



Eldridge Press

Special Extended Edition

Message from the Executive Director

by Karen Faria

As many of you know, I started a recent Town Hall meeting by asking employees what the rumors were and there were plenty, none of which were true.

I want staff to know the facts, so we can focus on the great work we do!

- There is no legislation to close SDC.
- There are no layoffs at SDC and none are planned.
- There is no slowdown in hiring at SDC. If we have vacant positions we will attempt to fill them.
- There are no shortages of retirements and other separations from SDC, so hiring will continue.
- There is no end to the amount of overtime being used, so we may consider consolidating a home to better implement the staffing allocation we have.
- The budget is tight, but there will be no impact to hiring.
- Yes, there is a new crisis home being planned and should open sometime next year.



Karen Faria

One more thought...

On behalf of the people who live at Sonoma, their families and all the employees of SDC, I wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to those employees who consistently and diligently come to work day in and day out. Your dedication and work ethic actually *improves* the lives of the people we serve through your consistency and depth of knowledge. You are the real heroes of SDC and we all must remember to acknowledge your tremendous commitment. You know who you are and luckily, so do we. Thank you, thank you, and since we can never say it enough, thank you!

Many wonderful things have been happening at Sonoma Developmental Center and are featured in this Special Extended Edition of the *Eldridge Press*. Enjoy!

Did You Know?

Historical: Finnerty Cottage

Originally Finnerty Cottage was built in 1923 and was known as the "Male Infirmary." The Cottage was named after E.J. Finnerty, M.D. who was born in Toronto, Canada, on January 14, 1889. He was on the medical staff of the Sonoma State Home from February 5, 1943 until his passing on July 15, 1948. Currently the Finnerty Building is used for the monthly Surplus Sales.



Finnerty circa 1940



Finnerty in 2005

Did You Know?

Medical Services

- SDC has a new Public Health Officer, Erika Steffe, M.D., who is board certified in Infectious Disease. She is making many exciting changes in the Public Health Department.
- Gloria Meyer, M.D., is now providing orthopedic consultation for the people who live at SDC. Dr. Meyer is board certified in Sports Medicine, and has a great manner with our population.
- In October, Brian Pecha, M.D., returned to SDC from an assignment in Washington D.C. Welcome back, Dr. Pecha!
- Keri Edmiston was appointed as a Program Assistant in Medical Services. She supervises Outpatient Clinics, Occupational Therapy, Speech Pathology, Respiratory Therapy, Physical Therapy, Adaptive Engineering, Adaptive Technology, the Shoe Shop and the MOVE program. Welcome to Keri!
- Gregg Montgomery has returned to AES as a retired annuitant. We appreciate his support and experience.



Dr. Kramer (r) welcomes Dr. Pecha back to SDC [photo by Chris Gephart]

Alexis Brake, Registered Nurse
Ramon Calimbas, Psychiatric Technician
Amanda Carson, Psychiatric Technician
Jordan Empson, Psychiatric Technician
William Kurata, Staff Information Systems Analyst Supervisor
Yu-Ying Lee, Occupational Therapist
Rachel Lundberg, Food Service Technician I
Jasmin Merchant, Food Service Technician I
Roselyn Mims, Teaching Assistant
Ugochi Onyike, Registered Nurse
Barry Poe, Custodian
Conchita Regacho, Registered Nurse
Erika Steffe, Physician & Surgeon
Brian Tucker, Food Service Technician I
Markus Vierria, Plumber I

July 2014

Haydee Aboy, Registered Nurse
Gisele Aguirre, Psychiatric Technician
Deborah Ausdenmoore, Executive Secretary I
Blanche Bamba, Registered Nurse
Jogeshwar Bassi, Food Service Technician I
Michael Caalim, Dispatcher Clerk
Ushaben Chaudhari, Licensed Vocational Nurse
Nicole Clair, Coordinator of Volunteer Services
Lisa Cortese, Teacher
Susan Grace Dagcuta, Registered Nurse
Sandra DeChene, Management Services Technician
Katrina Ducusin, Registered Nurse
Stella Eliboh, Registered Nurse
Ernita Espanola, Food Service Technician I
Aaron Irving, Automotive Pool Manager I
Jennifer Jasso, Psychiatric Technician
Josephine Kamau, Teacher
Skyler Knight, Food Service Technician I
Jacquelyn Kobzeff, Food Service Technician I
Ryan La Guardia, Registered Nurse
Ejitu Lobao, Registered Nurse
Carissa McMillin, Management Services Technician
Gloria Meyer, Physician & Surgeon
Gregg Montgomery, Assistive Technology Specialist (Retired Annuitant)
Amol Nijjar, Registered Nurse
Richard Pandjaitan, Program Assistant
Art Salas, Fire Fighter
Pierre Salonga, Registered Nurse
Janine Timoteo, Registered Nurse
Madonna Tolentino, Registered Nurse
Danielle Urbibe, Psychiatric Technician
Edwin Wooster, Water & Sewage Plant Supervisor

New Hires

May 2014

Tanya Barsi, Office Technician
Christina Bonifacini-Patch, Registered Nurse
Richard Fiola II, Registered Nurse
Rachael Greve, Individual Program Coordinator
Carol Johnson, Office Assistant
Mauricio Medina, Pre-Licensed Psychiatric Technician
Raymond Mercado, Registered Nurse
John Merchant, Food Service Technician I
Jeffery Polonio, Teacher
Gilbert Quitarano, Food Service Technician I
Danielle Richardson-Thomas, Psychologist
Bayardo Rodriguez, Senior Psychiatric Technician
Patricia Ryan, Registered Nurse
Dong Duy Tran, Psychiatric Technician
David Wartman, Occupational Therapist

June 2014

Funmilola Alli, Registered Nurse
Stanley Alli, Individual Program Coordinator
Jun Boluso, Psychiatric Technician

Recognition

New Hires, continued from page 2

Trena Worthington, Rehabilitation Therapist
Brenda Zabala, Registered Nurse

August 2014

Karlo Bandong, Registered Nurse
Trixie M. Calo, Food Service Technician I
Rachel D. Christian, Registered Nurse
Corina E. Flores, Individual Program Coordinator
Jasmine S. Hampton, Psychiatric Technician
Karen L. McGinnis, Senior Psychiatric Technician
Anthonee John P. Salonga, Food Service Technician I

September 2014

Cassandra Baxter, Food Service Technician I
Barbara Gonzalez, Service Assistant Custodian
Deborah Hotting, Registered Nurse
Anil Jacob, Registered Nurse
Eric Padgett, Fire Fighter
Catherine Pandjaitan, Registered Nurse
Bridget Pankito, Registered Nurse
Tana Preciado, Teacher
Pheobe Soria-Pachica, Registered Nurse
Jennifer Tubiello-Heft, Registered Nurse
Rebecca Clinton, Food Service Technician I
Liberty Diaz, Psychiatric Technician
Jan Escobar, Registered Nurse
Wenny Martinez, Registered Nurse
Carl Nicholson, Painter I

Employee of the Month: May

The Employee of the Month for May 2014 is Frank de Leon, Senior Psychiatric Technician, who works in the Stoneman home. Frank is described as someone who “brings a wealth of energy and enthusiasm to the individuals and staff. He exemplifies the SDC value of respect to others and ensures privacy and dignity for all the people he serves.” Frank is said to provide enriching activities for the folks in Stoneman. “Frank is always up and about helping level of care, providing an activity, escorting folks to facility events, mastering his duties as a dining coach and doing laundry.” Way to go, Frank!



Frank de Leon

Employee of the Month: June

Aracely “Chelle” Alvarez, Office Assistant for the CNS department, is the June 2014 Employee of the Month. Her nominators say “Chelle is one of the hardest working people we have met. She is dedicated to completing every task at a high standard regardless of

Eldridge Press

what that task is.” She is described as reliable and demonstrates the best of work ethics. Her nominators go on to say, “She cares deeply about the people who live here. She is a true example of Sonoma Developmental Center values of service to others, responsible resource management, effective communication and leadership.” Congratulations on your award, Chelle!



Chelle Alvarez

Employee of the Month: July

The July 2014 Employee of the Month was Patsy Gralow, Rehabilitation Therapist from Central Program Services. “Patsy has

shown total commitment to SDC values in her work with the Cromwell folks. She is a strong leader manifested by honest communication, strong advocacy, and willingness to work with all team members for the benefit of each person.” Patsy had set up a schedule of recreational events both on and off campus, and special meals, including barbecues. “She is gifted in her ability to communicate, to build trust, and to generate enthusiasm. Patsy serves as an example of a dedicated, committed advocate for SDC folks.” Great job, Patsy! Patsy is retired now, but continues to serve SDC as a volunteer.



Patsy Gralow

Employee of the Month: August

Tuat Nguyen-Haas, Registered Nurse, Medical Services is the August 2014 Employee of the Month. Her nominators state, “Tuat is absolutely an asset to the medical services department. She epitomizes the values of SDC in many ways. She is the kind of person who rarely asks for help. She juggles a seemingly countless number of tasks each day and seems to do so with ease. When Tuat encounters one of the many difficult new challenges that face her daily, she is able to problem solve and take care of the issue without anyone else even knowing anything was wrong. She has certainly mastered resource management!” Another nominator goes on to say, “As an SDC employee, she is definitely an ideal role model for all to emulate.” Way to go, Tuat!



Tuat Nguyen-Haas

Recognition

Employee of the Month: September

The Employee of the Month for September 2014 is Jaime Sanchez, Senior Psychiatric Technician in the Stoneman home. His nominator says, "On the unit, he maintains an even tempered demeanor and a sense of humor even during the most trying of times. He is always positive and smiling which impacts directly on the milieu of the residence. He is respectful of the clients and the staff at all times. He supports and promotes current efforts to establish a cohesive team in Stoneman residence." Jaime has filled in as Acting Unit Supervisor ensuring that the things that needed to be done were done and in a timely manner. His nominator goes on to say, "It is such a joy to be in Jaime's presence." Congratulations, Jaime!



Jaime Sanchez

Employee of the Year

The Employee of the Year for 2014 is Celia Dominguez, Psychiatric Technician from Central Program Services. The Employee of the Year is selected from the twelve Employees of the Month from the previous year. Her nominators describe her as someone who, "is always positive and has a can do attitude. All the residents love her and coworkers seek her out for advice." Celia can do it all, from working at Sunrise, working on a residence, working the Eldridge Farm and Equestrian Program, being a part of the Advocacy Program as a helper for one of the groups and volunteering at facility wide events. She demonstrates the SDC values of service to others, effective leadership and respectful relationships. "It is great to see someone so focused on the positive and helping all those in her care, achieving their potential!" Great job, Celia!



Celia Dominguez

Take Pride Moments

Taking Pride means:

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

making!

- Take Pride in SDC!!!

Taking Pride is about recognizing all of the good that occurs as a community for the people who live and work in the town of Eldridge. There were numerous submissions of many employees...below are some of them. Way to show your pride and find the good in one another SDC!

- Barbara Simbulan, Public Health Nurse who attended the Human Rights Committee Meeting and educating and preparing everyone for a healthier 2014-2015 flu season. Way to go!



Barbara Simbulan

- Thanks to Eric Jones, the Central supply staff, the BioMed Techs, and the Motor Pool staff for their excellent service to the residents in Ordahl A. Both bath trolleys needed repair. With the coordination and work of everyone mentioned, not one resident missed a bath. Great job everyone!



Eric Jones

- To the Physical Therapy Department for assessing the use of ramps and stairs on some of the ICF homes, ensuring safety for all. Great job!
- Drew Crocker, Acting Food Service Supervisor-I, designed, printed and laminated an insert for the back of name badges that identifies RACE and PASS for Nutrition Services employees. Employees will be better equipped to respond to survey questions as well as to respond to real fire safety emergencies. Nice!

- Trina Blankenship and Laura Crafter for spearheading a last minute project to put evacu-sleds on specific beds. Great teamwork!



Trina Blankenship
[photo by JJ Fernandez]

- Thank you to everyone who supported NF individuals to attend court. This included Laura Crafter, Linda Young, Jesse Estrada, Desiree Northrup, Sue

continued next page

Recognition

Take Pride Moments, continued from page 4

Esposti, Janie Rogue, Arlene De-Guzman, Ofelia Mandapat, Gabrielle Benetoine, Marji Brunelle, Judy Walters, Vicki Campbell, Suzanne Duffin, Tim Parker, Cheryl Rowan, Evelyn Nickels, Ken Carmean, Jan Escobar, and the Motor Pool staff. It takes a village and we have one!

- The Bemis team for the excellent job working with an individual. He has had a significant reduction in restraint use (no use of restraints since May 2014). It is at the lowest level since his admission to SDC. That's an accomplishment!
- Elvis Neal-DeStanton, SWA, for his weekly group on Roadruck. His interactions with individuals while they watched the DVD "My Life, My Way" were excellent!
- Bentley: Becky Major, PT, and Pong Peng, PT, for going above the call of duty when providing 1:1 for client at a San Francisco Hospital. Thanks for your dedication!
- To the landscaping crew for great work in the Meadows area. You make our campus look amazing. Way to go!
- Artis Souza, Fire Chief, for stepping up and going the extra mile to communicate with the Programs. It is all about communication!
- Kudos to Christina The, US, and Adrienne Thomas, US, for positive change and engaging activities in the Poppe and Stoneman homes. Congratulations!
- To the Social Workers for stepping up and staying positive at a meeting regarding personal mail for individuals living at SDC. Thanks for the great job you all do!
- Joanne Alex, Dental Hygienist, for offering training on tooth brushing at the day programs. Her professional and enthusiastic demeanor is infectious. Nice!
- To the Corcoran Team for work with desensitizing an individual for Dental Clinic appointments. The indi-



*Laura Crafter
[photo by JJ Fernandez]*



Pong Peng



Becky Major



Artis Souza

vidual attended an appointment recently and had his teeth cleaned without incident. Way to go team!

- To Bentley for the letter writing activity: with choices of stickers, colored paper, colored felt pens and pencils. Families have mentioned at meetings how much they appreciate the cards and letters sent to them that are made by their loved ones. Way to go!
- Heather McDavid, PT in the Cohen home, who takes an individual to Sacramento over night to her Advocacy meetings. Great work, Heather!
- To the Powers team, who put together the "apartment" for the life skills training center (See Take Pride Spotlight, below). Special thanks to teacher Collette for taking the lead on this project!



*Joanne Alex
[photo by JJ Fernandez]*



*Heather McDavid (L)
with Marcia (2010)
[photo by JJ Fernandez]*

Take Pride Spotlight

by Chris Goodnight

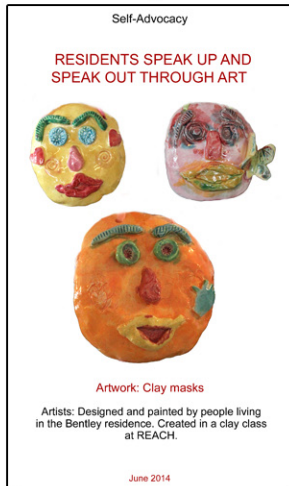
We have a new focus at the Powers, Parmelee, Lux and Harkrader Bush day programs. We have introduced a focus on independent living skills, and activities of daily living. Trainers and teachers are pairing this new focus, with our touch screen computers, and a lot of creative activities to train the folks at Powers in acquiring the skills needed to be as independent in their homes as possible. We have brought in new supplies, and are spending time in our apartment/skills lab training area, weekly. Already we have seen new skills developed as well as old skills resurface. Folks are being exposed to an environment that simulates a community setting. They are more involved in meeting their own needs. We are excited to see this new focus prepare our individuals for a future with limitless possibilities. Come visit us and share your ideas for improvements and new activities. (The next issue of the *Eldridge Press* will have an in-depth article about the program.)



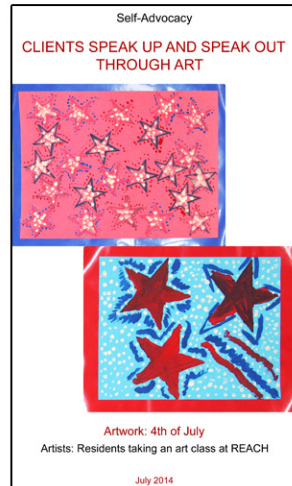
*Chris Goodnight
[photo by JJ Fernandez]*

Advocacy

Advocacy Posters



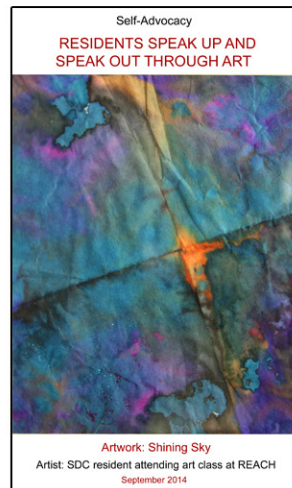
June 2014



July 2014



August 2014



September 2014

Advocacy Corner

Two individuals residing at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) who are on statewide committees were guest speakers at the Region IV Self Advocacy meeting in Fairfield on April 24th. Marcia Dinkelspiel, who resides in the Cohen home, is on the Department of Developmental Services Consumer Advisory Committee and Savaing Sok is on the Board of People First of California. Ms Dinkelspiel attended the Department of Developmental Services Consumer Advisory Committee meeting in Sacra-



Savaing Sok
[photo by JJ Fernandez]

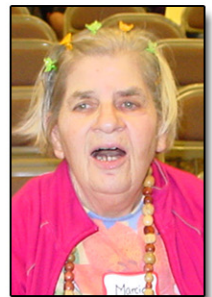
mento July 28–29, and Mr. Sok attended the People First of California Board Meeting in Sacramento on September 26–28. Both updated the residents of SDC on what occurred at the meetings. On May 31, six residents attended the annual People First Gathering in South San Francisco and attended a session by Mr. Sok, who presented a PowerPoint presentation about living at the center and his journey towards moving into his own home in the community.

Tobias Weare, the Clients Rights Advocate, and Ross Long, Volunteer Advocacy Coordinator, have started attending the three Advocacy Groups on a monthly basis and do presentations on rights. Other guest speakers during this time have included Impressions, the clothing store on campus; Dr. Ellen Faryna, Co-Chair of the Human Rights Committee; Nutrition Services; and REACH, the facilities community center. Many of the members also attend the Human Rights Committee meeting. They bring forward their concerns including: having a smoke-free campus, fixing the potholes on grounds, having Internet access in the homes and much more. Their concerns are brought forward to the Executive Committee for review.

During the NF Licensing survey in June of 2014, the NF Advocacy Group was visited and interviewed by two of the surveyors including the team lead. The members enjoyed the visit and the surveyors appeared quite impressed with the Advocacy Group members and their involvement with the Human Rights Committee.

On June 3, the annual Opportunity Fair was held at

continued next page



Marcia Dinkelspiel
[photo by JJ Fernandez]



Tobias Weare



Ross Long



Opportunity Fair

Advocacy

Advocacy Corner, continued from page 6

SDC and included over twenty five vendors from the community and the facility that provide services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities and showcases a wide spectrum of work, leisure, and living opportunities within the Center as well as out in the greater community.

On September 9, 2014 Sonoma Developmental Center hosted the Consumer Advisory Committee meeting for Alta California Regional Center (ACRC). There were approximately 50 consumers and their support staff in attendance including many individuals from SDC who are represented by ACRC.

Human Rights Committee

by Dr. Ellen Faryna, PhD

Hello SDC! I hope you all had a good summer. Staying cool and drinking enough water in those warm days was important to staying healthy. Doing fun things like swimming or watching a good movie or being with friends will help you stay happy. Think of something that makes you happy and tell it to a friend. Listen to what makes them happy, too.

The Human Rights Committee (HRC) continues to have a full table of members. Resident members included Savaing, Derek, Pamela, David, James, Marcia, Susan, Myra, Cheryl, Jimmy, Donna, Ron, and Marsha. At our last meeting, September 22nd, we had a momentous occasion: there were more resident members than other HRC committee members!



Dr. Ellen Faryna

Residents rock!! Thank you to these resident members for their commitment of time and energy to participate in HRC, to make SDC a better and safer place for everyone! When you see them, tell them how much you appreciate their effort. Sharing your gratitude will help them feel better and you, too! Saying “Thanks for...”, “I appreciate...”, or “I am grateful for...” is one of the best ways to support you and others being happy.

We have talked several times about when homes go on restriction because of a very contagious illness. People said it does not seem fair to lose going to work or church because someone else is sick. The Sonoma County Department of Public Health asks SDC to make restrictions to keep more people from getting sick. What do you think about restrictions? HRC needs your ideas, feelings, and thoughts so we can plan for a healthier and happier flu season. Meanwhile, when you have to sneeze or cough, do it into your arm. This way germs go on your clothes, not your hands. Hands touch everything and spread germs to

others. Teach your staff to cough or sneeze into their arms, too.

Court has moved to REACH/Wagner. The Judge, Public Defender, and other court people are very happy with a cooler place and glad for the water to drink, thanks to Scott Shepherd. More people are going to court to meet Judge Marcoida and see how court makes decisions about where they live. It is important to be involved in decisions about your life. That way, you learn to make more decisions and have more power over your own life. **It is about your rights!** The judge and attorney would like to meet everyone when their court date is scheduled. Zumba is not held on a court day, so you don't have to worry about missing anything.

Resident representatives are very clear about safety first! There were several suggestions on how to make SDC safer, like a ramp onto Sonoma House lawn, level sidewalks, a smoke-free SDC, and where to next put the SLOW DOWN signs for drivers. Where do you think they should go next? If you have any questions about these or other things, let me know, please! I can answer here in the *Eldridge Press* as well as bring it to the Human Rights Committee.

Apples, Apples, Everywhere!

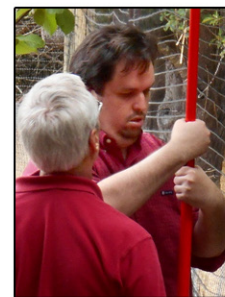
by Stu Schendel

For many years, nothing ushered in the fall season here in beautiful Sonoma County like harvesting Gravenstein apples. Although grape growing is now more prevalent, there are still quite a few orchards around the county producing delicious, nutritious apples. Recently, several of the individuals residing in the Corcoran home participated in some community-based instruction, learning about the apple harvest and how that food gets distributed. In conjunction with a program known locally as “Waste Not Want Not,” the individuals from Corcoran traveled over to an organic farm west of Sebastopol to



Stu Schendel
[photo by JJ Fernandez]

continued next page



Left:
Picking apples
[photos by
Stu Schendel]

Community Events

Apples, continued from previous page

learn firsthand about this process. “Waste Not Want Not” is comprised of local participants, including individuals from community-based day programs, some of whom used to reside here at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC), whose mission it is to get second harvest apples. These orchards are first harvested commercially before “Waste Not Want Not” arrives to get good apples out of these orchards and into the hands of people in need. On the day we participated, there were trees with Gravenstein, Golden Delicious and Fuji apples available, along with a good amount of great big, juicy yellow peaches as well. After spending an hour and a half or so in the orchard, the group collected over 250 lbs. of edible fruit.

After a quick snack that was provided, supplemented with lots of fresh fruit, we then accompanied the delivery of the bounty to F.I.S.H. (Friends In Sonoma Helping) as well as to the Sonoma County Food Bank for redistribution to those in need. This experience was really informative and fun for our individuals who participated. They got to be part of the process and were even able to help distribute food directly to several people who were waiting in line at F.I.S.H. The day wouldn’t be complete without a stop for lunch while we were out at McDonalds which was chosen democratically. Afterwards there was a lot of discussion about the day’s events and how important these types of programs are for our community. We’re hopeful that we can participate again with some of the other interested individuals that reside here at SDC.



Giving apples away at the food bank

[photo by Stu Schendel]

Cinco de Mayo

Like most communities, Sonoma Developmental Center has been observing Cinco de Mayo for many years. The festivities kicked off in the morning and continued through mid-afternoon. The venue was decorated in red, white, and green décor and a Mariachi band made its way throughout the various locations. There were



The Mariachi band plays at Cinco de Mayo

photo opportunities with the Eldridge Farm animals, an arts and crafts booth, a temporary tattoo booth and many game booths with prizes.

The celebration continued in the afternoon with the addition of a musical band, fruit and a variety of refreshments.

Foster Grandparent/ Senior Companion Recognition

The 42nd Annual Foster Grandparent and 36th Annual Senior Companion Recognition Day occurred on May 9th. Cindy Nelson, Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Coordinator, served as master of ceremonies and presented the President’s Volunteer Service Awards to over 50 individuals who volunteer their time with the men and women who reside at the center. The event took place at the Rohnert Park Senior Center. The volunteers were treated to a catered luncheon and live music. This year’s theme was “You Have Sparked Change in People’s Lives.” *(See photos on page 9.)*

25-year Recognition Event

On May 29th over 85 employees were recognized for their state service at a tea party on the Sonoma House lawn. The 25-Year Service Awards program was established by the legislature to recognize state employees who have completed 25 years or more of state service. The current and former employees received a gift and certificate signed by the Governor. Karen Faria, Executive Director addressed the group, “It is an honor to be back at SDC and to be a part of your accomplishments. Thank you all for coming to the 25-Year Tea Party Celebration from 2008 through 2013. We’re here to honor you and all your years of committed state service to the men and women at SDC. Feel free to treat yourself to some tea, coffee and pastries while we call each employee up. Let the celebration begin!” *(See photos page 10.)*

Horse Show

The Annual Horse Show for the residents of Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) occurred on Saturday June 7th at the outdoor equestrian arena at the facility. There were approximately 50 people from the center who participated in the Equestrian Sporting event. All the riders in the event won ribbons, with their families and friends cheering them on. The individuals were judged on how they mounted the horse as well as equitation (the practice of riding a horse). However, the judge does take into consideration the limitations of each rider.

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42nd Annual Foster Grandparent & 36th Annual Senior Companion RECOGNITION MAY 9, 2014



Not pictured:

Telfa Donaldo, 11,889 hours
 Beulah Frisbie, 10,320 hours
 Judith Hall, 1,229 hours
 E. Judith Herrera, 4,003 hours
 Roderick Paton, 5,731 hours
 Rosario Romero, 7,315 hours
 Pamela Seekamp, 2,777 hours
 Kathleen Sevens, 1,294 hours
 Victorio Villafuerte, 891 hours

*Right:
Program Administrators*





Musicians
Melissa Preston &
Olga Kulikouskya



Karen Faria



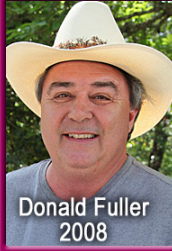
Aleana Carreon



Karen Clark



Brad Backstrom



Donald Fuller
2008



Maria Castillo
2008



Megan Gordon
2008



Margaret Jones
2008



Judy Curme
2008



Terri Colburn
2009



Joanne
Gibson-Doyle
2009



Nancy Flack
2009
[photo by JJ Fernandez]

Recognition: 25 years of service, 2008-2013

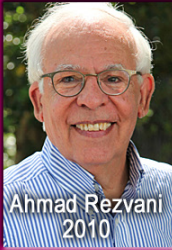
May 29, 2014
Photos by Nancy Flack



Randall Yee
2010



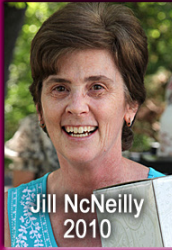
Joan McDonald
2010



Ahmad Rezvani
2010



Angelika Robinson
2010



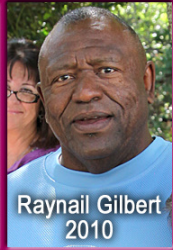
Jill McNeilly
2010



Amber Sandoval
2010



Judy Colombo
2010



Raynail Gilbert
2010



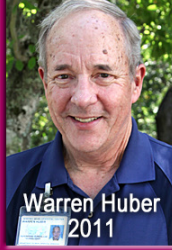
Theresa Arnold
2010



Tomasa Bertrando
2011



Jolanta Novak
2011



Warren Huber
2011



Charlotte Jones
2011



Karrie Hubbenette
2011



Kathrine Fletcher
2011



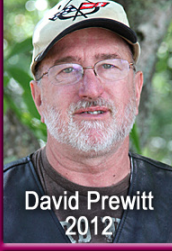
Britt Berg
2011



Justina Thomas
2012



Laura Aleman
2012



David Prewitt
2012



Robert Hutchins
2012



Stephanie
O'Connell
2012



Theresa Proell
2012



Dave Secchitano
2012



Jesus Estrada
2012



Eileen Castelli
2012



Laura Hernandez
2012



Deets Winslow
2013



Cheryl Rowan
2013



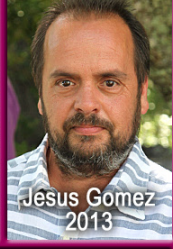
Monica Damsten
2013



Bobbi Lucibello
2013



Kelly Powell
2013



Jesus Gomez
2013



Jeffrey Ballard
2013

Not pictured:
2008:
Michael Blankenship
David Carter
Sandra Ely
Mary Ann Gooshen
Bill Killinger
Tami Dettling
2009:
Suzanne Howard

Normita Prestosa
Casey McCormick
Kimberly Mandell
Mandi Reaka
Jessica Bush
Joseph Dukes
Jeff Patterson
Ray Marchbanks
Joeanna Anderson
Lynn Cotton

2010:
Julieta Ramos
Pamela Snediker
Susan Saludes
Allan Coello
Susan Bauer
Joey McCarty
Elisa Ramos
Jocelyn Cuizon-Tom
Denise Price

Brenda Dukes
Katrina Blankenship
Cecilia Earl
2011:
Jaime Sanchez
Elizabeth Hammill
Vivien Torrecampo
Christy Delucchi
Barbara Kahwaty
Benjamin DeGuzman

Debra Lentini
Linda Tasso-Overn
Remedios Sullera
Howard Leyton
2012:
Richard Correa
Colleen Deck
Ken Lakraitz
Matthew Legg
Salvador Prado-Balderas

Laurie McNinch
2013:
Chad Daniels
Tracy Farmer
Desiree Lightning
Sharon Sullivan Riddell
Claudia Dill
Anne Sojourner-Wendell
Katharine Ruthroff

Community Events

Horse Show, continued from page 8

SDC's Equestrian Program has been in existence since the early 1980s. The Equestrian Program Coordinator, Nancy Sessi-Tallent, has provided the individuals who reside here with skills that increase the student's confidence and pride, as well as instilling a sense of accomplishment. The program also teaches discipline, respect for oneself, kindness towards animals and consideration for others. Horsemanship frees the rider to feel independent and provides a common ground for interpersonal relationships. The program offers riding on Tuesday afternoons, and every other Friday mornings and Saturday mornings and occurs all year round.



At the Horse Show

Independence Day

The town of Eldridge celebrated its annual Fourth of July festivities with live music by the Dixieland Band and Sonoma Mountain Band and a fireworks show at dusk. During the day a centralized event took place, with the area decorated in red, white and blue décor. There were photo booths with Fourth of July themed backgrounds, a temporary tattoo booth, and visits by the Eldridge Farm animals. There are also many game booths with prizes including the pendulum firecracker bowl, firecracker bowling, and others. There were also servings of fresh fruit, shaved ice treats, as well as other refreshments. A great time was had by all.



*Above: Live music at the daytime event
Right: Fireworks!*



Butler Pool Party

On July 23rd the residents in the town of Eldridge came together for the grand re-opening of the Butler Pool. After years of non-operation, the outdoor swimming pool was refurbished with private funds and open for swimming again to the delight of the men and women residing at the Sonoma Developmental Center. Shaved ice treats were served at the Gazebo next to the pool.



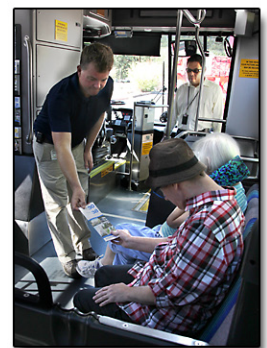
Butler Pool Party [photo by JJ Fernandez]

There are two pools available for use by the residents at

the facility: the outdoor pool is the Butler Pool and there is an indoor pool known as the Nelson Therapy Pool. Butler Pool is heated to a comfortable temperature all year round and is covered with a dome during the winter months for cool weather use, and can be entered either by stairs or a ramp with railings. The indoor therapy pool is heated to enhance the therapeutic effects of the water. Both pools are equipped with lifts to safely help non-ambulatory and fragile-ambulatory people into the pool.

Community Services Day

Community Services Day occurred on July 31st during the morning hours. The yearly event is coordinated by Adam Basler, Coordinator of Education Services for Central Program Services. Community Services Day took place at the Gazebo area and featured the Eldridge Fire Department, Office of Protective Services and the Sonoma County transit bus, with each venue each having equipment to see up close. Personnel were on hand to answer any questions residents and employees had.



Adam Basler (L) shares a bus schedule



Chatting with campus police and fire fighters

Community Events

Ice Cream Hoe Down

The Ice Cream Hoe Down was held on the evening of August 20th at the Carousel. Many residents and employees attended the yearly event. There was live music, ice cream and all the rides one would want to take on the Merry Go Round. A grand time was had by all who attended the event.



Riding the carousel at the Ice Cream Hoe Down



Stacy Hyma (L) and Liz Stoddard serve ice cream at the Hoe Down

Sonoma is donated by local organizations and preparation for the event begins the evening prior, with a ceremonial burning of oak logs in a pit in the ground. Later that evening, staff and former employees of the facility, roast pigs and turkeys in the Hawaiian tradition. The following morning, the meat is shredded to serve at the event along with rice, fruit and refreshments. Activities at the popular annual event included roaming photographers, shaved ice treats and live entertainment.



At Celebrate Sonoma: Above: Magician Roger Rhoten entertains the crowd; Right: Live music



A Tribute to Pete Seeger

On the evening of August 27th the Sonoma Developmental Center Choir and Bell Ensemble performed at the Gazebo before a live audience and presented "A Tribute to Pete Seeger." The Choir and Bell Ensemble rehearsed for months prior to the performance. So many people from the town of Eldridge, including the residents and employees attended the musical event and looked forward to their next performance.



The Bell Choir [photo by JJ Fernandez]

Remembrance Day

The California Memorial Project presented the 12th Annual Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Butler Gazebo on Monday September 15, 2014. The California Memorial Project is collaboration by Disability Rights California DRC/Peer Self Advocacy Unit, People First of California, and California Network of Mental Health Clients, to honor people who have lived and died at state institutions. The third Monday in September was established as Remembrance Day by the California Memorial Project, who hosts simultaneous events throughout the state.

The event was open to the public and featured prayers, remembrances, poems, songs and refreshments. Those in attendance observed a moment of silence at 1:55 P.M. to show respect for people who have died. Residents of the center created a colorful array of paper doves that were on display at the Butler Gazebo during the ceremony in honor of the individuals being remembered.

The audience at Remembrance Day [photo by JJ Fernandez]



Celebrate Sonoma

The annual Celebrate Sonoma event occurred at the Sonoma House lawn on September 4th. The decades old event began with a luau-style employee picnic that has grown over the years to include the residents as well. Today, the all-day event is held to honor all those that live and work at the facility. The food served at Celebrate

Community Events

Happy Days!

“Sunday, Monday, Happy Days! Tuesday, Wednesday, Happy Days! Thursday, Friday, Happy Days! Saturday, what a day! Rocking all week with you!!”

The Performing Arts Company at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) was pleased to present this year’s performance of *Happy Days*. The Performing Arts Company, a committee made up of SDC employees, 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,” “Musical Time Travel,” “Adventures with Mary Poppins,” “AAARRRRGH!” and “Spooked!” Open auditions for the play began in early spring. Rehearsals were held during the summer months, and live performances were presented on September 23 and 24 and September 30 and October 1 at the facility gymnasium.

The cast was comprised of approximately 30 singers, dancers, actors and musicians with stage coaches on hand to assist (employees and community volunteers). The event was sold out all four nights and the audience included residents of the center, family members, employees, and people from the public.



*Happy Days:
The Fonz (L) and
Pinky Tuscadero (R)*



*Happy Days:
Mr. and Mrs.
Cunningham*



*Happy Days (left):
Richie (center left) and
Potsie (far right)*



*Happy Days
cast*



*Happy Days (right):
Laverne (far left),
Lori Beth (center)
and Shirley (far right)*

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, December 15, 2014 is the deadline for the January 2015 issue).

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