, was held in McDougall's Blue Room. Attend-



*Liz Stoddard at the Giving Campaign Recognition Tea*

ees enjoyed a delicious spaghetti lunch catered by the Pasta King, and the opportunity to talk with several non-profit agency representatives. Many great raffle prizes, donated by SDC programs and departments, were awarded. Congratulations to all the winners! Thanks to the generosity of those who volunteered and contributed, everyone had a good time and a total of \$2,400 was raised to benefit Social Advocates for Youth.

A big "thank you!" to all the people who made SDC's 2010 giving campaign a success!

## Jim Tallent Retires...

**A**fter thirty-four years and eight months of state service, Jim Tallent, Rehabilitation Therapist—Recreation, says goodbye to Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC). Jim celebrated with current and former peers and administrators at a retirement celebration on November 1 at McDougall Hall. He started his career at SDC on February 2, 1976. He worked in Central Program Services, where he provided a variety of services including facility-wide activities, special events, Special Olympics and tours. He was also involved with a variety of committees and was a trainer at McDougall Hall where he taught Management of Assaultive Behavior, CPR, and much more. Many referred to him as one of the "go-to guys."



*Jim Tallent directing The Adventures of Mary Poppins September 2010*

Jim said what he loved most about his job was, "Working to develop the Performing Arts Company, and watching the reactions on the faces of the clients who reside here when they attended activities or events we put on for them." What he will miss most is, "The working days with Paul, Becky, Nancy, Teresa and Dan. I will miss everyone I worked with on all the events and activities, because they did it for the clients they work for and with." Some of his most memorable moments include the Performing Arts Productions, the pig roasts for Celebrate Sonoma, the equestrian events, the fundraising weekends, the Special Olympic trips to Los Angeles back in the day, and, "any and all of the award shows I worked on and the staff who assisted, as well as receiving a few [awards] myself, to show that what I did mattered."

When asked if there was anything he would like to add, Jim said, "I am ready to go, but will miss this place. I have met some very neat people here while I have taken up space and it is hard to say goodbye. You have become a part of my place and I hope I have meant something to you."



# Have You Heard?

## Psychiatric Technician Graduations

**O**n Tuesday, December 14 and Thursday, December 16, students graduated from the Napa Valley College and Santa Rosa Junior College Psychiatric Technician Programs.

The students enroll in an eighteen-month program that teaches them pertinent skills, which are used in the care, treatment, and rehabilitation of mentally ill, emotionally disturbed, and developmentally disabled individuals.

Upon graduation, the students are then eligible to take the state board exam and become licensed psychiatric technicians by the State of California.

Sonoma Developmental Center congratulates employees Emmaruth Benicta and Patience Duno, who graduated from the program at Napa Valley College.

## August Employee of the Month

**T**he Employee of the Month for August is Valerie Ammann, Senior Psychiatric Technician from Program 3. Her nominator says, "Valerie is an asset to the unit because she makes people want to work hard and she is fun to work with. She advocates for the clients and makes sure that they are treated well." Her coworkers describe her as a team player that listens to their ideas and implements them where appropriate. "Valerie leads by example and always thinks of what is best for the people living at Sonoma Developmental Center." Congratulations on your award, Valerie!



*Valerie Ammann*

## September Employee of the Month

**T**he September Employee of the Month is Gary Sendaydiego, Psychiatric Technician Assistant from Program 4. "Gary is helpful in every way when he is on duty. He works hard and treats everyone with the utmost dignity and respect, and always has a smile on his face." His nominator goes on to say, "He has been helpful in taking on extra assignments such as the unit reorganization project, which resulted in the unit being more organized and a better living environment for the clients. He is a team player and lives up to the value of building respectful relationships." Way to go Gary!



*Gary Sendaydiego*

## October Employee of the Month

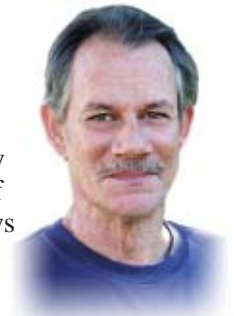
**S**herrill Peterson, Music Therapist from Program 6, is the Employee of the Month for October. "Sherrill's commitment shines through in her relationships with the clients she serves. For the last several years, she has taken clients on a weeklong camping trip with 24/7 responsibility. She is always planning special outings to the community." Her nominator goes on to say, "She is a big part of the Theater Arts Program as the Musical Director and is also involved with the Program 6 Bell Choir. Every Sunday Sherrill facilitates mass participation for the clients she serves. We are thankful for the commitment and dedication she brings." Nice job, Sherrill!



*Sherrill Peterson*

## November Employee of the Month

**T**he Employee of the Month for November is Robert Cernuda, Building Maintenance Worker from General Services. His nominator states, "Robert has assisted the locksmith with all the various tasks assigned for eight years. He exemplifies the values of the facility on a regular basis in the performance of his duties." Almost everyone who knows Robert agrees that he goes out of his way to help others. "His willingness to meet daily challenges and get the work done is appreciated by his peers and supervisors. He delivers and lives by the value of serving others." Good job, Robert!



*Robert Cernuda*

## December Employee of the Month

**T**he December Employee of the Month is Theresa Arnold, Psychiatric Technician from Program 4. "Theresa is a motivated, self-directed employee who comes to work daily and encourages the clients to be as independent as they can be. Her methods of practice are motivating and therapeutic. Theresa provides excellent active treatment and has been consistent with knowing and following the behavior support plans of the individuals she serves." Theresa has developed a morning social coffee group and is a part of the Advocacy Group that serves many individuals from various units. Her nominator goes on to say, "She is a great member of the team and deserves to be recognized." Way to go, Theresa!



*Theresa Arnold*

# Sustained Superior Achievement Awards...

**S**onoma Developmental Center (SDC) recognized exemplary employees at the Annual Sustained Superior Achievement Awards, including the Centennial Award, which is Sonoma's most prestigious award, on October 6, 2010. 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 under the trees in front of Sonoma House.

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



*The cast of Casablanca: (front row, L to R) Teresa Murphy, Tori Matthis, Susan Albrecht, and Roseanne Groshan; (back row) Jim Dofelmire, Jason Moore, Jim Tallent, Ed Fauble, and Roy Johnson.*



*Play finale, L to R: Tori Matthis, Susan Albrecht, Jason Moore, Jim Tallent, Roseanne Groshan, Jim Dofelmire, Roy Johnson, and Ed Fauble.*

Director Teresa Murphy, entitled *Casablanca* and based on the famous movie by the same name. Ms Murphy transported the *Casablanca* story to SDC and entertained everyone with

witty observations about working at the facility and featuring new lyrics to well-known songs; the lyrics were printed and passed out to the audience, so everyone could sing along to the well-known tunes. Cast members included Tori Matthis as Ilsa, Roy Johnson as Rick, and Ed Fauble as Sam, as well as Susan Albrecht, Roseanne Groshan, Jim Dofelmire, Jim Tallent, and Jason Moore. Deirdre Egan provided the music and Kris Culp painted the "sets" on old sheets.

Team award for IDALIA SULLIVAN AND BECKY JASPERSE, ASSISTANT DIRECTORS OF DIETETICS. This is a team that goes above excellent! They are super stars that literally cook up

the best service possible! The Becky part of the team has taken menu items that were at best a bit dull and turned things like plum side dishes into a delicious treat that was enjoyed and—on the practical side—not wasted! She has created a new menu called "An Evening in the Tropics," which included such items as Going Bananas pudding and Coral Reef



*Idalia Sullivan & Becky Jasperse*

Rice (sounds like Jimmy Buffet's restaurant!). The Idalia side of the team took on the responsibility of supervising the Dieticians in addition to being responsible for all the residential kitchens. She also has started a new Quality Improvement project with a focus on food quality. Together Becky and Idalia have been instrumental in the implementation of the new ER 2000 system which was a monumental change in how client diets are ordered into the AS400 food production system. Their supervisory styles feature inclusion, huddles, joint problem solving and great communication!



*Lita Amores*

**LITA AMORES PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN ASSISTANT:** Lita is known for being a positive person whose talent is positive direct interaction with the men and women she serves in Program 2. During some very serious and complex medical cases, it was Lita that helped sustain a positive and healthy support system for those around her. Thank you, Lita!

**CRAIG BROWN, RECREATION THERAPIST:** Craig demonstrates leadership through example. He has built a model self-advocacy program for the Corcoran clients and keeps this active population exactly that: *active*. Craig assures the clients are involved in the annual Horse Show, camping, the Eldridge Fashion Show and the Performing Arts Company of SDC. Craig offers choice and for that, he is chosen for this award!



*Craig Brown*



## ...Sustained Superior Achievement Awards

**TAMMY DAVIS, OFFICE TECHNICIAN:** Ms Davis is the model employee for her diligence, her excellence and her patience. She has developed tracking systems for the Administrative Services Director's office for the PPD (required annual skin test for tuberculosis) program, which has resulted in 100% compliance; for SDC housing; for office space; and other functions. She has been a backup for taking minutes at formal executive committee meetings and Governing Body, which are extremely complex. Her quiet commitment to excellence is evident in the work she produces and the support she gives to all she comes in contact with. She is the best!



*Tammy Davis*

**JJ FERNANDEZ, SENIOR PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN:** Beginning in 2008, JJ was instrumental in developing the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) advocacy program that began at the ARO center of Eldridge. He helped create the Hopes and Dreams Day and is the coordinator and organizer of SDC's participation in community self-advocacy conferences. He volunteers regularly with the SDC Performing Arts Company and is known to go to the Sonoma County Fair as a volunteer escort. Because of his infectious smile and devotion to the men and women of Sonoma he has earned respect and recognition!



*JJ Fernandez*



*Celia Dominguez*

**CELIA DOMINGUEZ, PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN ASSISTANT:** Celia is always ready to provide different dimensions of services through Central Program Services (CPS). She has completed her Psychiatric Technician training at Santa Rosa Junior College. One day this summer Celia was asked to open and close the SDC Starbucks North at REACH, and in between, tend to the animals at the Eldridge Farm. Instead, she came up with the idea of having Starbucks North *at the farm*.

The idea was a smashing success and shows that Celia knows how to manage resources and have fun at the same time. She is a valued member of CPS!



*Eric Fu*

**ERIC FU, ASSOCIATE INFORMATION SYSTEMS ANALYST:** Eric joined SDC after graduating from San Francisco State University and earning experience at Hewlett Packard (HP). During his tenure he has been instrumental in 1) installing CalATERS (an electronic travel reimbursement system), 2) installing the State Compensation Insurance Fund database, 3) working with the pharmacy in the revised drug regimen database and installing a security system on all computers. He has learned the complexities of the servers and has managed to keep HP on the phone with a very polite "One more question, please." He has grown as a leader and Sonoma values his presence! Administrative Services Director Karen Clark states that she could not be more impressed with his skill level and positive attitude!

**KIM EWADINGER, BUILDING MAINTENANCE WORKER (BMW):** According to Mario Pasquini, Chief of Plant Operations, Kim is an essential support person to the Engineering Shop of SDC. He is the PM BMW that means he must work as a self-directed staff person during some pretty gritty situations. He sticks to a job until it is done and often is here past quitting time to complete a job in the right way and not just do a quick fix. SDC is lucky to have you!



*Kim Ewadinger*

**ANICETA GAERLAN, PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN:** Aniceta has a kind heart and she shares her heart with those she serves. She epitomizes the value of service and the model we all strive for in the health care industries. She is dependable and assures that the health and welfare of the Program 6 men and women is superior!



*Aniceta Gaerlan*

# Sustained Superior Achievement Awards...

**DAWN GARCIA, SENIOR PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN:** Dawn is a person who has the talent and flexibility that keeps her learning and developing better ways to serve the Registry, where she works. She has improved tracking systems by implementing approved databases for overtime slips, including voluntary overtime hours, which has assisted the Nursing Coordinators in staffing their programs. She voluntarily took on more assignments while the Staffing Manager was implementing ER2000 (a database for creating and tracking physicians' orders, among other things) and excelled in this leadership role. Dawn's can-do attitude is infectious. She exemplifies the SDC values of leadership, service to others and respectful relationships. Well done, Dawn!



*Dawn Garcia*

**ERIC JONES, ASSISTANT COORDINATOR OF NURSING SERVICE (ACNS):** During the past year, Eric has excelled in so many roles in his job as ACNS. His duties have included Supervisor of Central Supply, Acting Coordinator of Nursing Services for the month of February 2010, ER2000 Master Trainer, MDS 3.0 team member (MDS 3.0 is an upgrade to our method of tracking needs for nursing facility (NF) clients), Competency Trainer, as well as Chairperson of the Fracture Committee and NF Quality Improvement Committee. He is organized and demonstrates leadership at all levels with grace and professionalism according to Marilou Ancheta, Coordinator of Nursing Services. He also provides excellent medical care. You are appreciated!

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*Stan Gardner*

**STAN GARDNER, COOK SPECIALIST II:** Stan isn't just a person who cooks up the best way to serve SDC residents their meals. He also is a model for other employees because of his talent as a trainer, his acute sense of safety practices, and his commitment to a full compliment of uninterrupted meal service. When Hanna Boys Center came to SDC for a day of job shadowing, Stan was generous with his time and knowledge with the boys. He has earned the respect of

the people he works with by doing his work expertly and without fanfare. Great job!



*Phillip Lewis*

**PHILLIP LEWIS, SENIOR PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN:** In his leadership role, Phillip has become sophisticated in the ER2000 and patiently takes the time to coach and train others in this innovation at SDC. Philip has also shown his leadership in nearly every residence in Program 6 by assuring the consumers get dressed and ready for work on time. Under his guidance there are choices of activities and a commitment to advocacy. Thanks for your support to the clients!

**DENISE McMILLAN, PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN:** Denise loves her work and dedicates her whole person to those she serves. She is part of the Malone team and encourages independence with the men and women of Program 6 and supports her peers in that arena. Thank you for your hard work, Denise!

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**RODNEY IRVING, CUSTODIAN:** Rodney is a great role model, who leads by example. He has had such exemplary attendance that he received a six-month regular attendance award from Administrative Services. He was instrumental in the General Acute Unit's plans of corrections when the warehouse was reorganized and the walk-in freezers were scrubbed. He has developed cross training opportunities for Housekeeping, which has made the department more efficient. Thanks, Rodney!



*Rodney Irving*



*Sue Pierce*

**SUSAN PIERCE, PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN:** Sue is a 20 year veteran of SDC with about 18 of those years in Program One. She has served Osborne and Lux with consistency and professionalism. She is known for her sense of humor that makes the workplace warm and cheerful. Sue is often called on to be a lead person as she is respected by her co-workers as a clinician. Thank you, Susan!



# ...Sustained Superior Achievement Awards

ROBERT RAPP, PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN: Known as the “go-to” guy of Program 6, Robert is a Psych Tech whose mantra is “How Can I Help You?” Whether it is driving the Phoenix Flyer or volunteering to go to another unit, Robert is the first to step up. Clients know Robert as a professional and a staff member that responds in a kind and supportive manner, so it is common to hear them call his name from down the hall. Well done, Robert!



Robert Rapp

DENNIS RECAEN, PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN ASSISTANT: Dennis is a master at knowing and following the Individual Program Plans of the people he serves. Dennis provides excellent care for the people living on Johnson C. He is a model of the SDC value of serving others. According to Program Director Jason Moore, Dennis provides a foundation for staffing efforts that would be difficult to duplicate. We appreciate this!

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JANET REED, FOOD SERVICES TECHNICIAN I: Janet Reed has one of the most voluminous personnel files in Nutrition Services as she has received literally stacks of memos of positive recognition. She is a talented trainer assigned to new employees which helps set the bar for a high expectation of excellence of service. In order to avoid delays of service, Janet always pre-checks menu items and individual diets to assure accuracy. Her kitchen is described by Joan MacDonald, Director of Dietetics, as “shiny” and not over-stocked—to assure freshness and quality food. Janet is a model in Nutrition Services!



Janet Reed



Nathan Reid

NATHAN REID, SENIOR PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN: Nathan exemplifies the value of managing resources as he has been instrumental in the reduction of overtime in every residential area he has supervised. He analyzes time usage, deployment, and uses positive reinforcement as tools in his successful quest for overtime reduc-

tion. He volunteered for the facility-wide ER2000 committee, demonstrating leadership on a state wide level. Program 2 values this gentleman as a professional!

MELISSA RUSK, SENIOR PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN: The Cohen night shift has a star in Melissa Rusk. In the last five years she has progressively grown to accept greater responsibility in Program 6. Most notably, she has volunteered to help coordinate a self-advocacy group and does so during a shift that is not her own. Melissa is described by her peers as a natural leader with great insight, who always puts the people who live at SDC first. Positive energy equals Melissa!



Melissa Rusk

SAM SENG, PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN: Sam Seng is a quiet, diligent employee who contributes good ideas and is known to be a good team player. He is positive about introducing new concepts. One thing about Sam is that he will never sit down until the work is done—which means he is always on his feet making sure the clients are doing well. He always has a smile on his face and “thank you” is his favorite word!

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AISHA SHATTO, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT: In the Occupational Therapy world, an “A” rating should mean Aisha. She supports ten occupational therapists in scheduling, research, computer support, locating equipment, and assisting in treatments. Her presence is indispensable in assuring that the men and women of Sonoma Developmental Center receive quality therapeutic services. Thanks for your consistent efforts!

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Gary Shipston

GARY SHIPSTON, REGISTERED NURSE: Gary is an excellent medical coach for his staff in Program 2. He has instructed staff in the proper writing of Health Care Objectives and other required documentation. He works cooperatively with the unit physician at Regamey A to assure optimal medical care. He is known to make personal visits to clients in hospital settings, spending time to comfort and

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# More Awards/Community Happenings...

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encourage them in their convalescence. Thanks for being a Super RN.

**JULIE TAFT, PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN:** For ten years, Julie Taft has been an indispensable team player at Malone Cottage. She has demonstrated her creativity in active treatment by initiating a client recycling project to help significantly reduce the landfill at client worksites and the home unit. Her energy is contagious and inspires those around her to join the fun and be productive in positive ways. Well done, Julie!

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**CHRIS TURGEON, REGISTERED NURSE:** Chris juggles a very busy schedule as the Anesthesia Nurse at Sonoma Developmental Center. This includes working with contracted physicians and creating schedules. During the past year, she also supported the Public Health office, which was especially demanding during the H1N1 flu season. This requires daily communication with the Public Health Officer, the Assistant Coordinator of Nursing Services Office, the Administrative Services Director office, the Health and Safety Office, the Lab and the Executive team. Chris excelled under this extremely demanding time period and earned the respect of many for her excellent work.



Chris Turgeon

## Community Heroism Award

**DEETS WINSLOW, PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN,** was awarded the Community Heroism Award. He was present at the Sonoma-Marin Fair when he came upon a serious accident involving one of the carnival staff. His heroics during this extreme medical emergency is believed to have saved the life of this man. Mr. Winslow is awarded the SDC Community Heroism Award for his actions.



Deets Winslow

## Centennial Award

Joan MacDonald, Director of Dietetics was awarded the Centennial Award for 2010. Ms MacDonald has spent her entire 25 years with the state in Nutrition Services, culminating in becoming Director of Dietetics at Sonoma Developmental Center in December 2006.

Some of her accomplishments include:

- Directing Nutrition Services through the most complex changes, including ER2000 diet order conversion, adaptive dining equipment relocation, and perishable/non-perishable food delivery systems;

- Reducing overtime by 39% by redeployment of staff;

- In the Diet Order Audit, the Client Meal Profiles matched the physician orders 100% of the time;

- Providing food safety training to program staff;

- Eliminating plastic waste from client lunches, saving \$30,000 per year and reducing landfill; and

- Participating in two important Quality Improvement Committee activities: Nutritional Supplements delivered vs. consumed and Nutritional Assessment Audit by Medicare Part B.

Teresa Murphy, Assistant Administrative Services Director, said: "Joan is a highly visible, approachable manager who is diligent in her commitment to the highest quality possible for the people who live and work at Sonoma Developmental Center. Because of her impeccable integrity, she is well respected in this facility and Nutrition Services works beautifully in tandem with other departments. She honors her most valuable resources, her staff, by taking interest in their professional success and encourages personal growth in the work place—and all with a quiet smile of encouragement. She truly is the epitome of the spirit of the Centennial Award."

Congratulations, Joan!



Joan MacDonald

## Wellness Fair

The Annual Wellness Fair was held on August 4 at the gymnasium and surrounding lawn area. The event, sponsored by the Wellness Committee, a committee made up of Sonoma Developmental Center employees, featured a dance performance by the Redwood Country Cloggers, and informational booths such as the Sonoma County



The Sonoma County Water Agency gave out colorful bags at the Wellness Fair

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;

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## ...Community Happenings

*Wellness Fair, continued from previous page*

soaps, oils, and potions; vitamins and healthy food products; massage therapy, and natural household products. Over thirty-five vendors were present with live demonstrations beginning at 10:00 AM. Sandwiches and a salad bar were available for purchase during the event. There was also a free raffle, with donated items. 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 for 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 quality of life.

### Celebrate Sonoma

**S**onoma Developmental Center (SDC) celebrated their diversity at the annual "Celebrate Sonoma" event on September 9. The all-day event is held to honor the heritage of all those that live and work at the Center. Paul Nieuwenhuijs, Rehabilitation Therapist, has coordinated the event since 1990.

Entertainment included music and dance demonstrations by Shodan Taiko, Rhythm of the Islands, and the Sean Carscadden Band.

Everyone was treated to a luau-style feast of rice, fruit, and roasted pork and turkey with a variety of sauces, and refreshments, including lemonade, flavored shaved-ice



*Staff set up food at Celebrate Sonoma*

treats and snow cones. There were decorative flags scattered throughout the venue, representing all the countries in the world.

Activities at Celebrate Sonoma included a variety of games as well as a temporary tattoo booth, the ever-popular photo booth and visits by the Eldridge Farm animals.



*Shodan Taiko drummers perform at Celebrate Sonoma*

This was another great event put on by Central Program Services and the many volunteers. Smiles and laughter showed that everyone was having a great time!

### Remembrance Day

**T**he 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Remembrance Day event was held at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) on September 20 at the gazebo, near the Butler Pool. The yearly event is co-hosted by the Peer Self-Advocacy unit of Protection and Advocacy, Inc., People First of California, and California Network of Mental Health Clients, and takes place simultaneously at State Hospitals and Developmental Centers across the state of California.

Held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of September, the Remembrance Day Ceremony commemorates the signing of legislation for the California Memorial Project, which was organized in 2001 to restore dignity to individuals that have lived and died in state institutions. There was a moment of silence at 1:55 PM at each of the locations statewide, honoring these individuals.

Speakers included Jim Rogers, Executive Director; Leonard Alfaro, Peer Self-Advocacy Coordinator; Reverend Thomas Kuglar, Protestant Chaplain; Father Patrick Leslie, Catholic Chaplain; Ross Long, Volunteer Advocacy Services Coordinator; and a poem read by Linda Kehoe, Peer Self-Advocacy Coordinator.

During the ceremony, entertainment included The Mind Travelers, a Wellness and Advocacy Center House Band; Sharrun Robinson, Volunteer from the Wellness and Advocacy Center; and Melissa Preston, Music Therapist at SDC and Olga Kulikouskaya, Sonoma County Office of Education.

Many of the residents at SDC created a colorful array of paper doves that were on display at the Butler gazebo during the ceremony in honor of the individuals being remembered.



*Serving refreshments at Remembrance Day*

### The Adventures of Mary Poppins

**S**old out was the common theme at this year's Performing Arts Company's live performance of *Adventures with Mary Poppins*. Over 100 individuals came to each of the four nights to watch the cast, comprised of approximately 30–40 singers, dancers, actors and musicians, perform.

The Performing Arts Company, a committee made up of Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) employees and cast members who live at SDC, was founded in 2005 as a way to involve the individuals who live at the Center in a

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# Community Happenings...

*Mary Poppins, continued from previous page*

meaningful theatrical experience. Anyone living at the facility is welcome to audition and is guaranteed a part in the play.

In 2005, the inaugural production was *Grease*; in 2006 it was *Best Of Broadway*, which featured a variety of Broadway hits; in 2007 it was *The Music Man*; in 2008 it was *The Wizard of Oz*; and in 2009 it was *Musical Time Travel*, a journey through time where one experienced several different time periods through song.

Audience members included SDC residents, their families, employees, the public, and members of the Executive Team. Also in attendance from the Department of Developmental Services, Developmental Centers Division was Patricia Flannery, Deputy Director; Julia Lowe, Assistant Deputy Director of Program Operations; and Angela Vrbancak-Libby of Agnews Developmental Center.

Ms Flannery had this to say about the play and all those involved, "Please extend my appreciation and congratulations to all involved in the *Adventures with Mary Poppins* production that was held at SDC. The story line was wonderful, the costumes and set designs were so creative and the actors did such a great job in their performances it was truly a pleasure to watch. I know this kind of event does not go on without an incredible amount of hard work, commitment and time required to make it happen by the many staff, volunteers and residents that were involved. It was truly a reflection of the many great people and events that continue to make Sonoma such a great place to live. Congratulations to all involved."



"When You Wish Upon a Star" from  
The Adventures of Mary Poppins

## Boo!

**S**onoma Developmental Center (SDC) began the Halloween observance the week of October 18, with the opening of the annual Spook Hall located at REACH, the facility's community center. The Spook Hall has been operating at Sonoma Developmental Center since the 1970s and has evolved from a one-room sensory spook house to a large maze of



A room in the Spook Hall

thrills. Under the leadership of Rehabilitation Therapist Paul Nieuwenhuijs, the dance hall was transformed into an interactive maze of adventure where one can experience all the thrills and chills of a typical haunted house. Since switches, motion, or sound activated most attractions, individuals could experience this venue at any level of comfort. The Spook Hall was wheelchair accessible and open to the public.

On October 28, SDC held its annual Halloween Parade, which was also open to the public. The parade has been a tradition at the Center for over 40 years and began a little after 10 AM, featuring floats as well as ambulatory and stationary entries.

Rehabilitation Therapist Jim Tallent, who served as announcer, organized the event. Parade entry was open to all who live or work at the Center and the residences generally entered as themed groups. With staff assistance, all the individuals living at SDC participate in the fun. All entries are judged in various categories and awards are given out during the carnival later that day.

The Halloween Carnival was held in the gymnasium due to the weather and began at 1 PM, with featured games, contests, refreshments, and a live band.

The winners this year included:

**Grand Prize:** Nelson A, "Farmville"

**Most Creative**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Roadruck, "Insomnia Sheep"

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Regamey A & B, "Alley Katz"

**Best Participation**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Malone, "Malone Loves a Barbecue"

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Acorn School, "Fighting Acorns"

**Best Float**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: James, "Final Safari"

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Program 4, "Snow White & the Evil Queen"

**Best Decorated**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Cromwell, "Celebrating All Walks of Life"

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Nelson D, "Pirates of the Past"



Both photos: Grand Prize Winner,  
Nelson A: "Farmville"

*continued next page*



# ...Community Happenings

*Halloween, continued from previous page*

## *Best Stationary Entry*

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Ordahl A, "Willy Wonka"

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Nelson B, "Birds and the Bees"

## *Most Humorous*

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Judah and Sunrise, "Elvis Recycled"

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: JJ Fernandez and Karen Litzenberg, "Sumo Wrestlers"

## *Most Monstrous*

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Emparan A and Johnson B & C, "Blood Hunters"

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Lathrop, "Zombies"

## *Best Marching*

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Program 6, "Pajama Party"

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: MOVE, "MOVE Keeps Swimming Along"

## *Special Awards:*

Norma Lou Peeples, "Walking Nun"

Sonoma Developmental Center Fire Department

Ordahl (Sonoma County Office of Education),

"Viva Las Vegas"

Hanna Boys Group

Central Program Services, "GIANTS"

Nelson C, "Angels and Spiders"

Corcoran, "Ghouls"

## Eldridge Farm Events

**T**he Eldridge Farm was busier than usual during the month of November with the Annual Blessing of the Animals and an Open House.

The Blessing of the Animals occurred on November

10. The yearly event was in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi, who was known as the patron saint of animals, birds and the environment. Guest speaker at the event was Father Patrick Leslie. Many of the animals were blessed including Freddie the cat, as were Sunny, Mijo, Hamlet and Top Gun, the Eldridge Farm donkeys and ponies, and others.

A few days later, on November 13, a sunny Saturday afternoon, was the Open House at the farm, with guided tours, snacks and refreshments, as well as arts and crafts for all to enjoy. Many turned pumpkins into "turkeys" with colored-paper feathers, while others enjoyed the live music. Everyone was having a great time, especially the animals that seemed to be enjoying all the attention from the many people who reside and work at Sonoma Developmental Center, as well as members of the public.



*Father Patrick Leslie  
blesses the donkeys  
and ponies*

## Holiday Open House

**T**he Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) Executive Committee and the Parent Hospital Association Board co-hosted the annual Holiday Open House on the afternoon of December 1 at the ARO Multipurpose Room.

The Executive Committee and the Parent Hospital Association Board takes this opportunity each year to kick off the season of holiday parties and to show appreciation to staff by working the kitchen, where all the hors d'oeuvres, drinks and desserts are purchased with their own funds.

All staff were invited to attend the Open House where holiday music played softly and festive decorations created a joyful mood. Tasty offerings included a variety of cheeses, crackers, shrimp, veggies, chips, dips, mini quiches, jalapeno poppers, pizza bagel bites, meatballs, bourbon 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 making  
her famous punch*

## Holiday Craft Fair

**S**onoma Developmental Center held its annual Holiday Craft Fair on December 1 and 2 at the facility's community center.

The Center has held a Craft Fair for over 20 years to raise funds for client activities.

Items available for purchase included fleece hats, pottery, oilcloth bags, beauty products, ornaments, holiday baskets, hand-made jewelry, baked goods, handmade toys, potholders, body lotions, candles, ceramics, one-of-a-kind gifts, and much, much more.

With more than 20 vendors from Sonoma County each day, you were sure to find that perfect item! A raffle was held hourly with items donated by the vendors. Many employees and individuals from the community made their way through the Craft Fair seeking out those one-of-a-kind gifts.



*At the Holiday Craft Fair*

# More Community Happenings...

## Goddard Group News *by Jodi Duffy*

It has been a great year for the Goddard group. The Mobile Store has really become popular with the clients who attend worksites in the Meadows area. We added two more sites to our schedule. This year we also started going into one of the grocery stores in the town of Sonoma to shop for products to sell. This year we are hoping to purchase a bar code scanner. This will give us another training opportunity and help us keep better track of what is selling.

Last spring we were very fortunate to get a donation of seeds from Baker Creek Seed Bank. We planted a lot of heirloom variety seeds and sold and donated quite a few vegetable plants. We also continue to take care of the other plants at the Nursery. Janitorial work in the community continues to be a source of pride for the whole group. Theresa and Debi are fast, efficient and thorough. Joe and Dan can now dust mop the whole floor at the Boys' and Girls' Club gym with very little assistance from staff.

An exciting addition to our schedule has been work at Impressions, the facility's clothing center. I can't believe how fast the whole group learned the job tasks required at this site. They hang the new clothes that come in, as well as the donations. They bundle socks and underwear and stock the shelves and racks. Theresa is an expert at folding, hanging and bundling. Joe excels at setting up the sock display, as well as the other job tasks. Dan does a wonderful job at hanging the clothes in the proper places and prepping the items for hanging. Work at Impressions



*Jodi Duffy picking up supplies at the program office*

is now one of our favorite jobs!

The Goddard Crew continues to do a few other jobs like prepping the *Eldridge Press*, bed making at Acacia Court, shredding and rivets. We did a short-term job for the Olive Press sanding part of the lettering off of wooden boxes. Theresa was instrumental in figuring out how to complete the job.

It has been a busy year! I am so fortunate to have such wonderful employees. Thanks to everyone for your support.

## Christmas Tree Lane

Due to unforeseen circumstances and the above average rainy December, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at Sonoma Developmental Center was canceled. However, this year a total of 23 departments from the Administrative, Clinical and Medical areas decorated Christmas trees for all to enjoy. During this time, Harney Circle became known as "Christmas Tree Lane."



*Christmas Tree Lane*

## 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, April 15 is the deadline for the 2nd Quarter 2011 issue).

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