

SIERRA VISTA CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

Reaching Out



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
Summer 2023

A WORD FROM OUR CEO

ANDREW TIMBIE



Friends and Neighbors,

I am so thrilled to be able to announce to you some exciting developments over the past few months at the agency. We are now officially underway in the planning and development stage of a brand new resource center in South Modesto; this is right after having wrapped up a record-breaking fundraising golf tournament! And while we have been excited about our partnerships with you, we have been working hard to start new and comprehensive programs in both Stanislaus and Merced Counties! It has been such a tremendous spring for the agency and for so many of the children and families we have served.

As our community grows, changes, and develops new needs, I am committed to ensuring Sierra Vista is growing and adapting to meet the challenges that people in our community face. We continue to work hard to innovate and be a leader in bringing long-term and generational solutions to some of the existing mental, behavioral, and social challenges. I continue to invite you into the work that we are doing as we continue to build a strong community together.

With gratitude,

Andrew Timbie
Chief Executive Officer

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO OUR VALUED CORPORATE SPONSORS

Our non-profit's success is rooted in the invaluable support of our corporate sponsors. Their belief in our vision has provided the necessary resources for innovative programs, expanded outreach, and vital services to those in need. These sponsors go beyond financial contributions, demonstrating genuine commitment through active participation in events, volunteering efforts, and employee engagement programs. Their dedication to making a positive difference in our community inspires us. Together, we create a brighter future. We are eternally grateful for their unwavering support. Thank you for being a driving force behind our mission.



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WELCOME OUR BOARDMEMBERS COMMITTED TO OUR COMMUNITY



DEBBIE SANDERS

Debbie Sanders was born in Wisconsin and raised in Santa Barbara, CA. Not quite ready to leave the beautiful Southern California area, she stayed and received her Bachelor's degree in Economics, with a concentration in Accounting, from UC Santa Barbara. Right after graduation, she married her sweetheart, Brian Sanders, and they moved to Oregon for a year. Soon after that, they landed in Modesto, which was a huge adjustment in the weather for her.

Being a Midwest girl at heart with family being very important to her, she was happy to raise all 3 of their daughters in Modesto. She has worked as a CPA and Tax Manager at Grimbleby Coleman in Modesto for over 15 years. Her focus is on Individual Taxation, Estate and Trust Planning, and Not for Profit organizations.

Now that Debbie and Brian are empty nesters, she is enjoying giving back to this wonderful family-centered community by being a board member of Sierra Vista. On the weekends, you can find her kayaking with her husband and their black Labrador, Gus.

RAFAEL MARTINEZ

Rafael Martinez grew up in Newman, California. After completing his education at CSU Stanislaus, he has had a successful 14-year banking career in Newman, Turlock, Modesto, and Lodi. As VP Relationship Manager at F&M Bank in Turlock, Rafael excels at building client connections.

Rafael actively contributes to his community. He holds positions on the Sierra Vista board, is Vice President of The Turlock Community Theater, and is the incoming Chair of The Education Foundation of Stanislaus County. Rafael cherishes time with his wife and two daughters, traveling frequently to Mexico to visit family and vacation.

Rafael's commitment to effecting positive change drives his actions, meeting his personal and professional commitments. Guided by the advice to "do what you say you will do," Rafael strives to make a lasting impact.

VICTORIA GAFFNEY

Victoria is a lifelong Modesto resident who has been in Commercial Banking for over 16 years, the last six of which, with Oak Valley Community Bank. Because Modesto has always been home, Victoria feels a strong pull to engage and serve with organizations that are helping children right here at home; so, joining Sierra Vista felt like a natural fit.

In addition to board service with Sierra Vista, she currently serves as the Board President for First Tee, Central Valley, a golf focused, youth development organization. She is a charter member of Rotary of Modesto Flex.

Victoria holds a Masters of Business Administration from California State University, Stanislaus. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, attending concerts, and spending time with her husband Michael and their nine-year-old son.



TEEFING UP FOR SIERRA VISTA

31ST ANNIVERSARY GOLF TOURNAMENT



Thanks to the support of our sponsors, volunteers, and golfers, our 31st Annual Golf Tournament, held on May 12, 2023, was a tremendous success! The event brought together a sold-out tournament of 168 passionate golfers who relished a delightful day on the course. The picturesque weather provided the perfect backdrop for an extraordinary golfing experience, with thrilling on-course activities and a feast of delectable food and refreshing drinks. The excitement reached its peak as we concluded the event with the announcement of our raffle winners and the presentation of well-deserved awards.

We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who played a part in making this event a resounding triumph. Our



sponsors played a pivotal role in bringing the tournament to life, and without their generous contributions, none of this would have been possible. Their unwavering support demonstrates their commitment to our cause, and we are immensely grateful for their partnership.

A special appreciation goes out to our dedicated golf committee members, Golf Tournament Chair Nelson Aldrich, and volunteers who selflessly devoted their time and energy to ensure the smooth operation of the tournament. From the initial set-up and registration process to the post-event clean-up, their efforts were invaluable in creating a seamless experience for our





participants. Their enthusiasm and dedication exemplify the spirit of our organization, and we are truly grateful for their unwavering commitment.

Our heartfelt thanks also go to our exceptional golfers. Their participation made this year's tournament a grand success and serves as a testament to their belief in Sierra Vista. The funds raised through this event will enable us to continue our vital work within the community, impacting the lives of those who need it the most. We are humbled by your support and inspired by your generosity.

Our Golf Tournament surpassed all expectations, marking it our most successful year. Reflecting on

this achievement, we eagerly look forward to next year's tournament.

Sierra Vista has been a steadfast presence in our community, making a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. The Golf Tournament is a testament to our collective commitment to creating positive change. The outpouring of support and generosity from our sponsors, volunteers, and golfers has been remarkable. To each and every one of you, we extend our sincerest gratitude. Your contributions empower us to continue making a meaningful impact, and we cannot thank you enough.

Together, let us pave the way for a brighter future, one swing at a time.



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- Ron Smith GMC
- Sierra Vista Boardmembers
- Sign Depot
- Yosemite Foods

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

During the month of May, we celebrated Mental Health Awareness Month. Together, we raised awareness, promoted understanding, and emphasized the significance of mental health in our lives and community.



LOVE MODESTO

Sierra Vista staff joined Love Modesto to serve the public and make Modesto and Stanislaus County a better place! Our staff helped beautify and revive the look of La Loma Junior High School and South Modesto Park.



FOOD DRIVE

Our North Modesto Family Resource Center joined volunteers from The House Modesto to distribute at their food drive. In just two hours, over 400 families were served.



CINCO DE MAYO

South Modesto Promotora and Community Promotora leaders participated in the South Modesto Businesses United Cinco de Mayo Parade. Promotora participated in the parade to promote mental health awareness and services in the community.



SIERRA VISTA MERCED

Sierra Vista Merced participated at many school outreach events in Merced County. Through these engaging initiatives, such as stop the stigma, Headstart, and Mental Health Awareness we empowered young minds, promoted education, and inspired a brighter future.



FOSTER CARE APPRECIATION

May is National Foster Care Month, a time for us to acknowledge the families and staff who help children and youth in care. Our families and staff provide unwavering support and love, a safe space, healing, and hope. Together, we are making a difference.

CELEBRATING THE BRIDGE



The Bridge Family Resource Center, located on Scenic Drive in Modesto, has played a vital role in fostering connections, providing support, and enriching the lives of underserved Southeast Asian communities for the past 15 years. Sadly, the center will close its doors on June 30, 2023. Throughout its operation, The Bridge has served as a central hub

for social activities, support services, educational programs, and promoting community engagement.

Under the guidance of Dr. Pao Lee and Bouaphanh Boudsady, The Bridge has had a profound positive impact on the community. The center has become a gathering place, fostering connection, learning, growth, and mutual support. Through their unwavering commitment, visionary leadership, and dedication, Dr. Lee and Bouaphanh have created an invaluable resource that empowers the Southeast Asian community and builds resilience, promising a brighter future for all.

We extend our congratulations to Dr. Lee on his retirement and his remarkable career. With a Doctorate

of Education in International and Multicultural Education from the University of San Francisco, he has served as a social worker, interpreter, translator, parent education presenter, ESL instructor, cultural advisor, and tutor at The Bridge. Driven by his experience as a Vietnam War refugee, Dr. Lee's dedication to assisting those in need has been invaluable, and we are profoundly grateful for his contributions.

In his retirement, Dr. Lee plans to spend quality time with his family. As a proud father of ten children and seventeen grandchildren, he leaves a legacy of compassion and service. While the closure of The Bridge marks the end of an era, its impact on the community will endure for generations to come.

MENTOR APPRECIATION DINNER

On May 9th, 2023, our Sierra Vista Mentoring Program gathered at Greens on 10th to reflect, encourage, and celebrate Sierra Vista's mentors and all they have accomplished during the 2022-2023 school year. Their dedication to building up today's youth by demonstrating healthy, caring relationships was evident in the feedback from multiple school administrations, our mentees & their guardians. Our mentors went to six different schools, reaching 75 students with over 1300 hours of mentoring, almost doubling our last year's goals!



Sierra Vista Mentoring Team

Vice Principal Samora Mellor of Burbank Elementary and Principal Javier Lara of Orville Wright Elementary both spoke about the benefits of mentoring. They shared the changes they've witnessed in their students' confidence and behavior since being mentored. We also heard testimonials from mentors Darline Kasper and Julian Gallo. Both shared their experiences and the positive impact of being a mentor on their lives.

Our Mentor of the Year Award went to Josue Martinez. Josue consistently helps his mentee set goals, praises and rewards him when those goals are met, and if they are harder to reach, he continues to support and push him to continue working toward them. His mentee had to switch schools, and Josue did not hesitate to relocate his sessions to the new school.

Our Sierra Vista Mentoring Program brings together mentors, mentees, educators, businesses, community leaders, and community-based organizations. Learn how you can help be a mentor and join our school-based mentoring program at sierravistacares.org/mentoring.



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October 14, 2023 | 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Vintage Gardens, Modesto

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