



Eldridge Press

Message from the Executive Director

by James E. Rogers

Sonoma Developmental Center has been fully engaged in the strategic planning process, and many of you joined me recently for overviews of our upcoming formal plan document. Additional meetings are being scheduled for those of you who have not yet had the opportunity to attend, and I hope to make the document available electronically to everyone in the near future. Implementation teams with broad membership have been making a great deal of progress in working on our initial focus objectives. Updates will definitely continue to be provided as we move ahead.

At press time, many Sonoma Developmental Center consumers are gearing up to attend the People First conference in Sacramento, California June 6–8, 2008. I am delighted to see the revitalization of the self-advocacy movement here at Sonoma and am excited to hear about their experiences upon their return.

In conclusion, I would like to invite all *Eldridge Press* readers to join us for a day of fun at the Second Annual Sonoma Valley Footrace and Festival on Saturday, June 21, 2008.



Jim Rogers

Sonoma Valley Footrace & Festival

The Second Annual Sonoma Valley Footrace and Festival will be held on the grounds of the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) on Saturday, June 21, 2008. The event is sponsored by the Parent Hospital Association and the SDC's Women's Auxiliary.

The Parent Hospital Association (PHA) has been devoted to advocating for individuals with developmental disabilities for over fifty years. As a non-profit organization, the PHA provides monetary support for a variety of programs and services at SDC.

The Women's Auxiliary is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1972 to advance the welfare of individuals living at SDC by providing funds to carry out projects to support their recreational and educational needs.

The event will start off at 9 AM with a 5k run/walk and an advanced 10k run. Both courses run through the streets of SDC, with the 10k going off-road at times, offering a scenic view of the beautiful SDC campus. Advance registration fees for the race are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and under. On race day, registration is \$30 for adults and \$20 for children. All



Last year's festival

race participants will receive a commemorative t-shirt. Adults also receive a glass and two drink tickets.

The Festival will be open from 9 AM to 2 PM, and will feature events and activities to entertain people of all ages. There will be a car show, beer and wine tasting starting at 10 AM, food vendors, carnival games and attractions, a kids fun run at 11 AM, and music all day by Harvey and the Wallbangers. Sorry, but no pets are allowed.

Anyone interested in the footrace, the festival, or to volunteer at the event should contact Becky Zyskowski at (707) 938-6713 or check the website at www.dds.ca.gov/svff.



Last year's footrace

Have You Heard?

Letter to the Editor

by Barbara Turner, Parent and Past President of the Parent Hospital Association (PHA)

It's a great pleasure for me to read the *Eldridge Press* with news of the activities, the treatment, care, and fun happening at Sonoma Developmental Center.

My daughter, Linda, came to Sonoma in 1954. It was an entirely different place then. Residents were dressed all alike in prison-made clothes. They slept in larger rooms on cots pushed together to keep them from falling out. Outside in the recreation area, a bleak asphalt front or backyard, there were residents, some without clothes, just people wandering about with an attendant watching over them.

Parents organized as PHA and joined with parents at other Developmental Centers (DCs), all of us represented by CASHPCR (California Association of State Hospital Parent Councils for the Retarded). We were supported by the workers, their unions, and parent groups in the community. Together we went to Sacramento, to the Governor, legislature, and the press.

We had committees on sleeping arrangements, food, clothing, recreation and on the rights of these citizens who were residents of the developmental centers. When we went to Sacramento we brought evidence, stories that documented the living conditions at the DCs.

These efforts helped bring about changes in attitude. No more "put them away and forget them," the advice of many physicians at the time. Instead there was a recognition of the needs, of the importance of good care, and the human rights of a vulnerable population.

I write this because the difference between then and now is so remarkable. We must continue to work to insure the maintenance of these developmental centers with the expertise, knowledge, and creativity of staff that help meet the needs of our most vulnerable population. There needs to be recognition of the fact that some persons desperately need the care and treatment offered at our developmental centers. For those citizens the DC is the "least restrictive environment." The DC is an environment designed to meet their needs and creates opportunities for them.

We see the DCs as a significant and necessary part of a continuum of services for all those in need and wherever they may live. We are as concerned for peers of our relatives living in the communities as we are for our relatives—we are all in this together. To the many challenges still facing us I believe we can meet these as we



Barbara Turner

have others.

Thank you, Jim Rogers, a great director and a wonderful staff. Keep up the good work!

Sonoma Regional Project Gets New Director

Liz Stoddard takes the helm as the new Director of the Regional Resource Development Project (RRDP) at Sonoma Developmental Center effective June 2, 2008.

The staff of the RRDP, known locally as Sonoma Regional Project (SRP), facilitate activities regarding the continuum of services and supports available to Sonoma Developmental Center residents and their families, staff, regional centers, and community care providers, with the goal of advancing choice, independence, dignity, and health in the least restrictive environment.

Liz Stoddard was selected from a field of more than 10 outstanding candidates for the position as SRP Director. With over 30 years of experience in the field of developmental disabilities, Stoddard holds a Special Education teaching credential and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology.

She was hired as a Special Education Teacher for the Department of Developmental Services in San Jose in the 1970s and moved quickly into leadership capacities, including Education Coordinator and Assistant Chief of Education. Stoddard came to Sonoma nearly a decade ago, and has held increasingly responsible roles, including her most current assignment as Assistant to the Medical Director.

Stoddard has served as the Center's loaned executive to the United Way, and remains very active in the California State Employees Charitable Campaign. She also volunteers for other activities in support of consumers and their families.

As a leader, Stoddard has superior communication and team building skills. She has long been regarded as a problem solver and is willing to take on some of the most challenging assignments. She has devoted her career to advocating for consumers and has had extensive experience in collaborating with developmental center staff, families, and advocates and in working with external entities including County Offices of Education.

Congratulations, Liz!



Liz Stoddard

Emmet Band Retires

Emmet Band, Assistive Technology Supervisor, is retiring from Sonoma Developmental Center after 31 years of state service. Band started his career at Sonoma as a Graduate Student Assistant in 1977 and then after a nine-month period, he became a Social Worker Assistant. A year later he became a Supportive Equipment Adaptor and eventually promoted to Assistive Technology Supervisor. Band's entire career at Sonoma Developmental Center has been with seating systems from its inception in 1974 when "V-back" chairs were being created in a classroom site.

As time passed, the shop eventually grew to accommodate the needs of the individuals who reside at the center. The shop initially started building seating systems and has continually expanded the range of services. The goal always has been to respond promptly to client needs while increasing the availability of services.

As Assistive Technology Supervisor he managed Adaptive Engineering Services, Adaptive Technology Resource Services, and the Shoe Shop. Band also began a program to get bicycles refurbished which he gave to employees so they could cycle around the large campus, provided Wheels For Humanity with surplus medical equipment, organized trainings, provided developmentally disabled individuals in the community with seating systems, and has done countless tours of his areas. The California State Assembly recognized his department in 1982 for its excellent work. Band was recognized by the facility in 2007 as Supervisor of Excellence.

When asked what he loved most about his job, Band replied, "I loved working with the clients of SDC and being allowed the freedom to think outside the box. The job allowed me to do more than just supervise staff and build seating systems, I was also able to work with community members, conduct tours, organize in-services and symposiums, provide community members with services, and work with wonderful and caring staff." When asked what he will miss most about his job, his reply was, "The people are what made the job so much fun, also, again, being able to say 'Yes! We can do that!' I very much enjoyed saying we can do this or that and then figuring out how we could do what I had committed to doing."

Some of his most memorable moments include watching a resident fall asleep in a new seating system, "a sure sign that we did our job right," having someone call the shop after hours expecting to leave a message and having someone answer the phone, and "watching the smile on the



Emmet Band

client's face when they got a new pair of shoes." He also talked about how much joy he got from watching the staff he supervised "grow into the job." Band will officially retire in July, but he has already packed his bags and moved to Grants Pass, Oregon. He plans to work on his house, ride his bike through Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, and someday Burma. He hopes to work with Habitat For Humanity and the Special Olympics in Josephine County, Oregon.

When asked if there is anything he would like to add, Band said, "I very much miss all the wonderful people I have worked with over the past years, some for decades. I have so many heartfelt memories that if I began to jot down names and moments, this response would be pages long. I will miss the residents, some of whom are with us today and others who have passed on." In closing he says, "I wish you all well; enjoy life and bring joy with you wherever you are!"

Dale's Home in Redwood City

by Julie Zilliotto, Community Program Specialist, Sonoma Regional Project

Kim L. and Natasha H. from the Lathrop residence and Robert B. from the Stoneman residence moved to Dale's Home in Redwood City this past year.

Lori Pretes and Rolando Castro from Golden Gate Regional Center helped the trio to find Dale's Home, which is described as a three-bedroom home with two bathrooms, a large deck/patio area, a large family room, open kitchen, and formal dining area, is located in a well-established neighborhood, close to parks, shopping, recreation center, and day programs.

The Lathrop team, including Linda Young, Residence Manager; Sue Esposti, Senior Psychiatric Technician; and Karen Leung and Nora Santos, Psychiatric Technician Assistants, and others were instrumental during the transition in supporting Kim and Natasha, by assisting with visits and cross training of staff at Kim and Natasha's new home. The Stoneman team, including Liz Hammill, Residence Manager; Pam Mueller, Senior Psychiatric Technician; Mark Hecker, Psychiatric Technician; Dr. Jerry Camarata, and others supported Robert in the same way.

Ian Mauricio and Marissa Martin from Dale's Home spent many hours at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) interacting with Kim, Natasha, and Robert. They built a strong, trusting relationship with all three individuals prior to moving into their new home.

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Recognition

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Kim, Natasha, and Robert attend many community functions and outings, beach trips, park walks, baseball games, birthday celebrations with other group homes, holiday special events at the community center, dances, and farmers market.

They also attend Cole Vocational Day program in San Mateo. Cole Vocational provides activities at the facility and in the community, including daily art programs, music group/drumming, physical fitness, and paid work programs. Community outings include trips within the San Francisco area like the zoo, parks, beaches, and more.

At home, Natasha loves to sit in her swing on the deck. Robert likes to be pushed up and down the hallway by his peer. Their giggles and laughter can be heard throughout the house when this is going on. Kim likes having her own room and access to her large back yard.

Volunteers & Donors Recognition Dinner

Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) recognized its many volunteers and donors at the annual Volunteer and Donor Recognition Dinner and Awards Ceremony on Saturday, April 26, 2008. The event's theme was "Spring Fling" and it took place under a large party tent, fantastically decorated and set up on the lawn behind Sonoma House. Chef Zack Leventis prepared the evening's scrumptious hors d'oeuvres, marvelous dinner, and delicious dessert. Those in attendance were also treated to an array of refreshments and a night of live entertainment, including music by Plan B and an enjoyable magic show by local valley resident and magician, Roger Rhoten. In addition, roaming photographers took photos of the various groups attending and then presented copies of the photos to each volunteer and donor attending.



*The Volunteers & Donors
Recognition Dinner*

The night ended with certificates of appreciation being handed out to each volunteer and donor, along with a lunch tote with water bottle. Speakers at the event included James E. Rogers, Executive Director of Sonoma Developmental Center; Becky Zyskowski, Coordinator of Volunteer Services; and invocation by the facility's Catholic Priest, Father Patrick Leslie and Rabbi Bob Kraus.

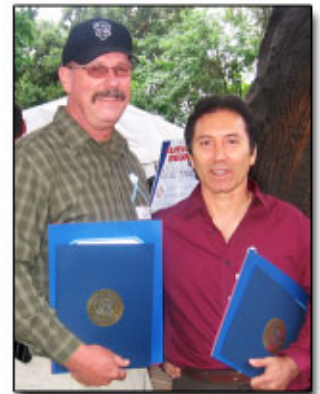
SDC Emergency Responders Receive Federal Commendations

Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) carpenters Kyle Hale, John Loftus, Matt Salopek, and Scott Colburn, along with firefighters Matt Wales, Geoff Chatfield, and Mark Swanson, and Assistant Coordinator of Nursing Services (ACNS) David Mendez, received federal commendations at the 15th Annual Survivors Reunion at Benziger Winery in Glen Ellen on May 23, 2008.

The event, sponsored by the Sonoma County Paramedic Association (SCPA), is held during National Emergency Medical Services week, which ran May 18–24, 2008 and included events across the nation organized around the theme, "Your Life is Our Mission."

Each year, the SCPA event highlights several rescue/saves within Sonoma County in which Emergency Medical Services providers made significant contributions to the well being of victims of illness or injury. At the reunion, Master of Ceremonies Brent Farris of radio station KZST shared stories of survivors and rescuers. Certificates were awarded; then emergency responders and incident survivors had the opportunity to visit with one another during a catered dinner. The survivors, according to SCPA president Ken Bradford, also received a plaque and their photo was taken with their rescuers. "Lots of Kleenex gets used that night," says Bradford of the event.

SDC employees received certificates of honor from the United States Congress, the California State Senate and California State Assembly for their response to a May 2007 incident in which an SDC employee experienced cardiac arrest while on duty. The carpenters listed above initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation and called for emergency personnel. When the Eldridge Fire Department and ACNS arrived they worked diligently to regain pulse and stabilized the victim so he could be transported via Sonoma Valley Fire Department to Sonoma Valley Hospital. Emergency responders from Sonoma Valley Fire and the Hospital were also recognized at the Reunion for their life-saving efforts in this instance.



*Geoff Chatfield and
David Mendez with their
recognition papers
[Photo by Sara Pelayo]*

Santa Rosa Junior College & Napa Valley College Graduations

Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) is proud to announce that there were two graduating classes of Psychiatric Technicians in May 2008. The students enrolled in an eighteen-month program through Napa Valley College (NVC) or Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC), where they learned pertinent skills that are used in the care and treatment of developmentally disabled individuals. Santa Rosa Junior College's program has been held at SDC since September 2004, offering students the unique opportunity for hands-on experience while attending classes. Upon graduation the students are eligible to take the state board exam and become licensed Psychiatric Technicians.

In addition to family members and friends of the graduates, members of the Executive Team, numerous managers and supervisors also attended the spring graduation ceremonies and celebrations for the two Psychiatric Technician Programs.

Santa Rosa Junior College held its graduation on Wednesday, May 21, 2008, with a total of 10 graduates, six of who are employees of SDC. We would like to congratulate our graduating staff: Cornelius Crawford, Sam Nichols, Julie Ariss Reggio, Eduardo Santos, Hae Ja Timoney and Todd Wilhelm.

Napa Valley College held its graduation on Wednesday, May 28, 2008 with 11 graduates employed by the center. We would also like to congratulate graduating staff: Adlain Alfonso, Natividad Bamba, Corino Concepcion, Jerdette Dacullo, Darell DeMesa, Delores Logan, Alvin Lusung, Zhi-ying McQuillon, Cesario Pitarque, Sarah Silmaro, and Romeo Sevilla.



New psychiatric technician graduates: SRJC above, NVC below



April Employee of the Month

The Employee of the Month for April is LeeAnn Reger-Alves, Psychiatric Technician on Bane.

When the night shift Senior Psychiatric Technician was out for an extended period of time, "LeeAnn stepped right in and took up the responsibilities without missing a beat," according to the staff that nominated her. Reger-Alves made a difference by developing systems that tracked training and development records to ensure that all staff read and signed them off and updated the unit's lab tracking and filing systems. "She is always looking for ways to enrich the lives of the clients; she is very active in decorating their rooms with special personal touches and making items they need within reach. LeeAnn seems to have non-stop energy and is always a very positive person." Congratulations on your award, LeeAnn!



LeeAnn Reger-Alves

May Employee of the Month

The Employee of the Month for May is Lura Tibbets-Kleber, Psychologist from Stoneman.

From the very beginning Tibbets-Kleber has immersed herself in the lives of the clients. Her nominator says, "She actively participated in the client events such as the summer block parties, Halloween, Christmas shopping, and holiday parties." Tibbets-Kleber has increased her time base from half time to full time so she could "spend more time with the clients in various settings throughout their days, including off sites and dining activities." She is said to have excellent relationships with fellow team members. "She is very gracious and respectful in meetings, sometimes taking on the role of facilitator when issues become complex or contentious. Program one is fortunate to have someone of Lura's caliber on staff." Way to go, Lura!!



Lura Tibbets-Kleber

Note:

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

Community Happenings

Fashion Show

Sonoma Developmental Center held its annual Fashion Show on Tuesday, April 8, 2008. Modeling the latest fashions from First Impressions, the facility's clothing store, this year's theme was "Dressing for Traveling the World."

Approximately forty residents of the facility modeled the latest clothing and accessories as they walked down the colorful runway. Some of the fashions included a stunning black jacket with gold brocade trim and matching cuffs, a moss green plaid skirt with a understated short-sleeve brown sweater, and an olive and black shirt covered in tropical hibiscus with tan pants.



Fashion Show

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 places around the world, including taking a train ride to Monte Rosa in the Chiavari area of the western Italian coast, and clubbing at the famous Moulin Rouge in Paris.

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

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

Passover Seder

Passover Seder was held on Thursday, April 17, 2008 with the service being performed by Rabbi Bob Krause. Guest speakers included Jim Rogers, Executive Director, and Jim Boika, Program Assistant. Rabbi Krause's enthusiastic ceremony included participation by audience members, including singing many of the traditional songs. Sherrill Peterson, Music Therapist, performed the music. During the service Rabbi Krause explained the history of Passover and its connection to the Seder. He also described the traditional foods that would be served after the service and their meaning. The REACH dance hall was elegantly decorated for the occasion and it was very apparent that everyone was having a lovely time.



Rabbi Bob Krause explains the meaning of Passover

REACH Arts Week: Art Show

The annual Art Show by the residents of Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) was held on Tuesday, April 22nd from 10 AM to 5 PM and Wednesday, April 23rd from 10 AM to 5 PM. There were approximately eighty pieces of client artwork on display.

Melodie Mitchell, a Music Therapist at SDC, has organized the Art Show for the past four years. The individuals who reside at Sonoma Developmental Center create all the artwork for the show. Some began creating their artwork last year and held onto it until this year's show. Others attended workshops taught by local artists Tamara Unger, Patrick McMurtry, and Tony Armlin at the campus activity center, REACH.



Admiring the art

The Art Show is a very popular event at SDC. The residents enjoy creating the art and showing it off. "The Art Show is all about the residents receiving recognition for their talent and it's their time to shine," Mitchell states. There was a wide variety of art pieces on display, including paintings, ceramics, mosaics, papier-mache, and collage art. The "gallery" was open for viewing from 10 AM to 5 PM each day with a private "Meet the Artists" reception on the evening of the 22nd.

REACH Arts Week: Talent Show

The annual Talent Show for the residents of Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) was held on Thursday, April 24, 2007 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. There were 22 individuals performing in the Talent Show and each performer received a participation medal and certificate.

Melodie Mitchell, a Music Therapist at SDC, has organized the event for the past six years. The residents choose what they would like to perform, be it a song, a dance, or a skit. As with any talent show, rehearsals are held on a regular basis at Club REACH, the facility-wide activity center. This year's show hosted a wide variety of musical talents.



Talent Show act

"The Talent Show gives the residents an opportunity to be in the spotlight. They enjoy being the star!" Mitchell states. The Talent Show is part of the REACH Art Week at SDC.

Community Happenings

Cinco de Mayo

Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) celebrated its annual Cinco de Mayo festivities on Monday, May 5, 2008. Like most communities, the Center has been observing Cinco de Mayo for many years. Paul Nieuwenhuijs, Rehabilitation Therapist and coordinator of the event, has been employed by the facility for more than 30 years. He explained, "We have four facility-wide events in which all those residing at the center and those employed by SDC get together to socialize and have fun. It's a team effort. From the residential programs, to other departments, including transportation, we all work together to make this happen for the people who live here." The other three facility-wide events include the Fourth of July celebration, Celebrate Sonoma (a multicultural event held in September that includes ethnic food, music, and games), and Halloween.



Crafts project in the Ordahl courtyard at Cinco de Mayo

The Cinco de Mayo festivities kicked off in the morning at two locations. The first location is the beautiful Ordahl courtyard, which is set up to make it easy for the more physically fragile people to attend. The whole area was festively decorated in red, white, and green, and featured flowers everywhere. In addition to the Mariachi band, there were arts and crafts projects, games (with prizes), temporary tattoos, a photo booth, and refreshments available. The second morning location is on the Sonoma House lawns, also decorated in red, white, and green, and which featured another band, in addition to games, temporary tattoos, another photo booth, and refreshments.



Dancing on the Sonoma House lawn at Cinco de Mayo

In the afternoon, we had a large centralized event on the Sonoma House lawns. White party tents were erected all over the lawn to provide shade for everyone. The Mariachi band joined us there and played all afternoon. In addition, we had a photo booth, a temporary tattoo booth, and many game booths with prizes. Afternoon refreshments included cheese quesadillas, nachos, chili con carne, salsa, flan, and non-alcoholic margaritas, as well as other refreshments.

It was a beautiful late spring day; the temperature was perfect; the music and activities were fun; the food was excellent; and we all had a wonderful time.

Hoe Down

The Hoe Down took place on Friday, May 16, 2008, a very warm day. The event was held on the courtyard of REACH, where many of the attendees could be observed sitting in the swinging outdoor patio chairs, swaying to the music. Some came dressed in their western attire, and many enjoyed the misters scattered throughout the yard. Everyone seemed to enjoy the annual shindig with live music, cool refreshments, a western style photo booth, and ever-so-popular squirt gun game. Prizes included straw cowboy hats, sheriff badges, squirt guns, bandanas, and other western-themed paraphernalia. It was apparent from all the smiles and laughter that everyone was having a wonderful time.



The "squirt gun" is actually a hose (but more fun!) at the Hoe Down

End of the School Year Ceremonies

by Christy Delucchi, Teacher

Central Program Services' (CPS) Education program, in conjunction with Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE), held their End of the Year Education Ceremonies, Tuesday, May 20 in the beautiful courtyard off the Ordahl building. Jeannie Knighton, Director of SDC Programs for SCOE; Jim Boika, CPS Program Assistant; Dan Buscovich, Special Education Coordinator; and Jim Rogers, SDC Executive Director gave inspiring speeches and words of thanks. In attendance were the classes from Altimira with teacher Laura Connors, Powers Portable with teacher Mekiele Perkins, and Acorn School with teacher Christy Delucchi. The teachers spoke briefly about each student, handing out certificates mentioning their strengths and progress, and thanking all the different individuals who have helped in their classes throughout the year. There to join in the celebrations were many of the Executive Team, Program Directors, and of



Christy Delucchi speaking at the End of Year Ceremonies

course families of the students. There was one student graduating this year and moving on to adult programs. At the end of the Ceremonies, there was a wonderful barbeque provided by the main kitchen for all to enjoy. Also being recognized were the high school students from Hanna Boys Center and their teacher, Joe Felice, who have come all year working with the students in the Acorn School classroom. In a culmination of career awareness activities at Sonoma Developmental Center, on Thursday of that week, several of the boys were shadowing in the Plant Operations department, as well as Food Service to have an on-the-job observation of the skills needed to work in those departments.

More Recognition

Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Recognition

The 36th Annual Foster Grandparent and 30th Annual Senior Companion Recognition Day took place on April 18, 2008. The program started with Paul Belcher, Project Director, talking about the program and all the wonderful work the volunteers do while serving the residents at Sonoma. Fifty-seven individuals were recognized during the ceremony. Other guest speakers included an invocation by Father Leslie, the Catholic Chaplain; the pledge of allegiance by Estrella Angeles, Advisory Council Member and Senior Companion; and acknowledgment from James E. Rogers, Executive Director.

Foster Grandparents work with adolescents with developmental disabilities, while Senior Companions work with adults with developmental disabilities. A Senior Companion or Foster Grandparent also receives a tax-exempt stipend, a meal on the days they work, paid holidays, earned sick and vacation time, and an annual health appraisal. Of those being honored, one individual was recognized for serving the individuals at Sonoma for 31 years. For more information about the program, contact Paul Belcher at (707) 938-6201.



Project Director Paul Belcher welcomes the Foster Grandparents & Senior Companions

Kudos

● Kudos to Debra Hamilton, Teacher from Sifford, who assisted a client in need in a wheelchair, get down the back ramp of Sifford. Her peers cheered from the tram. Her conscientious and caring approach demonstrated two of SDC's values: service to others and effective leadership.

- Kudos to Laura Crafter, Psychiatric Technician from Ordahl A, who volunteered to take on the role as acting Senior Psychiatric Technician on Johnson B for six weeks. She kept communication flowing between all shifts and effectively deployed staff on a daily basis. She ensured that unit stock was ordered and helped to clean and organize the unit in preparation for the mock survey. Her willingness to take on the role as shift lead demonstrated all four of SDC's values: service to others, respectful communications, responsible resource management, and effective leadership.
- Kudos to Geri Shepherd, Recreational Therapist on Ordahl A, who took time out of her busy schedule to help with the take down and clean up of the Cinco de Mayo festivities in the Ordahl courtyard and Richardson lawn. Her willingness to help out demonstrated two of SDC's values: service to others and effective leadership.

New Hires

April

Maricha Dagcuta, Registered Nurse
Sarah Melissa Horton, Registered Nurse
Tracy Jones, Psychologist
Clifford Lee, Clinical Social Worker
Maribeth Miller, Food Service Technician I

May

Michelle Adams, Food Service Technician I
Richard Alviso, Firefighter
Toby Butisbach, Food Service Technician I
Joyce Camill, Clinical Dietitian
Theresa Moreno, Office Technician
Patricia Nett, Executive Secretary I
Ryan Whitman, Groundskeeper

Retired Annuitant:

George Nwafor, Individual Program Coordinator

Submitting articles to the *Eldridge Press*:

The *Eldridge Press* gladly accepts submissions of articles about events at SDC, news about SDC's departments and programs, employee recognition, and other information of interest to SDC'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, July 15 is the deadline for the August/September issue).

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