



# Eldridge Press

## Message from the Executive Director

by Karen Faria

It has been two years since my return to Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) and I continue to be grateful for your professionalism and dedication to the men and women residing at SDC. I thought I would take this opportunity to update you on some of the things that have been occurring lately:

- There continues to be a major push in the hiring process of more staff and improvement in staffing numbers has again started. More work to be done.
- As you know our population is slowly reducing. One of the Nursing Facility (NF) homes was consolidated and we are planning on consolidating an Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) home in the next few months. Meetings will be held to determine residents' needs. Notifications will be made to all involved parties including the residents in the home, families, employees, regional centers, unions, etc. This will help reduce costs, assist with staffing and make better use of the resources SDC has.
- A nationally recognized dementia neurologist expert visited SDC. She has shared some valuable information and we expect to implement these changes within the next six months to improve the screening and treatment of individuals with suspected dementia. We hope to have her return in the future.
- A media tour was provided to reporters from the Sonoma Index Tribune, Kenwood Press, Sonoma County Gazette, Sonoma Valley Sun and Santa Rosa Press Democrat. The purpose of the tour was to reach out and make connections with the local media about the nature of the people we serve, the services we provide and to introduce Northern Star Acute Crisis Home.
- Clinical Nurses have been a welcomed addition to many of the NF homes. This has helped improve the quality of services for many of our more medically fragile residents.
- Continued NF Licensing preparation is occurring with reviews of the quality of care provided, and to look at information about the care of specific residents.
- The Professional Education Center relocated to Oak Valley from the McDougall Building and it has been a welcome change. With more space available, all the rooms have been permanently set up for specified trainings. The air conditioned rooms are an especially welcome benefit as summer approaches.
- The Department of Developmental Services has contracted with Grafton Integrated Health Network. They are providing SDC employees with behavioral support/crisis management training and consultation services. The training emphasizes eliminating the need for restraints and reduces or eliminates the injuries and liabilities associated with using restraints. Over the last few years SDC has drastically reduced use of restraints and our goal is to become a restraint-free facility.
- A facility wide Employee Satisfaction and Retention Survey has been conducted and the results will be published in the next few weeks.



*Karen Faria*

SDC is a remarkable place to work and it is an excellent opportunity for all of us to make a significant contribution to society by serving and improving the lives of the men and women who live here. And for that, THANK YOU!

# Did You Know?

## Historical: Sonoma House

Sonoma House, formally known as the home of the Superintendent of SDC, was built in 1897. Located in a park-like setting, the area and home is still utilized for facility-wide events for the residents and employees of Sonoma Developmental Center. The three story home features an enclosed porch, a kitchen, dining area, living room, multiple bedrooms, bathrooms, a deck, and a circular library on the top floor.



Sonoma House  
[photo by JJ Fernandez]

## Telcom Tower Project Breaks Ground

In 2011 a telecom tower was approved by the Department of General Services and will be located on a flat area on the hill behind the sign and glass shop, and across from the cemetery. The 150-foot tower will be coated green to help it blend into the area. According to drawings, the equipment building will be one story, unmanned, and 20 feet by 80 feet in size. The property will be leased from the State of California but the tower will be owned by Horizon Tower LLC, a Danville-based company which has developed a number of communication towers on the west coast. The project broke ground earlier this year.



Cell tower under construction  
[photos by JJ Fernandez]

Suzie Densmore with Horizon Tower LLC, and site consultant and Glen Ellen resident Greg Guerrazzi stated, "The Horizon Tower communications facility will improve the State's communications for the SDC campus and surrounding area. The facility will also greatly improve the wireless telecommunication services in the area, initially provided by Verizon and in the future other carriers, especially in the Jack London State Park and Sonoma Valley Regional Park where coverage is weak and spotty. This coverage will especially be crucial should someone need

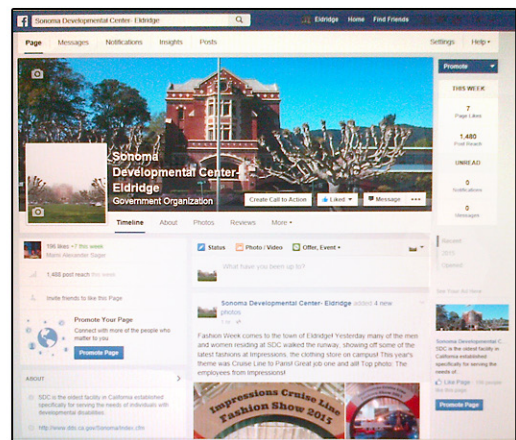
medical assistance or get lost in these parks as emergency service personnel will be able to locate people in distress due to the improved coverage provided by this service. The project will also greatly improve service in the surrounding area, along Arnold Drive and Hwy 12, including many roads and pockets of residences that do not currently have sufficient wireless telecommunications services in the Glen Ellen area."



View from the cemetery

## Follow Us on Facebook!

Curious about what is happening in the town of Eldridge? Are you interested in a job opportunity? Sonoma Developmental Center's Facebook page received a facelift on April 6, 2015. The page posts almost daily updates including events that have occurred or will occur, employee recognition, historical facts, hiring opportunities and much more! The purpose of the page is for the hiring and retention of staff and to support the morale at the center. The page continues to grow in popularity. All positive comments are welcomed! If interested in viewing the page go to **Sonoma Developmental Center-Eldridge**. We hope you like us!



SDC's Facebook page

## Volunteer & Donor Dinner

The Volunteer and Donor Recognition Dinner was held during the evening on Saturday April 25, 2015. This year's theme was Vive la France! The attendees

# Did You Know?

*Volunteer & Donor Dinner, continued from previous page*  
 were treated to a night of music, a catered French meal, and photos by the Eiffel Tower. Certificates of appreciation were presented at the end of the event. A grand time was had by all in attendance.



*Volunteer and Donor Recognition Dinner  
 Left: Eiffel Tower; Right: Volunteer Coordinator Renee Clair,  
 Volunteer of the Year Jasmine Haddad; Clinical Director  
 Aleana Carreon [photos by JJ Fernandez]*

## New Hires

**S**onoma Developmental Center would like to welcome its newest employees who were hired during the months of January through April 2015! Welcome aboard!

### January 2015

- Seth Bomar, Fusion Welder
- Clarissa Caywood, Clinical Lab Technician
- Loreta Chaidez, MSOT (Custodian)
- Jackson Cummins, Custodian
- Beatriz Dada, Food Service Technician II
- Douglas Dawes, Stationary Engineer
- Charlie Fajardo, Licensed Vocational Nurse
- Debra Gafford, Psychiatric Technician (Retired Annuitant)
- Charlene Garza, Food Service Technician I
- Veronica Gonzalez, MSOT (Custodian)
- Melanie Herrick, Registered Nurse
- Mary Jones, Psychiatric Technician
- Steve Kaloczi, MSOT (Custodian)
- Roberta King, Rehabilitation Therapist
- Yajing Li, Pre-Licensed Psychiatric Technician



*Sign in front of the new Professional Education Center at Oak Valley School [photos by JJ Fernandez]*

Ryan Lambert, Food Service Technician II

Cherry Luu, Clinical Social Worker  
 Shaun Patricio, Licensed Vocational Nurse

Ramona Rivas Gomez, Licensed Vocational Nurse

Ana Sanchez-Becker, Licensed Vocational Nurse

Sergey Saprnov, Stationary Engineer

Sengleap Sok, Licensed Vocational Nurse

Jeffrey Tackett, Teacher

Elizabeth Uygongco, Registered Nurse

Bless Velono, Custodian



*Professional Education Center Office*



*CPR class*

### February 2015

- Agnes Benicta, Licensed Vocational Nurse
- Fortunata Catagan, Registered Nurse
- Alberto Estalilla, Food Service Technician I
- Rugiatu Holten, Licensed Vocational Nurse

Breanna Leach, Pharmacy Technician  
 Joven Marquez, Licensed Vocational Nurse

Elizabeth Parker, Pharmacist I

Joshua Polonio, Teaching Assistant

Ferlie Santos, Licensed Vocational Nurse

Kokeb Teshome, Physician & Surgeon

### March 2015

Jeannie Asiain, Licensed Vocational Nurse

Victor Astua, Psychiatric Technician

Guirlande Brawley, Licensed Vocational Nurse

Expedito Caermare, Psychiatric Technician (Retired Annuitant)

Teresa Clark, Dental Assistant

Ma Gretchen Cuevas, Food Service Technician I

Rommel Dela Vega, Licensed Vocational Nurse



*Bill Quinn teaching New Employee Orientation*

*continued next page*

# Recognition

*New Hires, continued from previous page*

Paulette Eliaza, Licensed Vocational Nurse  
Ali Hernandez, Health Record Tech I  
Robert Larkin, Investigator  
Elaine Joyce Law, Licensed Vocational Nurse  
Patricia Lopez, Psychiatric Technician  
Errol McCant,  
Pre-Licensed  
Psychiatric Technician  
Daniel Medina Calderon,  
Pre-Licensed  
Psychiatric Technician  
Izuchukwu Megwa,  
Clinical Social Worker  
Roberta Morovich, Food  
Service Technician I



*Competency Training classroom*

Charina Pastor, Licensed Vocational Nurse  
Rylee Ramirez, Pre-Licensed Psychiatric Technician  
Francis San Pedro II, Office Technician  
Emmanuel Serrano, Licensed Vocational Nurse  
John Anton Velono, Food Service Technician I  
Jonathan Zamora, Food Service Technician I

## April 2015

Sarah Caldwell, Psychiatric Technician  
Jonathan Comer, Psychiatric Technician  
Samantha Escano, Licensed Vocational Nurse  
Aida Jacinto De La Paz, Custodian  
Amber Jones, Office Technician  
Jessica Palyo, Staff Services Manager I (Fiscal Officer)  
Danilo Quinivista Jr., MSOT (Custodian)  
Kayla White, Office Technician

## Employee of the Month—January

The Employee of the Month for January 2015 is Danny Quinivista, Custodian from General Services. His nominator describes him as, “One of those rare people who is always smiling and polite. He works very hard at his job and keeps the Smith home spotless, going above and beyond what is required of him.” Others go on to say, “He is kind and attentive to the people who live here and they always greet him with sounds of delight. He is hard working, self-directed and always pleasant. Danny embraces the values of service to others, effective leadership and respectful relationships.” Congratulations on your award, Danny!



*Danny Quinivista*

## Employee of the Month—February

Hydie Paclibare, Psychiatric Technician Assistant who works in the Stoneman Home, is Employee of the Month for February 2015. Her nominator says, “She is thorough and meticulous in everything she does, keeping the best interests of the resident at the forefront. Her kind and caring approach creates a calm and safe environment for residents to express themselves, learn and experience personal growth. Her efforts to provide active treatment for the people she serves are also exemplary. She always has some activity going with active client participation. She exemplifies the values of respectful relationships and service to others.” Way to go, Hydie!



*Hydie Paclibare*  
[photo by JJ Fernandez]

## Employee of the Month—March

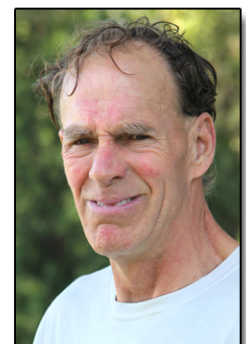
The March 2015 Employee of the Month is JoAnne Alex, Dental Hygienist from the Dental Department. “Joanne’s passion and enthusiasm are infectious and she is not afraid of tackling difficult tasks. She has been in almost every home working on oral care since she started and has trained hundreds of staff, including at new employee orientation and through block training. She tries to creatively find ways to manage resources so we can accomplish maximum progress with the least expenditure of resources and she is a leader and role-model for those of us who are lucky enough to work with her.” Her nominator goes on to say, “Her mark has been clearly left on SDC.” Great job, JoAnne!



*JoAnne Alex*  
[photo by JJ Fernandez]

## Employee of the Month—April

The Employee of the Month for April 2015 is Ricky Misko, Teacher from Central Program Services. “Ricky is hard working, and can often be found working early in the morning before the rest of the team has arrived. He has excellent communication skills and is a professional. He has been an inspirational team member, and stepped into a teaching position that wasn’t easy to



*Ricky Misko*

*continued next page*

# Recognition/Advocacy

*April Employee of the Month, continued from previous page fill.* His nominator goes on to say, “He has implemented changes that needed to be done to enhance the lives of the people he works with, and implemented those changes in a professional manner which demonstrates the values of service to others and respectful relationships, not to mention effective leadership.” Nice work, Ricky!

## Supervisor of Excellence

Charlotte Daly, Food Service Supervisor I from Nutrition Services, has been selected as Supervisor of Excellence for April 2015.

Her nominators say, “Charlotte Daly always maintains a professional and helpful approach in her interactions with people whether they are coworkers, supervisors, employees, residents or individuals outside the department. She is full of wonderful and creative ideas, including those that support active treatment and promote client independence in dining. Charlotte is a role model whose achievements are a source of pride and inspiration to Nutrition Services’ staff.” Congratulations on your award, Charlotte!

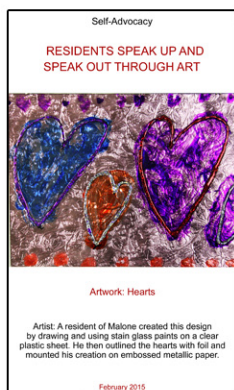


Charlotte Daly  
[photo by JJ Fernandez]

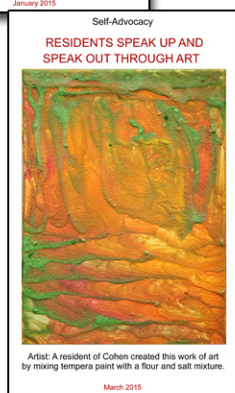
## Advocacy Posters



Left:  
January



Right:  
February



Left:  
March



Right:  
April

## Advocacy Corner

Voting is one of your rights! Tobias Weare, Clients Rights Advocate, and Ross Long, Volunteer Advocacy Coordinator with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities have been attending the advocacy groups monthly and recently have been educating the folks on the voting process and what it entails. The residents from the NF advocacy group decided to hold an election in the near future with ballots to select their next guest speaker. There were five areas selected including the Fire Department, Eldridge Farm, Police Department, Impressions Clothing Store, and REACH, the facilities community center. The ballots will be created to include pictures of the areas. The ICF advocacy groups will also hold elections in the weeks to come. Find out the outcome of the elections in future issues of the *Eldridge Press*.

Near right:  
Tobias Weare  
speaking to  
residents



Far right:  
Ross Long  
speaking to  
residents



## News from the Human Rights Committee (HRC)

by Ellen Faryna, PhD

Hello everybody! How are you? Do you need someone to talk with, someone to listen, help solving a problem, someone to help you speak up? I know folks who live here that you can rely on. Some show up every month for HRC and some when they can. They are interested in what happens at SDC and communicate what is needed to make SDC a better place. Thank you, each and every one, for your presence and input!

It is a new year—2015. SDC has a new program with new people on campus. One of the residents living at SDC has volunteered to involve the new STAR program clients in People First. He will offer advocacy information. What a great way to welcome new people! We can all welcome people by saying “hello,” smiling, and introducing ourselves.

We had a lot of discussion about court at our last meeting. In formal court, no one talks except the judge or by her permission. Court at SDC is almost like that because it needs to be quiet so the judge can do his or her job. What

*continued next page*

# Advocacy/Community Events

*Dr. Ellen, continued from previous page*

do you think about court? Is everyone talking in a polite and respectful way? How can we do better?

Karen Faria, Executive Director, came to an HRC meeting to talk about smoking on campus and how SDC may go smoke-free. Everyone needs to have their say and feel heard. Every union needs to talk to their staff members and we have several unions here. This will take some time and patience. Meanwhile, there are concerns about people smoking, then smelling of smoke, and touching others. If you smoke, please wash your hands before touching others.



*Dr. Ellen Faryna*

At the HRC the residents talked about their right to have close relationships. Valentine's Day has come and gone. Did you get any Valentine's Day cards? Did you give any? Yes, Valentine's Day is about love. We tend to think real love is about THE MAN or WOMAN who you love and loves you, happy ever after. If you haven't seen the movie *Maleficent*, see it. It shows us there is more than one kind of love, so that everyone can have some. People share love, giving and getting. Each of us can love ourselves. Love is about having happiness, even if you have other feelings like sad or worried. You can talk with a person you trust and be happy. You can sit quietly by yourself and be happy. You can fix or eat dinner with a bunch of people and feel happy. You can do the laundry or simply enjoy being with another person, feeling happy, comfortable, safe with that person. May you give and receive all the love your heart can hold.

HRC meeting occurs monthly. There are always smiling faces no matter what we end up talking about. Come share some happiness!

## The Black and White Ball

The Black and White Ball was held on February 11 and 12 at the gymnasium. As the guests arrived,

the valet was on hand to escort the individuals out of their vehicles. Upon entering the gala, the guests were greeted by the concierge and escorted to their seats by an usher. There were twinkling white lights dangling from the ceiling and all around, and classy black table cloths with a white non-flamable candle display as a centerpiece. There was



*Refreshments*

a photo booth ready to take that perfect shot. Waiters were on hand to take orders and the food servers were ready to serve up the requests. An amazing time was had by all in attendance.



*Above left: the live band; above right: table decorations at the Black and White Ball*

## Casino Night

Residents and staff were treated to a fun-filled evening in the gymnasium on the evening of March 18. Non-monetary chips were handed out to each of the guests as they arrived. There were plenty of games to



choose from including black jack tables, a dice table, a horse race table and a roulette table. Waiters came around to take your drink order. As the night progressed it was evident that everyone was a winner in the town of Eldridge that night and the residents turned in their chips for prizes. All those who partici-

ated, including the people who reside at the center, their support staff, program management, and members of the executive team, had a grand time.



*Casino Night photos:  
Top left: A Blackjack table  
Above: Selecting prizes  
Left: A Roulette table*

# Community Events

## Spring Fling

The annual Spring Fling took place at the amphitheater on Saturday, April 11. There were cupcakes and refreshments for all to enjoy. There was a gardening booth where one could plant a flower in a pot to take home and a temporary tattoo booth with spring designs. The event also included live music and photo opportunities with the Eldridge Farm bunnies. A fun time was had by all in attendance including the residents, employees and volunteers! What a great way to spend a Saturday morning!



*Potting small plants at the Spring Fling [photos by JJ Fernandez]*



*Spring Fling:  
Left: listening to the band at the amphitheater  
Right: the live band at the Spring Fling*

## Train Rides Around SDC

On Saturday, April 4 the American Legion (Sonoma and Solano Counties) provided the residents and employees of SDC with train rides around the SDC campus! The dedicated military men assisted the residents who wanted to go for train rides on the colorful vehicles. They made their way up around the Eldridge Farm and back around the back soccer fields. They rode around the Butler Pool, the Sifford and Snedger buildings, around Powers and back down towards the other side of campus, all the time blowing the train horns and whistles. They drove towards the baseball field and up behind the administration building, exiting out by the firehouse. They continued on around Slater and Hatch and made their way over towards the



*Train from Solano County [photos by JJ Fernandez]*

Nelsons and behind the Emparans and Regameys. Thank you to the dedicated military veterans who have been volunteering to take us on train rides here at SDC for over 25 years!!



*Above: Train from Sonoma County*



*Right: Enjoying the beautiful scenery on grounds*

## Fashion Show

The town of Eldridge held a fashion show at the facilities gymnasium. Over twenty men and women residing in Eldridge walked or rode down the runway, modeling the latest fashions from Impressions, the clothing store at the center. The theme this year was "Cruise Line to Paris." The gymnasium was transformed into a cruise ship boarding at a dock in Paris, France. The residents enjoyed strutting or wheeling down the runway and were excited to know that the outfit they were wearing was theirs to keep! Refreshments and desserts were also served.



*Above:  
The runway*



*Left:  
A model is photographed at the end of the runway*



*Right:  
Refreshments*

# More Photos of Community Events

## Black & White Ball (February)



Left and below:  
On the dance floor at the  
Black & White Ball



## Casino Night (March)



Above:  
Part of the casino floor



Right:  
Two ways to roll the dice

## Fashion Show (April)



Left:  
A model and staff pose  
at the end of the runway  
for a photo

Below:  
Part of the audience



## Note:

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

## Submitting articles to the *Eldridge Press*:

The *Eldridge Press* gladly accepts submissions of articles about events at Sonoma Developmental Center, news about the Center's departments and programs, employee recognition, and other information of interest to the Center's employees, consumers and other stakeholders. Articles may be edited for grammar, punctuation, and clarity. To submit your article, send it to the Office of Planning and Communications, Room 102, Sonoma Developmental Center, P.O. Box 1493, Eldridge, CA 95431. Deadlines are the 15th of the month prior to the publication date (for instance, June 15 is the deadline for the Summer 2015 issue).

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