

SAN BENITO COUNTY  
COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS  
FY 17/18

AGENCY	CONTACT	RECEIVED
JOVENES DE ANTANO	PAULINE VALDIVA	\$ 40,000.00
SENIOR CITIZES LEGAL SERVICES	CREIGHTON MENDIVIL	\$ 4,000.00
AAA - OPERATED BY SENIORS COUNCIL	CLAY KEMP	\$ 30,000.00
ADVOCACY	GARY EDWARDS	\$ 6,000.00
COMMUNITY FOOD BANK	MARIA THOMAS	\$ 12,500.00
EMMAUS HOUSE	PATRICE KUERSCHNER	\$ 18,500.00
CASA	ESTHER CURTICE	\$ 3,000.00
CHAMBERLAINS	DENISE CAUTHEN-WRIGHT	\$ 4,000.00
		\$ -
		<u>\$ 118,000.00</u>
		<u>\$ 118,000.00</u>



# *Jovenes de Antaño*

July 23, 2018

Honorable SBC Board of Supervisors  
481 Fourth Street  
Hollister, CA 95023

Dear Members

Included is our projected amount of meals served for fiscal year **2017-2018**.

At the end of the fiscal year June **30, 2018** the amount of meals projected to that were served was **33,510** for both the Congregate and Meals on Wheels Program. JDA continues to receive the same amount of annual funding to operate the programs. This means a reduction in services, because it does not keep up with inflation. The food & consumable costs continue to increase, as other fixed costs to operate the agency.

Other services were provided to over **2,608** seniors in San Benito County include:

- Nutrition Services
- Nutrition Education and Counseling
- Transportation Services: to and from senior centers, assistance with Shopping & medical appointments.
- Information & Assistance
- Alzheimer's Resource Center
- In-Home Services
- Family Caregiver Support Program
- Exercise Classes & Blood Pressure Clinic

I want to thank you for your continued support, which allows us to serve the meals and other essential services to the elderly of San Benito County. It also allows the seniors to live at home longer along with all the supportive services they receive from the Agency.

If you have any questions or need more information please call me at (831) 637-9275 or e-mail at [JAntano@aol.com](mailto:JAntano@aol.com).

Yours truly,

Pauline Valdivia  
Executive Director



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## Veterans honored at Hollister Community Center

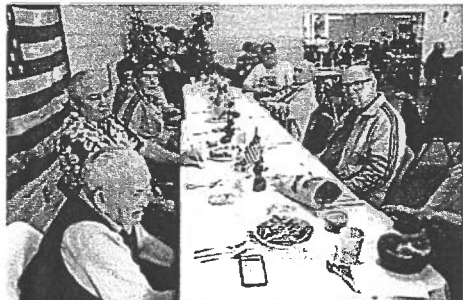
posted on Fri, 11/10/2017 - 01:30pm by John Chadwell, Reporting for BenitoLink

Add a comment    Email this Article

Veterans were honored for their service, dating back to World War II, during a luncheon at the Hollister Community Center.



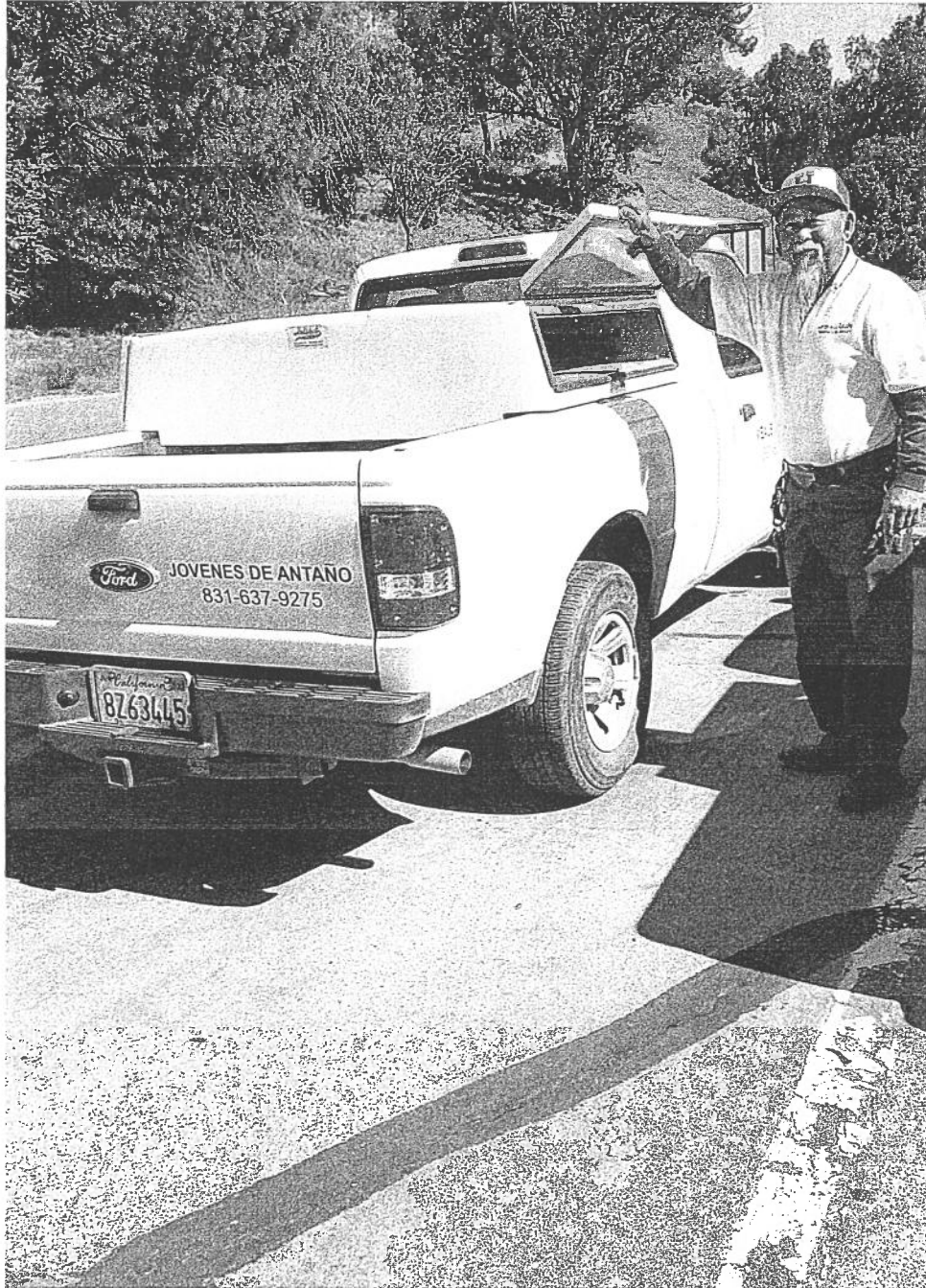
Veterans share lunch and stories at the Hollister Community Center. Photos by John Chadwell.



Pauline Valdivia said her brother, David, was 21 when he was killed in Vietnam.



" Volunteer Dinner "  
May 2018



"meats on wheels"



"top Hotters sponsor"  
Thanksgiving Dinner  
2018

## Melinda Casillas

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**From:** Creighton Mendivil <creightonmendivil@seniorlegal.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 03, 2018 11:54 AM  
**To:** Melinda Casillas  
**Subject:** Re: FY 17/18 reports due  
**Attachments:** SCLS FY 2017-18 SBC report.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Melinda,

Please find attached the SCLS report for FY 2017-18. It was a very successful year for SCLS .

Creighton

Creighton Mendivil

Directing Attorney  
Senior Citizens Legal Services of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties  
(831) 426-8824  
(831) 426-3345 fax  
[www.seniorlegal.org](http://www.seniorlegal.org)

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On July 20, 2018 at 9:12 AM Melinda Casillas <[MCasillas@cosb.us](mailto:MCasillas@cosb.us)> wrote:

LAW OFFICES OF  
**SENIOR CITIZENS LEGAL SERVICES**

**Main Office Location: 501 Soquel Avenue, Suite F, Santa Cruz, CA 95062**  
**Telephone: 831.426.8824 Fax: 831.426.3345 Website: [www.seniorlegal.org](http://www.seniorlegal.org)**

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August 3, 2018

San Benito County Board of Supervisors  
FY 2017-18 Year-end report

Thank you for supporting Senior Citizens Legal Services (SCLS) in protecting the rights of seniors in San Benito County. If there are any questions regarding this report, please contact me at [creightonmendivil@seniorlegal.org](mailto:creightonmendivil@seniorlegal.org) or (831) 426-8824.

During Fiscal Year 2017-18 SCLS's work in San Benito assisted: 7 new clients obtain health and medical services through MediCal; 15 clients to secure or retain income for their basic needs; 28 clients in securing or retaining affordable housing; 12 clients in preventing elder abuse; and 10 clients to retain healthcare services through MediCal. SCLS through it actions saved/recovered \$178,821 in One-Time Benefits and \$11,281 in Monthly Benefits for clients.

The recovery of One-Time Benefits are elevated from previous reports because of a large matter in San Benito County that involved the return of a seniors life savings (\$140,000) that was almost lost to a devious family member. SCLS hopes large frauds do not happen to seniors in San Benito County again. But if they do SCLS will do what we can to protect and recover their funds and security.

In addition to the number provided, SCLS had a particular matter to highlight. "Tess" is a widow in her 80's living in San Benito County. Tess had been forced to add her abusive son to the deed of her home. Tess feared for her safety because of her son's erratic and threatening behaviors.

Tess came to SCLS through a referral from Adult Protective Services (APS). Due to the efforts of SCLS in conjunction with APS and the San Benito District Attorney's Office we were able to assist Tess to clear her son from the home title and have the son removed from the home. Tess is again living safe and happy in San Benito County. SCLS appreciates the San Benito Board of Supervisors finical grant that made our assistance for Tess and other seniors in San Benito County possible



Creighton Mendivil

Directing Attorney / Executive Director

**Watsonville Office Location (Tuesday Only): 114 E. Fifth Street**

**Hollister Office Location (Tuesday Only): 300 West Street**

SCLS is funded by the Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties, Santa Cruz County, San Benito County, the Cities of Santa Cruz, Capitola, Watsonville and Scotts Valley, the California Bar Association, the Santa Cruz County Bar Association and the Community Foundation of San Benito County



## Melinda Casillas

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**From:** Clay Kempf <clayk@seniorscouncil.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 07, 2018 8:49 PM  
**To:** Melinda Casillas  
**Cc:** Patty Talbott  
**Subject:** Re: FY 17/18 reports due  
**Attachments:** San Benito County 2017-18 Report.pdf; The Challenges of California's Aging Population.pdf; AAA's Provide Help to Seniors & PWD.pdf; How You can Help your AAA.pdf

Hi Melinda-

Here's our two-page report on some of our 2017-18 activities.

I'm also attaching three infographics that I worked on with our state association that highlights some of the challenges facing older adults in California; how AAA's provide help to those individuals; and, lastly, how the community can help AAA's in their efforts to better the lives of those we serve.

Clay

Clay Kempf  
Executive Director  
Seniors Council  
Area Agency on Aging of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties  
(831) 688-0400 ext. 115

cc: Patty Talbott, AAA Planner and Seniors Council Contract Manager



SERVICE • SUPPORT • ADVOCACY

**AREA AGENCY ON AGING**

San Benito & Santa Cruz Counties

**FOSTER GRANDPARENT/SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM**

Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara & Santa Cruz Counties

**PROJECT SCOUT**

Tax Counseling Assistance

**COMPANION FOR LIFE**

Emergency Response Systems

August 7, 2018

Melinda Casillas  
San Benito County Administrative Services  
481 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hollister, California 95023

RE: Area Agency on Aging 2017-18 Activity Report

**BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW**

The Seniors Council serves as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) of Santa Cruz & San Benito County. Officially designated as the AAA by the California Department of Aging, the Seniors Council has been performing this quasi-governmental role since 1979.

The AAA receives state and federal funding to provide services to older adults aged 60 and above in the two-county region. This process provides broad federal guidance and flexibility regarding the type of services to be provided, but recognizes the importance of local control in the detailed decision of what exact services are needed in the community, and in identifying the most effective organization to provide them.

The majority of our local services are provided through contracts with local, community-based non-profit organizations, including Senior Network Services (for the Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program, known as HICAP), Senior Citizens Legal Services (legal aid to seniors), Advocacy Inc. (Long Term Care Ombudsman) and Jovenes de Antaño (home-delivered meals, senior transportation, senior dining center, information & assistance, family caregiver support, and case management).

The Counties of San Benito and Santa Cruz have both determined that it is more cost-effective to provide operational support to the Seniors Council than to perform this mandatory service directly. The Seniors Council agrees, and we're very committed to meeting the requirements of the Older Americans Act (federal) and the Older Californians Act that come with the AAA designation.

The County of San Benito not only provides administrative funds to the AAA, but also local match for some of the contracted service providers.

**234 Santa Cruz Avenue • Aptos, California 95003**      **[www.seniorscouncil.org](http://www.seniorscouncil.org)**  
PHONE: AAA – (831) 688-0400 • FG/SCP – (831) 475-0816 • SCOUT – 1-877-373-8297 • FAX: (831) 688-1225

SUPPORTED BY FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, FOUNDATIONS, THE UNITED WAYS OF  
MONTEREY, SAN BENITO, & SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES & YOUR PRIVATE DONATIONS

## **2017-18 ACTIVITIES**

Our **core AAA functions** include standard oversight of contracted organizations, including the quality and regulatory compliance of their service; data and fiscal reporting and documentation; submission of various reports to California Department of Aging; desk and on-site program monitoring; technical assistance; and overall program design and delivery. We also serve as the liaison with the California Department of Aging and the Administration for Community Living (federal), working with those entities to track changing regulations or to discuss new and emerging issues.

Another role the AAA performs is to provide leadership in policy and funding decisions that affect older adults living in our area. We have been very active in that arena in recent years, providing statewide leadership in various **state legislative efforts, including a budget augmentation that will bring \$2.4 million in new state monies for California Ombudsman Programs. About \$55,000 of that will be allocated to our local program.**

We're also proud of an effort we championed a few years ago that was officially adopted for 2018-19; **seniors receiving SSI benefits will now be eligible to receive CalFresh vouchers for the first time since the 1970s.**

We are hopeful that our state advocacy efforts over the past three years have made significant in-roads in increasing political awareness about the challenges facing our older adults; not just locally, but across the state. We're cautiously optimistic that our 2019 efforts will result in additional state and federal dollars coming to our community to assist the most frail among our grandparents, our parents, and our peers. And we continue to commit to providing opportunities for those of us who are able-bodied to perform some of the things most human in our nature; helping others.

## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

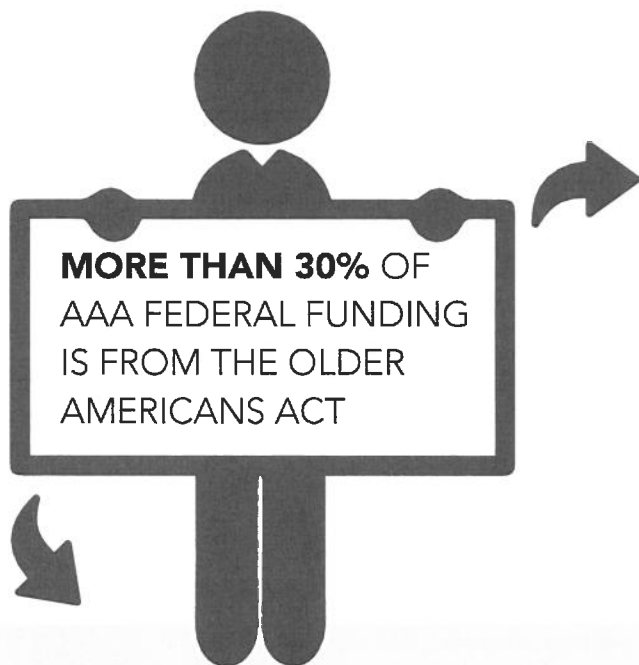
We've made the following comments previously, but they remain 100% true, so I'll repeat them again this year. San Benito County's allocation of \$30,000 to our agency allows us to continue this good work, and it would be impossible for us to do so without the County's support. We appreciate the partnership we have with the Board of Supervisors and County staff, and remain poised to do all we can to advocate for and provide services to our targeted population; at-risk seniors in our service area.

And, this report would be remiss if we failed to mention that of all of our contracted service providers (HICAP, Jovenes de Antaño, Senior Citizens Legal Services, & Advocacy Inc.) continue to provide high quality services throughout San Benito County, and we hope the Board, staff, and the community appreciates their efforts as much as we do.

Clay Kempf – Executive Director

# AAAs are here for California's Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities

California's aging network consists of 33 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) that coordinate, administer, and implement a wide range of programs, services, and advocacy efforts for older adults and persons with disabilities.



## AAA KEY ROLES

- ADVOCATE
- COMMUNITY LIAISON
- CONVENER
- FUNDER
- INNOVATOR
- COORDINATOR OF SERVICES
- PLANNING
- POLICY ACTIVIST
- SERVICE PROVIDER
- DIRECT SERVICES

## AAAs PROVIDE CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAMS



APPROXIMATELY **3.8 MILLION** CALIFORNIA CAREGIVERS HAVE PROVIDED AN ECONOMIC VALUE OF **\$47 BILLION** IN UNPAID CARE TO AN ADULT OR CHILD.



AAAs PROVIDE **18 MILLION** NUTRITIOUS MEALS TO OLDER CALIFORNIANS PER YEAR<sup>2</sup>



**938,000** OLDER CALIFORNIANS HAVE RECEIVED SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FROM AN AAA PROGRAM<sup>3</sup>



AAAs PROVIDE **143,946** HOURS PER YEAR PROVIDING LEGAL ADVICE AND COUNSELING



NEARLY **60%** OF CAREGIVERS SPEND MORE THAN **20 HOURS PER WEEK** PROVIDING CARE<sup>4</sup>



**40%** HAVE BEEN PROVIDING UNPAID CARE SERVICES FOR **TWO OR MORE YEARS**



To learn more visit: [www.C4A.info](http://www.C4A.info)

C4A represents California's 33 Area Agencies on Aging. AAAs coordinate a wide array of services to seniors and adults with disabilities at the community level.

<sup>1</sup> This number includes inflation

<sup>2</sup> 2014 NAPIS report

<sup>3</sup> 2017 CDA Statistical Sheet

<sup>4</sup> Family Caregiver Alliance; Caregiver Statistics: Demographics

# The Challenges of California's Aging Population

California is home to a rapidly growing diverse aging and older adults with disabilities population, many of whom are expected to have serious service needs in the years to come because of rising rates of poverty, food insecurity, and inadequate housing.



CALIFORNIA IS THE STATE WITH **THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF OLDER ADULTS LIVING IN POVERTY**



**40%** OF SENIORS DON'T HAVE INCOME TO MEET BASIC NEEDS<sup>3</sup>



**16.3%** OF CALIFORNIANS OVER AGE 60 ARE FOOD INSECURE<sup>4</sup>



MORE THAN **1 IN 5** LOW-INCOME CALIFORNIANS OVER AGE 65 CANNOT AFFORD TO PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE



STATE AREA AGENCY ON AGING FUNDING HAS BEEN **REDUCED BY 59%**

Area Agencies on Aging coordinate services to older adult and adults with disabilities at the local level and work to remedy local aging concerns.



**RATES OF ALZHEIMER'S WILL DOUBLE** FROM 2008 TO 2030<sup>1</sup>



**80% OF OLDER ADULTS** HAVE AT LEAST ONE CHRONIC CONDITION AND 50% HAVE AT LEAST TWO<sup>2</sup>

Chronic diseases include conditions such as heart disease, cancer, and type 2 diabetes<sup>2</sup>



To learn more visit: [www.C4A.info](http://www.C4A.info)

C4A represents California's 33 Area Agencies on Aging. AAAs coordinate a wide array of services to seniors and adults with disabilities at the community level.

<sup>1</sup> Alzheimer's Association

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Chronic Disease Overview

<sup>3</sup> Elder Economic Index

<sup>4</sup> America's Health Rankings: United Health Foundation 2016 Senior Report

# How Can You Help Your Area Agency on Aging (AAA)?

Older Californians provide a valuable role in our communities. You can be supportive by volunteering, supporting age-friendly policies and partnering with Area Agencies on Aging.



## AAAs RELY ON THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS PER YEAR

### THINGS WE CAN ALL DO TO HELP:



VOLUNTEER  
DRIVER  
PROGRAMS



DELIVERING  
MEALS



FRIENDLY  
VISITOR  
PROGRAMS



TAX PREPARERS



MEDICARE  
COUNSELING  
SERVICES



OMBUDSMAN  
SERVICES

### POLICYMAKERS:



INCLUDE OLDER  
ADULTS IN CONTINUITY  
OF CARE SERVICES



ELEVATE SENIORS'  
PRIORITIES



SUPPORT POLICIES  
THAT INCREASE  
FUNDING



PROVIDE  
AFFORDABLE  
SENIOR HOUSING

### PARTNERS:

AAAs WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
NUMEROUS PARTNER GROUPS  
EACH YEAR TO PROVIDE MUCH  
NEEDED SERVICES<sup>1</sup>

### PARTNER WITH AAAs IN:



TRANSITIONAL  
SERVICES



MANAGED  
CARE



CASE  
MANAGEMENT



To learn more visit: [www.C4A.info](http://www.C4A.info)

C4A represents California's 33 Area Agencies on Aging. AAAs coordinate a wide array of services to seniors and adults with disabilities at the community level.

<sup>1</sup> N4A Local Leaders in Aging and Community Living, 2017

## Melinda Casillas

---

**From:** Suzanne Stone <suzanne@advocacy-inc.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 08, 2018 2:32 PM  
**To:** Melinda Casillas  
**Subject:** OMBUDSMAN REPORT SAN BENITO COUNTY 17-18  
**Attachments:** OMBUDSMAN REPORT SAN BENITO COUNTY 17-18.docx

Dear Melinda,

I have attached the Ombudsman Report for San Benito County.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Suzanne



*Suzanne Stone*  
*Executive Director*  
*5274 Scotts Valley Dr., Ste.203*  
*Scotts Valley, CA 95066*  
*(831) 429-1913, ext. 13*  
*(831) 429-9102 FAX*  
[suzanne@advocacy-inc.org](mailto:suzanne@advocacy-inc.org)



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## OMBUDSMAN REPORT SAN BENITO COUNTY 2017-18

Over the past year, the Ombudsman has made regular visits and case investigations at all the long-term care facilities in San Benito County. These facilities include skilled nursing, assisted living, and adult residential and day facilities. Additionally, the Ombudsmen attend monthly meetings with the San Benito Long-Term Care Commission. Ombudsmen do other outreach/promotion, voice concerns to legislators, and provide education in the community as well. In the 2017-18 year the Ombudsman:

- attended Board of Supervisor meetings
- presented information and education at the Caregivers University at Jovenes de Antano
- met with other financial supporters such as the United Way
- spoke at a woman's group
- attended a forum of assembly candidates about aging issues in San Benito County and asked questions
- recruited new volunteers through various means of outreach

There is no other program that duplicates the work the Ombudsmen do. The Ombudsmen investigate cases such as abuse (physical, psychological, sexual, financial, neglect, etc.), as well as other concerns and complaints a resident may have. The ombudsman works on the "expressed wish" of the resident and ensures that resident rights are being met. The Ombudsmen are available to residents as an advocate during care conferences and resident council meetings per resident request. Regular presence, monitoring visits, advocacy, and strict confidentiality with the Ombudsman, help residents feel comfortable to confide about their issue. A regular presence and voiced concerns by the Ombudsman help reduce and prevent incidents of abuse and give residents a safe and confidential ally should they need one.

Ombudsmen are also required to witness advanced health care directives should they be executed in a skilled nursing facility. Because it is a legal document, the Ombudsman determines if the resident understands the document and is signing it in free will.

Ombudsmen are mandated reporters. With resident permission the Ombudsman can file complaints with licensing (California Department of Public Health) and cross-report to the appropriate agencies.

One recent case involved an incident of staff-to-resident abuse. A male resident had been left completely unclothed on the bed, without the curtain shut, while the CNA left the room. The resident reported the incident to the Ombudsman because he was familiar with what the Ombudsmen do, due to regular facility visits. The incident was cross reported as abuse and a care conference was held for the resident who chose to have the Ombudsman present. The CNA in question had been suspended and had a previous similar incident. Because the resident felt comfortable to contact and confide in the Ombudsman, the abuse was reported and possible potential future incidents prevented.



Ombudsmen also help residents with problems with discharges and evictions. Another story of advocacy by the Ombudsman involves a woman who was in skilled nursing but wanted to go home. The facility and even the physical therapist said she would not be capable of caring for herself. The Ombudsman advocated for the resident's right to return home and the resident left the facility. A year or so later, the physical therapist at the facility stopped the Ombudsman in the hallway and mentioned how surprised he was that the woman went home and continues to do well and thrive. This was an example of how the resident was able to voice what they wanted, the Ombudsman advocated for her rights, and her overall quality of life improved.

Ultimately, a resident will feel comfortable to contact an Ombudsman to inquire about their rights and self-advocate. Residents are often quite capable and often successful resolving their issues by themselves. However, should the resident meet resistance, need information, or just need an extra voice on their side, the Ombudsman is available to assist.



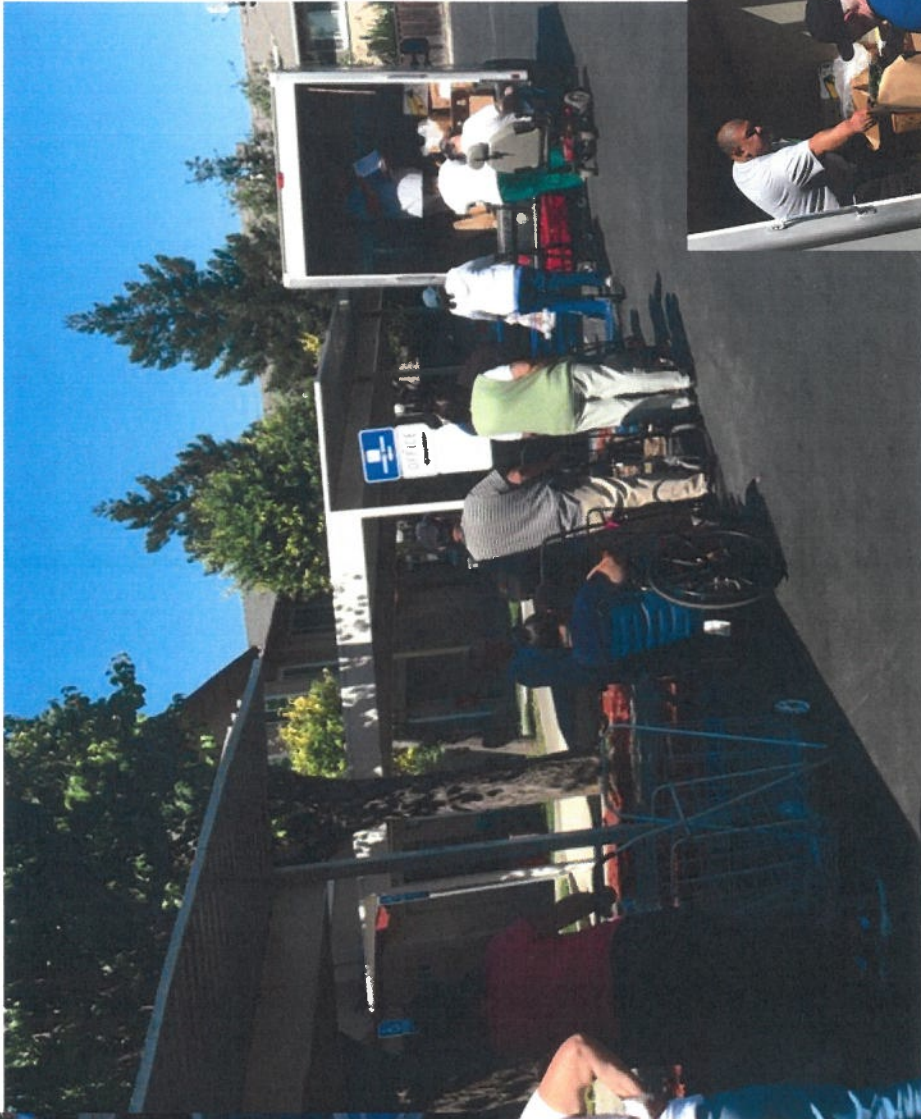
County of San Benito Grant Report  
 Senior Brown Bag and Home Delivery Program  
 July 2017 - June 2018

<u>Month</u>	<b>SBC residents helped</b>	<b>Bags packed &amp; delivered</b>
July 2017	286	566
Aug 2017	288	536
Sept 2017	287	579
Oct 2017	251	574
Nov 2017	253	548
Dec 2017	259	504
Jan 2018	257	617
Feb 2018	243	536
March 2018	245	547
April 2018	235	514
May 2018	247	634
June 2018	<u>244</u>	<u>505</u>
<b>Program Year Totals:</b>	<b>3,095</b>	<b>6,660</b>

**How we do it**

Every week, our team picks up fresh produce, breads, and pantry staples at local grower and grocer partners. Every Wednesday morning, a team of dedicated volunteers help our warehouse team build the 500+ bags for our weekly delivery programs, including our senior and homebound programs. Every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, a team of volunteers and FoodBank staff deliver fresh produce, breads, and staples to our customers, all around San Benito County. For some folks, it is the only person they see all week, so we are sure to bring a smile.

***We gratefully appreciate the support of our county!***



## **Emmaus House Report June 30, 2018**

As the recipient of this Community Based Organizational Grant our primary objective to keep the Emmaus House emergency shelter operations open 24/7/365 has been achieved. Emmaus House is San Benito County's only temporary shelter for women and their children that are victims of domestic violence.

We have been in operation since October 2006, serving women and children who seek a safe haven and support to escape the tragedy of domestic violence.

Our program offers a 24/7 Crisis line that offers support to women who need to assess their situation, develop a safety plan and/or determine intake into our shelter. In FY 2017/18 we received 460 Hotline calls, very similar to the previous year. Our shelter offers families a safe home and provides the tools needed to begin a new life. Since opening we have sheltered over 1695 clients. Of those 917 were children and 50% of those children are under the age of 5.

We held 49 Weekly Wellness and Empowerment classes and 36 Parenting classes during the current grant cycle. Women and their children are provided support and resources, but the difficult steps must be taken by the client to ensure that after transitioning back into our community, she is empowered to continue the challenging work to overcome the obstacles that might prevent her from continuing her transition toward a healthier life.

Wellness Planning, empowerment, consistent support and providing programs that offer education and skill building, has proven to be a powerful and effective process for our Emmaus House clients. Both of these classes are given by behavior health professionals. Additionally they provide individual one on one counseling as needed and asked for.

Our Staff Case managers met between 2 - 4 times weekly with clients reviewing progress toward their individual needs and goals. This totals over 500 sessions annually.

I am happy to report that these programs are working, and proudly in 2017/18 none of our clients returned to her abuser. Considering that the national average states that a woman returns to her perpetrator seven times before she is able to leave for good, this is a very impressive statistic.

Additionally we provide - After Care services to clients after they depart from Emmaus House. These services include; access to on-site counseling and group meetings, House held celebrations such as Halloween and Christmas parties, clothing boutique and emergency pantry items. At Christmas 2017 we provided a party type atmosphere to the current in-house families plus invited 23 past clients to return for the afternoon. The local Hollister Top Hatter's

motorcycle club brought Santa Claus by for a visit and then stayed around to play tag ball with our children in the secured backyard area. A fun day was had by all.

We utilize a varied volunteer base to help keep Emmaus house running smoothly and giving it more of a 'home feel' rather than just an overnight stay location. Our Volunteers provide: Donation & Boutique sorting, Community enrichment & educational event staffing, fundraising events, Beauty treatments for hair & nail care, maintenance, yard care & grooming, and our all important over night house monitor. We would not be able to maintain our tight budget without this vital position filled by a live-in on site volunteer. In 2017 we had over 89 active Volunteers that accounted for 6,233 hours!

During FY 2017/18 we served 186 totaling 4143 bed nights. This is similar to the previous year. We are on par do about the same this year, with our average length of stay running @ 32 days.

Our demographic breakdown is as follows:

95 women and 91 children - it is important to note we only take males up-to the age of 12. We track 3 categories of abuse. In FY 2016/17 we had 37% physically and or sexually abused, 33% verbal abuse and 30% Mental abuse.

Clientele reported ethnicity break down is: 60% Hispanic, 19% White, 2% Black African American, 6% American Indian, 7% Multi Racial, 6% Other.

Without Emmaus House, families would be forced to leave San Benito County, displacing children and impacting our county's work force. Emmaus House was established to provide San Benito County residents a safe place to begin their journey free from a life of violence toward a positive and healthy life while remaining in their community. It is your vital financial support that allows us to continue this mission.

I would especially like to thank Supervisors DeLa Cruz and Medina for your current and past participation in the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event. Your visual support for Community Awareness to the travesties of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is greatly appreciated.

Thank you San Benito County Board of Supervisors for funding this essential need in our community.

# THE BRIGGS BUILD

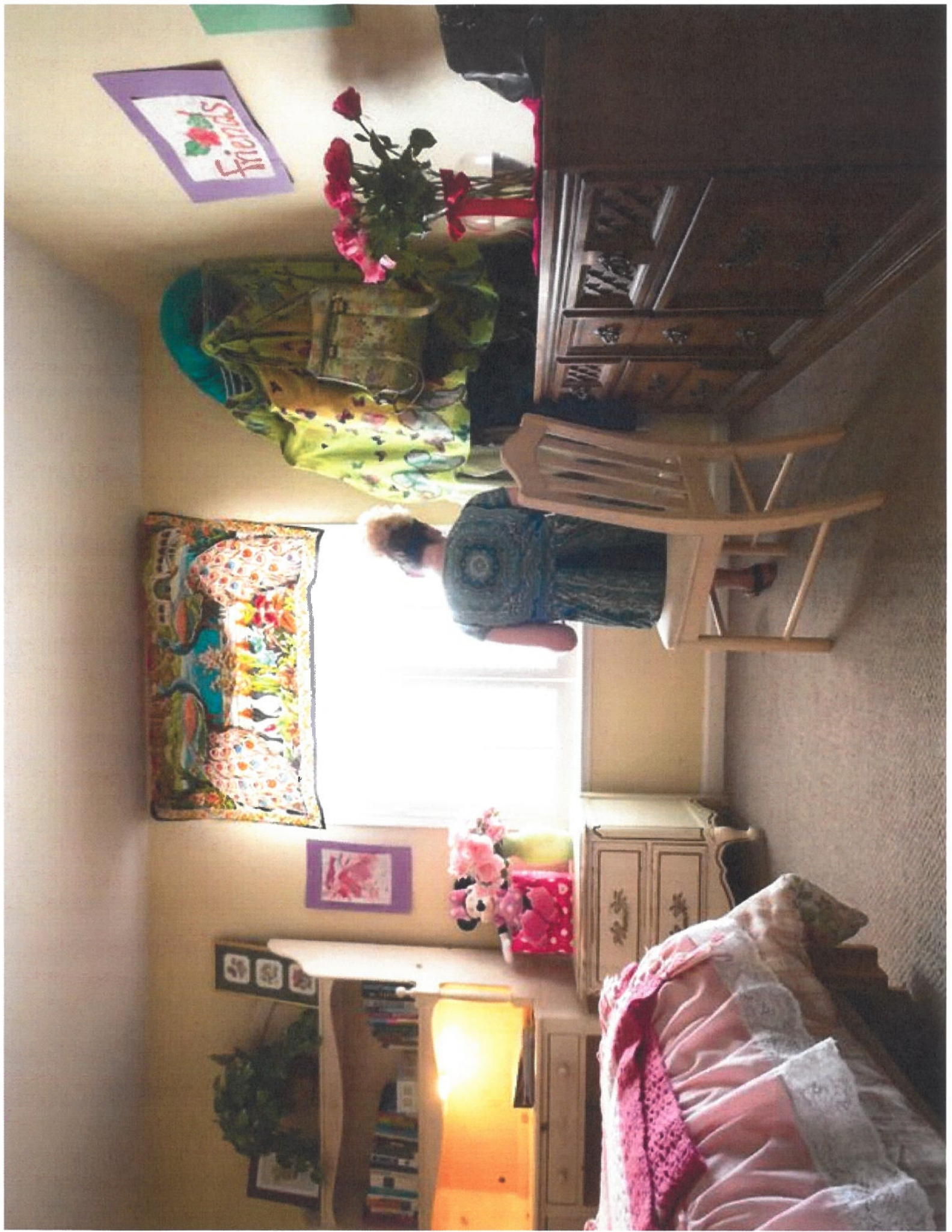


## Rebecca's Story

*I live in the Emmaus House. I will be exiting very soon, for good. I came in this house after being abused in so many ways-worst emotionally beaten. I had two abusers. I remember coming in the house thinking, "I am never going to smile again"... I felt like pond scum underneath a rock, no self-esteem for myself and needed help in the worst way. I was afraid, scared, and terrified, but made the call to the house and was accepted along with my daughter.*

*I came in here not who I usually am. Three years before, I had my own home, worked hard, laughed, smiled and even volunteered at several elementary schools. Without this house and the staff members, I know I would not be where I am today. They were my backbone when I could not stand, my eyes and fingers when I cried and felt depleted and weak...Little by little I could stand tall with their help, support and guidance. I was able to push back and gave me back my self esteem.*

*I appreciate the safe haven I was given. I stand as a proud woman back where I was years ago...What a gift this house was and still is. Without it I am not sure where I would have been today. As with my fellow 'sisters here at Emmaus House, we were all once broken, but now are like Oak trees when we leave. We have a solid foundation and with every piece of our life we get back, our branches grow and create. And yes we blossom and bloom.*







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Phone 831.637.4992 ~ Fax 831.637.5278

829 San Benito St., Ste. 200, Hollister, CA 95023

[www.casasanbenito.org](http://www.casasanbenito.org)

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## **CASA of San Benito County 2017/2018 County of San Benito Grant Report**

Report Date: 07/25/2018  
Contact Person: Esther Curtice  
Contact Phone: 831-637-4992  
Contact Email: [esther@casasanbenito.org](mailto:esther@casasanbenito.org)

### **Goals & Expectations**

CASA of San Benito County received a grant from the County of San Benito for building the capacity of the program. CASA serves children who have been abused, abandoned and/or neglected and are now in the Dependency System of the courts. The program provides advocacy services for foster children from San Benito County by recruiting and training community members to become child advocates. Once they are trained, they are then assigned to a foster child from our community. They advocate for the child's best interest in the courtroom, classroom and the community, ensuring their needs are met while in foster care.

In 2017/2018, the CASA program expanded and focused on advocating for the youngest age group: infants and toddlers (under age 5) due to a significant increase in the number of children in this age group entering foster care. The first three years in a child's life are the most formative, especially for social/emotional and brain development. The CASA program focuses on the child's development, milestones, timely referrals to services and resources, and permanency.

### **Outcomes**

From July 2017 through June 2018, 9 new children were assigned to an advocate. The total number of foster children served during the same time frame is 35, 7 of the children were under the age of 5. We are optimistic with the number of younger children the program has been able to serve in the first year of expansion. Five advocates were assigned to 7 children under the age of 5. Four new advocates are prepared to take the oath on August 13 and will be assigned to foster children on our waitlist.

Ages of children served:

- 7 - Birth to 5
- 8 - Age 6 11
- 7 - Age 12 to 15
- 9 - Age 16 to 17
- 4 - Age 18 and over

Continue to serve and be a voice for all the foster children from San Benito County, including the youngest members from our community, remains to be the mission of the program.

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**Our Mission:** To train and support community volunteers who advocate for abused and neglected children placed in foster care, upholding the children's rights while pursuing a safe and permanent home.

## Melinda Casillas

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**From:** Esther Curtice <esther@casasanbenito.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 06, 2018 10:22 AM  
**To:** Melinda Casillas  
**Subject:** Fwd: Photo Collage  
**Attachments:** Photo Collage.png

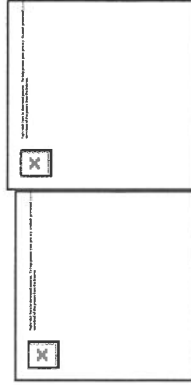
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Melinda,

Attached is a photo collage of Advocates and our clients. The graduation photo is a youth with her advocate, she is over 18 and has given CASA permission to use it. She is one of the few foster kids who will be attending a 4-year college! All the other kids are not identified due to confidentiality/privacy reasons.

Thanks!

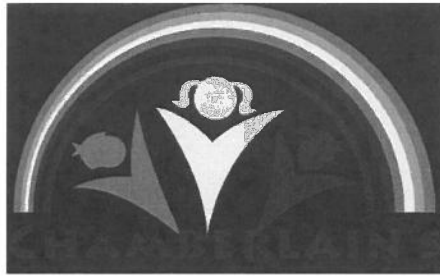
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**Esther Curtice**  
**Executive Director**



"Be the change you wish to see in the world." -- Gandhi

**Mission:** To train and support community volunteers who advocate for abused and neglected children placed in foster care, upholding the children's rights while pursuing a safe and permanent home.





June 30, 2018

**To:** San Benito County Supervisors Chair Botelho, Vice Chair Muenzer and Supervisors Medina, Rivas and De La Cruz

**From:** Denise Cauthen-Wright; Fund Development and Donor Engagement Manager, Chamberlain's Children Center, Inc.

**Re:** 2017-2018 County Grant for the Food Program follow up report

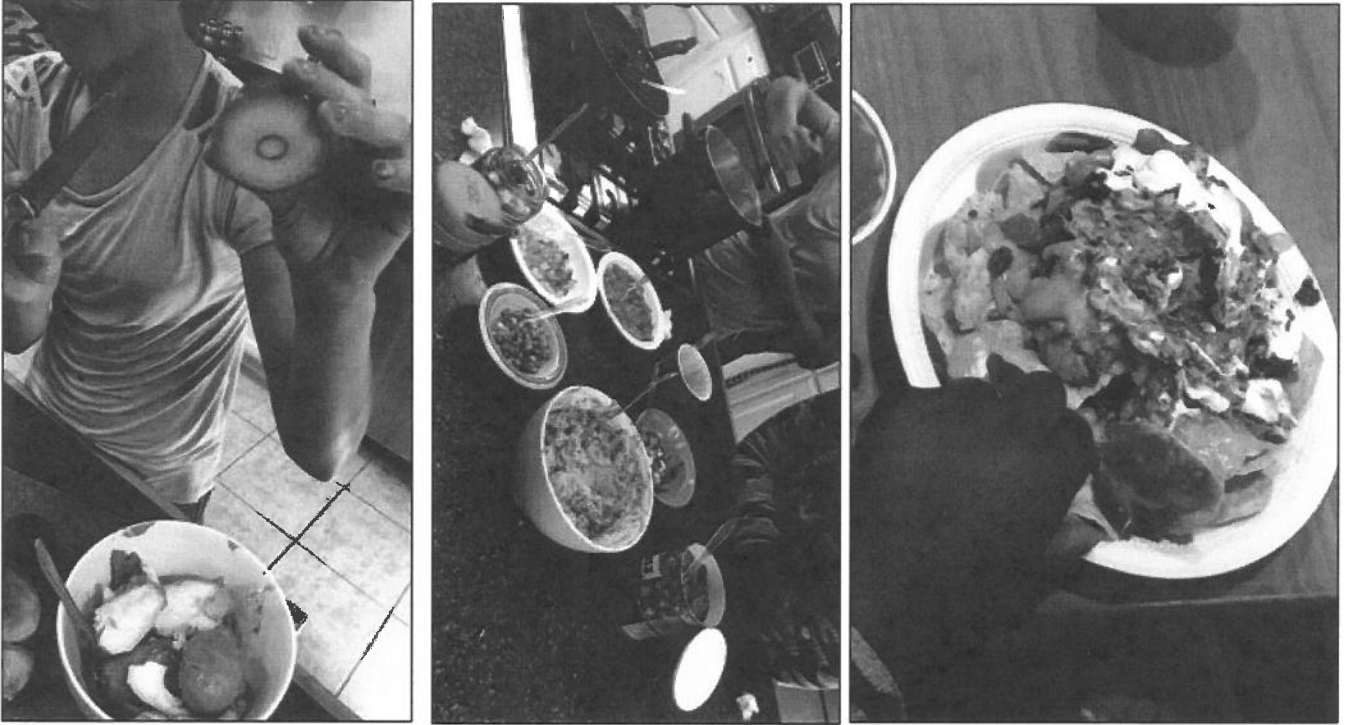
Thank you again for granting Chamberlain's Children Center with the \$4,000 award during fiscal year 17-18 to improve our campus wide food program. Your generosity let Chamberlain's purchase the ***Heartland Food Solutions*** license, online training, the software, and several years of the subscription. This program has brought many needed changes that have enhanced our food program immensely.

- 1) It has brought Chamberlain's up to compliance with USDA nutritional guidelines.
- 2) The system allows us to create the menus for the cottages that include the correct servings of the required daily food groups.
- 3) One of our favorite features is that the system creates "red flags" when the menu planner is not following the food guidelines correctly so staff can correct immediately any errors in the menu plan.
- 4) With this system, it has a nutritionist available for questions and advice within the program to assist with menu planning. In the past, Chamberlain's has paid an off-site nutritionist to help create these menus (which her help was, at best, was of poor quality).
- 4) The system automatically sends email updates with new or revised laws, which previously the Chamberlain's team had to do manually.
- 5) This user friendly system allows us to create production sheets- a meal count for each cottage done on a monthly basis. In the past, we were creating these separately and manually, which was very time consuming. Now the process is more efficient, thus saving time and money.
- 6) The system is straight forward with a great online "Help" line.
- 7) We can also print out nutritional analysis reports with recipes, menus, cycle menus, and more.

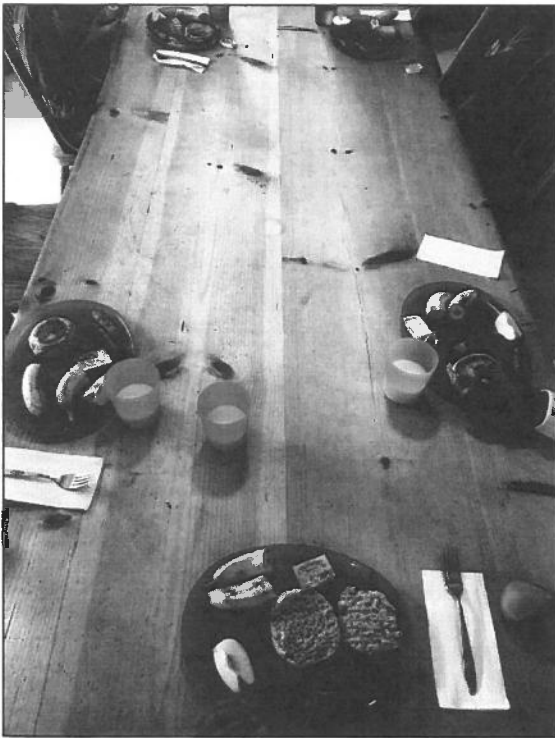
The new system has put our staff at ease knowing that they are giving the children the best possible healthy choices within the nutritional guidelines per the USDA, thus giving the kids an excellent example of healthy eating, portion control and more. Thank you!

Sincerely, the Board, staff and children of Chamberlain's Children Center

## A day in the life of Chamberlain's kids eating healthy!



**Above:** A favorite with the kids: Nacho Night dinner made healthier with a focus on using low fat beef, sour cream and refried beans, lots of veggies add ons, low salt chips and homemade guacamole. Oddly these kiddos added dill pickles to their menu!



**Above Left:** Breakfast of whole wheat English muffin with jam, turkey sausages, banana, and apple served with low fat milk.



**Above Right:** Lunch of low fat refried bean burrito, corn, and carrots served with low fat milk.