



Eldridge Press

Message from the Interim Executive Director *by Patricia Flannery* **(update as of January 31, 2013)**

The beginning of a new year can be an exciting time. For some it is a time to reflect on the past and for others a time to reflect on the present. For many it has become a time to establish “New Year’s Resolutions” that challenge us to appreciate what we have, or perhaps to get better at what we do—or even better still—to continue to grow and change and to be determined to never go backwards. There is no doubt that 2012 was a challenging year for Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC). The heavy focus on negative events and the supports and resources needed to provide services have been slower than expected, but in the end the most difficult has been the realization that some of the SDC residents may have suffered harm or were in harm’s way.

SDC must improve the systems for protection and as a result, get better and stronger at protecting those who live here, and at providing the supports needed for each resident to develop and grow to their individual potential.

The facility continues under review by the California Department of Public Health and the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid, and as a result the road ahead is a difficult one, but one where SDC must begin to change the “how we do,” the “why we do,” and the “methods associated with the work we perform.” Each of us must ask ourselves what changes we can and need to make in our very own jobs, every day, to affect the change needed.

Over these past few months I have had the opportunity to experience many positive activities at SDC, including the sharing of information at town hall meetings, and implementing new systems for change. Each of these opportunities has reminded me of the strength that exists within this very organization, the many staff who are committed and caring employees, and the many men and women (and their families) who rely on us day in and day out.

This next year will be a year of change for SDC. It will need to be a year of “can do” attitudes, a year of “must accomplish” approaches, but most importantly, a year where the facility comes together as a team to raise the standards of care and increase the expectations for all who work here at SDC. We must stay true to our commitment to the men and women who live at SDC, and to the commitment to their families—to ensure that all people who live at SDC will be safe, will be protected, and will be provided a life that is meaningful and has a purpose.

Effective February 4, 2013, Harold Pitchford will assume the leadership position of Interim Executive Director of SDC. The Department of Developmental Services is in the process of reviewing applications submitted for this position and will continue efforts at filling this position with a permanent Executive Director as quickly as possible. Harold was the former Executive Director at both Agnews and Porterville Developmental Centers. His experience and leadership style will be an asset to SDC as we continue to move forward in making the changes needed to improve care.

As I return to my role as the Deputy Director in Sacramento, and I continue to work with SDC on making the change, I am asking each of you to stay true to this commitment, to stay attentive and alert to the needs of SDC residents and to be an active part of the change that must occur at SDC.

Have You Heard?

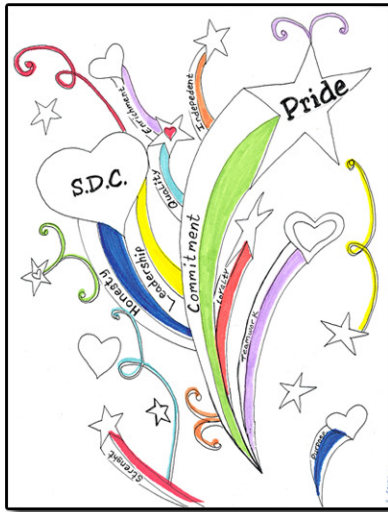
TAKE PRIDE!

The TAKE PRIDE Campaign kicked off on November 19, 2012. TAKE PRIDE to the Sonoma Developmental Center Executive Team means:

- Taking Pride...in the difference you make in the lives of those who live, work and visit SDC!
- Taking Pride...in the job you do each and every day!
- Taking Pride...in the positive difference you are making!
- TAKE PRIDE in SDC!!!

This campaign is for all residents, employees and stakeholders of the facility. It is about recognizing all of the good that occurs as a community for the people who live and work in the town of Eldridge.

The Executive Team was looking for a logo for the TAKE PRIDE campaign. Ballots were sent out for people to cast their vote for their favorite logo. And the winner of the logo contest is Kris Culp from Central Program Services.



A form was created with that winning logo that can be used to submit those "Take Pride" moments to the Executive Committee. These are the submissions thus far and will be included in future issues of the *Eldridge Press*:

- Nelson A residence roof was leaking and flooding. All the residents needed to be evacuated. Facility came together from all disciplines and departments and assisted with the successful move. (Story page 7)
- The IT SDC network crashed which resulted in no GroupWise, ER2000, Therap, etc. The IT team spent numerous hours, including after hours, to get the system up and running in a matter of days.
- When IRIS/GER (Therap Program) was officially up and running, the first employee to enter a GER, received a note and candy from the QA department, thanking them. The employee said, "It made my whole day!"

- Day of Halloween Parade. The majority of SDC employees participated in either being in the parade with a resident or cheering all the residents who were participating in the parade.
- During Licensing, all ICF residences needed to have all laundry that was shredded or torn removed due to pica concerns. Many employees worked well into the night to remove the items, thus protecting the residents.
- A bench by the Marion Rose White Bridge was painted orange (favorite color) for one of the residents who enjoys spending a good portion of his day there. It brought great inspiration to all who saw the bench.

Did You Know?

The following is an update on what has been going on in some of the departments at Sonoma Developmental Center:

Psychology Services:

Psychology Services uses service dogs for client training and therapeutic supports.

The Human Rights Committee now requires medications for insomnia used greater than 14 days have informed consent and HRC approval. Policy changes are pending.

QA Department:

SDC no longer uses the paper Incident Report document. Instead, the Incident Report Information System has a new feature, General Event Reporting (GER), a computerized process to document an incident, which was implemented on November 15.

All staff were trained in the GER process at the end of October and in early November.

Staff, HSSs, Physicians, Department Heads and Program Managers will now document their review in the GER via the computer.

QA staff is available for questions/assistance, but staff can also access the Wiki online for question and answers.

Central Nursing Services (CNS) Department:

Every time a Gastrostomy Tube (GT) accidentally comes out, placement is confirmed by an x-ray prior to being used. Details are in Nursing Policy G800 on the intranet. Staff should always contact the HSS/ACNS for assistance when a GT comes out unplanned at x6698.

Nursing Policy G800B has been revised to clarify how

continued next page

Have You Heard?

“Did You Know?” continued from previous page

to total clients’ intake on page two of the Enteral Feeding Log. See Nursing Policy G800B on the intranet for details.

Every client in the ICF now has an Individualized Pain Scale which serves as a communication tool and assists staff in identifying the correct pain score for each person. This helps in the identification and timely response to pain. Individualized pain scales are located in each client record with the HCOP and with the MTRs.

Every unit that has a person with a GT has a GT binder with up-to-date manufacturer’s information regarding care and maintenance. Look for it in the Nurses’ Station.

CNS Department Licensed Competency Training is now a part of New Employee Orientation so all new licensed staff will demonstrate competency in many key areas of nursing care prior to working directly with clients.

It is recommended that all new licensed staff be audited on medication administration (and GT medication administration where applicable) and signed off as competent by a CNS department RN prior to independently passing meds. Contact the CNS Department at x6555 to arrange for new staff to be signed off.

Clinical:

Changes in management teams are as follows:

Program 2

PD Aleana Carreon
PA Laura Lopez
NC Trina Blankenship

Program 3

PD Paula Prideaux, Acting
PA Dave Stock (RA)
NC Ed Fauble

Program 4

PD Charlotte Jones
PA Renee Bliss
NC Allison Berger

Program 6

PD Chris Zombres, Acting
PA Suzanne Schrier
NC Linda Herrera

Central Program Services

PD Liz Stoddard, Acting
PA Tori Matthis
NC Marie Fay

Medical Department:

All potentially sedating medications (e.g. Benadryl) now require accountability sheets similar to our controlled

medications.

All PRN medications, including sedating antihistamines are delivered in sealed packets in the cassette containing no more than a 72-hour supply and labeled with a client’s name.

Beginning on Saturday, December 15th, everyone that is within three feet of a client and is not vaccinated with the flu vaccine must be wearing a mask, per order of the Sonoma County Public Health Officer. Evidence of flu vaccination is found on the employee, contractor and volunteer ID with an orange tag. It is not too late to get your flu shot. No appointment needed! Contact Public Health at ext. 6591 for clinic hours.

Marni Sager is the new Assistant to the Medical Director.

Administrative Services:

The men and women who live here are entitled to the same privacy and confidentiality that each of us is entitled to. If you observe anyone who is not familiar, including the media, coming near homes, work-sites, day programs, etc., please contact the Office of Protective Services immediately. For more information please refer to Policy 504—Identification Badges.

As of January 11, 2013 hiring information at SDC includes:

Hires/Promotions of:

- 40 Registered Nurses
- 7 Psychiatric Technicians
- 16 other new hires in classifications including Food Service Technicians, Custodians, and other support staff

Prospective employees in backgrounds include:

- 27 Psychiatric Technicians
- 10 Registered Nurses
- 34 other prospective employees in the following classifications: RN Instructor, Specialty Clinic RNs, Standards Compliance Coordinators, Supervising Housekeepers, Senior Psychiatric Technicians, Automotive Equipment Operators, Psychologists, Clinical Social Workers, HSSs, Individual Program Coordinators, Office Technicians and more.

Additionally SDC has ongoing examinations and selection interviews for over 40 classifications currently underway.



Have You Heard?

Suggestion Boxes at SDC

On June 15, 2012 a letter was sent to Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) residents and family members indicating that a Quality Assurance questionnaire had been developed to provide an opportunity for feedback and recommendations. The questionnaire may be completed at any time and mailed or submitted in one of the many suggestion boxes located throughout the facility, including all the residences.

Feedback and recommendations from employees are also valued and appreciated. There are a variety of avenues for input, including: Suggestion Boxes, the communication line x6224, SDC intranet page under Common links—Comments (this page is currently down and in the process of being fixed) or emailing an Executive Team Committee member.

The suggestion boxes are checked on a weekly basis with weekly findings reported to the SDC Executive Committee and Department of Developmental Services.

Over 100 Quality Assurance Questionnaires, comments and recommendations have been collected from the Suggestion Boxes. All of the Quality Assurance Questionnaires submitted thus far have had positive feedback about the care of loved ones at Sonoma Developmental Center and complimentary on the response of the staff working on the residences. The majority of feedback and recommendations had to do with hiring more licensed staff to reduce overtime and hiring retired annuitants.

The following is a breakdown of all suggestions received so far:

- 42% were regarding staffing
- 26% were ideas regarding resources
- 9% were suggestions regarding training
- 6% were miscellaneous suggestions

and

- 17% were positive comments and acknowledgments, including:
 - Positive comments about care of brother on Lathrop residence
 - Sibling had positive comments of staff and the way their loved one was cared for
 - Hopes SDC will always stays open
 - Dr. Smile keeps family well informed of loved one
 - Thank you—believes it is about the clients again
 - Trees on Arnold Drive look great and thank you for replanting with other trees
 - The Halloween parade was great yesterday. Glad it is still happening here.

- Desiree doing excellent job on Johnson C, hire her as permanent unit supervisor
- Services provided good and appearance of family member was rated good

When suggestions are received, comments are sent to appropriate managers and/or supervisors for follow up. Over the next two months, executive staff will revisit each suggestion and address as appropriate to the circumstance. Feedback will be provided in future issues of the *Eldridge Press*.

Town Hall Meetings

Facility-wide Town Hall meetings were held on November 28, December 28 and January 15 by Patricia Flannery, Interim Executive Director and Deputy Director for the Department of Developmental Services, Developmental Centers Division. Over 100 employees were in attendance at the Town Halls, including members of the Executive Team. Town Hall meetings have also been held on the weekends on residences. Topics of discussion included:

- Leadership changes at SDC
- National advertisement for Executive Director
- ICF Licensing Survey
- Conditions of Participation
- Immediate Jeopardy
- Corrective Action Teams
- Decertification
- Loss of ICF License
- ICF re-Survey
- Unscheduled time off at 35% on four random days in early December
- NF Licensing Survey
- California Watch articles
- Upcoming events at SDC
- MTR survey
- Fire alarm project
- Sprinkler project
- Comprehensive Assessments for all residents by Regional Centers
- Eldridge Press newsletter: “Did you know” section with updates on various departments, suggestion boxes input/comments
- Take Pride campaign
- Administrative reassignment process
- Realignment of residential services
- Communication
- Decertification of four ICF homes
- Governor’s budget
- Advertisement for Clinical Director

continued next page

Have You Heard?

“Suggestion Boxes” continued from previous page

- Advertisement for Administrative Services Director

We Were Prepared!

On October 22 at approximately 4:00 AM, the Nelson Core residences contacted the switchboard to report the fire alarms were sounding off. The Eldridge Fire Department and Plant Operations staff responded and it became very apparent that the Nelson A roof was leaking, primarily in the bedrooms (the Nelson Building was undergoing roof renovations at the time).

The SDC incident command center was established in the lobby area and immediate notification was sent to the SDC Executive Team. Numerous staff, including many night shift employees, assisted the Nelson A residents to evacuate to other locations. The residences identified with available beds included Cromwell, Nelson B, C and D, and Johnson B, as temporary sites for the 20 individuals living on Nelson A. There was also water damage to one of the bedrooms on Nelson B; however we were able to relocate those individuals within the residence.

All of the residents were evaluated by Registered Nurses from the Central Nursing Services Department, Psychologists, as well as by the Physicians. Level of care staff were oriented to the needs of the residents before relocating them and familiar staff was sent to work with the former Nelson A residents in their new homes (which continues today). All individuals were safely placed in their new homes by noon. There were no injuries to residents or staff.

We were prepared because SDC activates a simulated emergency drill twice a year. 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.

Christmas Ornaments to Sacramento

Residents from Sonoma Developmental Center created over forty ornaments for the annual State Capital Tree Lighting Ceremony in Sacramento. The 81st Annual Capitol Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on Wednesday, December 5th on the West Steps of the State Capitol.

The tree was decorated with hundreds of hand-crafted ornaments created by children and adults with develop-

mental disabilities who receive services and support from the state’s development centers and 21 nonprofit regional centers. It 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 CDs, foamed snowman, decorated wooden wheels, colorful plastic lids with glitter, water colored ornaments, plastic colored stars, and many individualized ornaments made from paper and paper plates that were laminated to protect them from rainy weather.



Some of the ornaments that went to Sacramento

Advocacy Corner

Savaing’s Message

*by Savaing Sok**

At Sonoma Developmental Center, we have advocacy groups. We talk about our day, if it was good or bad; we talk about how we spent our day; we talk about our rights; we talk about our dreams; and we plan trips. We also help each other solve problems. We have gone to Sugarloaf, Camp Via, the farm, and the Eldridge Store. We have monthly town hall meetings and have guest speakers.

I am a member of People First of California and I represent Region 4, which includes Sonoma County, Solano County, and Napa County. I attended my first board meeting for People First of California in March and attended my first People First Conference in Bakersfield as a board member in June. I attended my second board meeting in September. We chose San Jose as the next city for the Annual People First Conference. I attend a Regional Advocacy meeting in Napa as well. I like getting more people involved with Advocacy.

I am on the Human Rights Committee at Sonoma Developmental Center and bring up any issues that people who live here have. Some of the concerns people who live here have are that some of the sidewalks have cracks in them and people trip, we want better paying jobs, the Butler Pool needs to be fixed, and they needed to paint the white lines going up to Sunrise and they did.



Savaing Sok

continued next page

Advocacy Corner

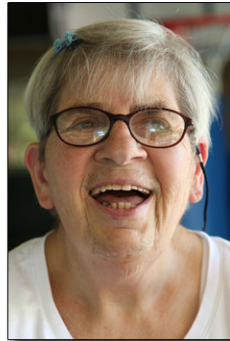
Savaing Sok, continued from previous page

We also do a monthly advocacy poster that is distributed to everyone at Sonoma Developmental Center. My artwork has been featured in the past.

**assisted by JJ Fernandez*

Marcia's Message *by Marcia Dinkelspiel**

My name is Marcia Dinkelspiel. I live on Cohen Cottage with all my friends. I am a member of the Statewide Consumer Advisory Committee in Sacramento. I attended the board meeting on November 6 and 7.



Marcia Dinkelspiel

I showed my People First group at Sonoma Developmental Center the leadership DVD on public speaking. I told them that I also get nervous when doing public speaking like Michelle (from the DVD), but the more I do it, and the more I speak, the better I get.

I also showed the leadership DVD, "Managing My Money." I told the group how I saved my money so I could buy a lamp in Petaluma, because the glass broke on my old lamp. Like Betty (from the DVD), I saved my money to buy something I wanted. It is all about "Think, Plan, Do"!

Disability Rights California was a guest speaker at my advocacy group and they are going to start coming more and doing presentations at day programs and at residences.

I signed up for the webcast training with JJ (JJ Fernandez, Assistant to the Executive Director at SDC). He will help me create my own email address for the future. I got my password from Nicole who works in Sacramento. I am also on the Emergency Preparedness Committee and I like to perform in the musical play. I like to draw and have had my art work featured as an advocacy poster.

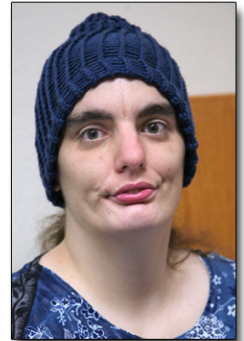
**assisted by JJ Fernandez*

Donna's Message *by Donna Shields**

My name is Donna Shields and I am from Concord, California. I live at Sonoma Developmental Center and I am good at artwork. I knit hats and make beaded key chains. I like to ride my bike.

I enjoy coming to Advocacy meetings on Wednesdays and like helping others speak up and speak out. I have gone to Sacramento to People First of California conferences and have spent the night. When I attended the last time, I played the dating game and was picked to go on a date, which was so-so. I enjoy going so I can meet new people and see my old friends. I hope to go again in the future. I am planning on attending the quarterly advocacy meeting in Napa, California in January.

I worked for the United States Post Office for seven years in Porterville and Yuba City. I am working on getting a job at the mail room at Sonoma Developmental Center. I hope to help sort the mail, deliver the mail, and weigh the mail and put stamps on outgoing mail.



Donna Shields

For my future, I would like to help children, be a teacher's aide and live independently in the community near my family. That is my goal.

**assisted by JJ Fernandez*

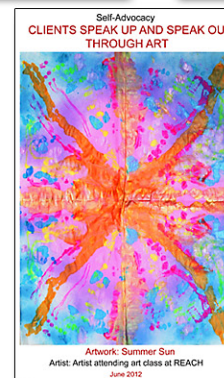
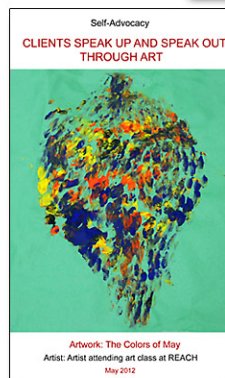
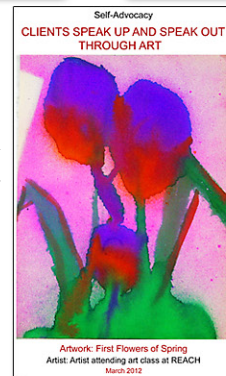
Advocacy Posters—2012

(all artwork by SDC residents)



January
and
February

March
and
April



May
and
June

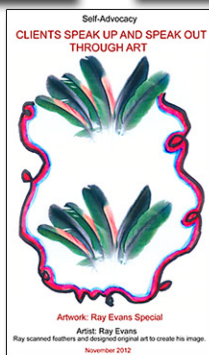
Sustained Superior Achievement Awards

2012 Advocacy posters, continued from previous page

July and August



September and October



November and December



Sustained Superior Achievement Awards

Annual 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 October 25, 2012. 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.

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 Interim Administrative Services Director Teresa Murphy, entitled *Cheers!* and based on the famous TV program. Ms Murphy originally wrote *Cheers!* for the awards luncheon in 1999 and with the help of Mark Harrison, she updated the play for use this year. Everyone was entertained with the witty observations about working here and featuring new lyrics to well-known songs. Cast members included Chris Zombres, Becky Zyskowski, Jim Tallent, Dirk Tuinstra, Ed Fauble, Rosanne Groshan, Susan Albrecht, Joven Villanueva, Brenda Dukes and Roy Johnson. Deirdre Egan provided the music and the Kris Culp painted the "set" on old sheets.



Cheers!, L to R: Jim Tallent as Norm, Becky Zyskowski as Diane & Chris Zombres as Sam

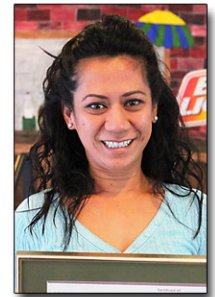
Award Winners



Holly Ackworth
Custodian



Tony Anderson
Fire Fighter



Elaine Antinaja
Psych Tech



Performing Arts Committee, L to R: Kris Culp, Laura Farwell-Burricelli, Sherrill Peterson, Jana Bauerson & Becky Zyskowski (not pictured: Wes Caswell)

more award winners next page

Sustained Superior Achievement Awards



*Joan Nelson, Unit Supervisor
& Karon Tyler, Registered
Nurse*



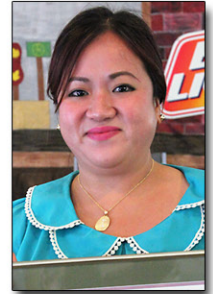
*Adam Basler
Education Coordinator*



*Ongela Buchannan
Licensed Vocational
Nurse*



*Alma Flores
Unit Supervisor*



*Marianne Gamboa
Psych Tech*



*Daniel Green
Custodian*



*Roseanne Groshan
General Svcs
Administrator I*



*Nayeli Hidalgo
Registered Nurse/
Shift Lead*



*Suzanne Howard
Sr Psych Tech*



*Jan Humphreys
Unit Supervisor*



*Becky Jasperse
Asst Director
of Dietetics*



*Diane Kane
Teacher*



*Jeff Patterson
Office Tech*

*Not pictured:
Rhonda Denny
Vocational Resource
Specialist*

Centennial Award



*Roy Johnson
Acting Administrative Services Director*



*Public Health: Iva Poncia,
Office Tech (L) & Patty
Wang, Registered Nurse*



*Bill Quinn
Psych Tech Instructor*



*Tracy Whitten
Music Therapist*



*Gail Yamamoto
Dietician*

Community Happenings

Celebrate Sonoma

On September 6th staff and residents of the Sonoma Developmental Center celebrated their diversity at the annual Celebrate Sonoma event. The decades-old event began as a luau-style employee picnic that has grown over the years to include SDC residents as well.

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 evening before, with a ceremonial burning of oak logs in a pit in the ground. The pigs and turkeys cook all night long, tended to by a group of volunteers. Everyone is treated to a luau-style feast of rice, fruit, and 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 with photo opportunities with animals from the Eldridge Farm. There was a diverse array of entertainment venues including music and dance demonstrations.



Musicians entertaining at Celebrate Sonoma

Remembrance Day

The California Memorial Project presented the 10th Annual Remembrance Day Ceremony at Sonoma Developmental Center at the Butler Gazebo on Monday, September 17, 2012.

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.

The California Memorial Project hosted simultaneous events in other cities, as well as developmental centers and state hospitals throughout California, and established the third Monday in September as Remembrance Day. Each event was open to



Music Therapists Olga Kulikouskaya & Melissa Preston provide music at Remembrance Day

the public and featured remembrances, poems, songs, and refreshments. Those in attendance observed a moment of silence at 1:55 PM to show respect for people with developmental or mental disabilities who have died.

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.

Aaarrgh!!

The Performing Arts Company at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) was pleased to present this year's performance of *AAARRRGH*, a pirate story.

The Performing Arts Company, a committee made up of 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 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." Other performances have included, "Best of Broadway," "The Music Man," "The Wizard of Oz" and "Musical Time Travel."

Open auditions for the play began in early spring. Rehearsals were held throughout the summer months, and live performances were presented on September 25th and 26th and October 2nd and October 3rd at the facility gymnasium. The cast was comprised of approximately 40 singers, dancers, actors and musicians.

The event was sold out all four nights including residents, family members, employees, and individuals from the public. The committee is already hard at work planning next year's performance.



Pirates on stage

Note:

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

Community Happenings

Eldridge Farm Events

The Eldridge Farm held two events this fall, the Annual Blessing of the Animals and Farm Day.

The Blessing of the Animals took place at the Eldridge Farm on October 23rd. 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.



Fr. Patrick Leslie prepares to bless Pedro the parrot



Live music (left) at Farm Day

On November 10th, Farm Day was held at the farm with snacks and refreshments, arts and crafts, and live music. The residents enjoyed visiting the animals, including Mijo the miniature

donkey, Loki the sheep, Pedro the Amazon parrot, Melissa and Munch the miniature horses, and many more.

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.

Halloween

Sonoma Developmental Center celebrated Halloween on October 31, 2012 with the annual Halloween parade and carnival.

The day started with the 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, all the individuals 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, "Dia de los Muertos," from Program 2. Another highlight of the parade was the return of the Sonoma Valley High School marching band.

Later in the afternoon, the carnival took place and participants were able to play a variety of games, listen and dance to live music and enjoy ghoulish refreshments of lemon plasma (lemonade) or blood punch (fruit punch).



Grand prize winner: Dia de los Muertos



The Fire Department passes by the crowd at the Halloween parade



more Dia de los Muertos



Staff from CPS at the carnival

Community Happenings

Tree Lighting Ceremony

Sonoma Developmental Center held the 4th annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 11, 2012 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 was lit at 4:30 PM. Various programs and departments throughout the facility decorated the 26 trees for all to enjoy during the month of December. Those in attendance voted for their favorite tree, with the top three winners receiving trophies from Santa.

And the winners were:

1st place: Program 4

2nd place: Central Nursing Services Department

3rd place: Nutrition Department



Above: Decorated trees



Program 4's tree



Right: Carollers entertain the crowd

Holiday Craft Fair

Sonoma Developmental Center held the annual Holiday Craft Fair on December 5 and 6, 2012 at the facility's gymnasium. The Center has held a Craft Fair every year for over 20 years, to raise funds for client activities that are not funded by the state.

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.



Holiday Craft Fair

There were many great holiday gifts and decorations and with more than 25 vendors each day, shoppers were sure to find that perfect item!

Napa Psych Tech Graduation

On Wednesday, December 19, twenty-two students graduated from the Napa Valley College Psychiatric Technician Program during an evening ceremony held in the theatre at the college. A catered reception followed the ceremony in the cafeteria.

The students enroll in an eighteen-month program that teaches them pertinent skills that are used in the care, treatment, and rehabilitation of mentally ill, emotionally disturbed, or developmentally disabled individuals. Sonoma Developmental Center would like to congratulate employee James Hood on his accomplishment.



James Hood

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, February 15 is the deadline for the March 2013 issue).

Eldridge Press
Volume 9, Number 1, © February 2013

Edited by: Jorge (JJ) Fernandez
Office of Planning & Communications

Published by:
Sonoma Developmental Center
P.O. Box 1493
Eldridge, CA 95431

Photography & layout: Nancy Flack
Central Program Services