



The GATE



Central
California
Mennonite
Residential
Services

Sept 2010

FALL FUNDRAISER PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER

Supporters and friends of CCMRS will have another opportunity soon to enjoy a fine dinner, an informative and inspiring program, and good fellowship. The annual event scheduled for Thursday, September 30, brings together persons who have contributed in the past as well as prospective donors who wish to learn more about CCMRS.

The site for the dinner is Ashley auditorium at Fresno Pacific Uni-

versity. The evening will begin with a dinner served by the food services of FPU. The theme "Looking Back, Moving Forward" will be developed by executive director Jen Foster who will reflect on the history and look forward to the future of the organization.

A multimedia presentation will focus on the life stories of two residents, Marvin Reimer and Lillie Ann Brown. It promises to be an enjoy-

able evening for those who attend.

CCMRS ANNUAL FALL DINNER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 6 PM

Ashley Auditorium, on the Campus of Fresno Pacific University

If you would like to attend, RSVP by September 20th, 2010 to the CCMRS office.

Community Happenings

- Staffer Crystal Taylor gave birth to a baby daughter, Khloe on April 24th, 2010.
- Mike and JoAnne Callahan both celebrated 10 years of working for CCMRS. Mike is the Huntington House Administrator and JoAnne works at Charis 2 and in the SLS Program.
- The ladies took a trip to Hanford on the Amtrak and sampled ice cream at Superior Dairy.
- The men spent a weekend camping at Lake Shaver.
- The CCMRS community held several cookouts in the Friendship Park
- Residents, staff, and family members enjoyed Family Night at a **Fresno Grizzlies** baseball game.



Updates from Aktion Club

Bowl-a-thon Raises Scholarship Funds

On June 19th, the Charis Community Aktion Club hosted its 8th Bowl-a-Thon. The club members solicited donations, either as lump sums or based on the number of pins they knocked down. The money from the event was put toward scholarship for the annual Aktion Club convention in September as well as continued improvements to the Friendship Park. In the end, the Charis Community Aktion Club raised a total of over \$1500.

Four teams competed this year: Charis Community, ARC Fresno Aktion Club, the East Fresno Kiwanis, and the "Gutter Ball Boys." Despite the heightened competition, the Charis Aktion Club maintained its control of the traveling trophy. Greg Beasley, the Charis Community Aktion Club president, had the highest score of the day, with a two-game total of 312.



Rachel and Susan hold the Bowl-a-Thon Trophy

Fresno Service Project Featured Internationally

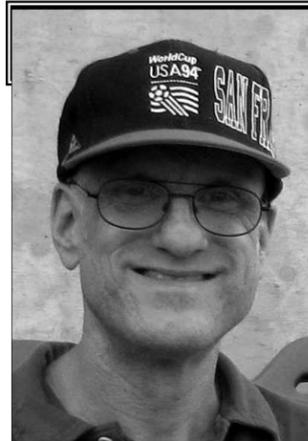
In the last issue of "The Gate" we reported that several of our Aktion Club members took part in the annual Kiwanis One Day Project. For the last three years, the Aktion Club has worked at the "Hidden Homes Nature Trail," which is part of the San Joaquin River Preserve. Several other Kiwanis-related groups participate, including the East Fresno Kiwanis,

Key Clubs, and Circle K clubs.

This year, the Aktion Club helped with the same thing it does every year: trimming the oleander bushes around the trail.

But, though the job was the same, something different was going on at this year's One Day. The "Hidden Homes Project" had been singled out as the feature One Day project, and a film crew from Kiwanis International was on site. The video, along with photographs, and an article entitled "East Fresno Kiwanis Club creates destination point" can be found online at <http://www.kiwanis.org/oneday/>.

Members of the CCMRS community might be especially interested in the video, which features both Karen Kyle and Brian Sturgeon. When asked why he volunteers, Brian responds with what could be the new motto for One Day: "we're creating a lasting legacy for people to enjoy."



RESIDENT PROFILE: Jimmy Martin

James (Jimmy) Martin is the only resident of CCMRS who is deaf and communicates primarily through sign language and gesture. Deafness, though, does not prevent Jimmy from socializing and participating in outings with the rest

of the community. He also stays involved in the Aktion Club and has nearly perfect attendance at club meetings.

Jimmy lives at the Huntington House, where he moved in 2007. Before that, Jimmy lived in the Hampton Gate apartments starting in 1999.

Jimmy works at Chili's restaurant through the Community Integrated Work Program. He spends two hours every work day wrapping napkins around silverware. Through CIWP, he also participates in social and

recreational activities around town.

Jimmy's hobbies include drawing, coloring, looking at year books, and spending time with his family.

When asked to describe some great things about Jimmy, Mike Callahan, Huntington House administrator, doesn't hesitate: Jimmy is friendly and caring and he enjoys helping around the house. Jimmy is very patient with staff as they try to communicate with him. "I'd have trouble being that patient," says Callahan, "if I was in his place."

Please consider a tax-deductible contribution.
CCMRS depends upon the generosity of those who support its mission. *Thank you.*

STAFF PROFILE: Teresa Marquez

Teresa has been a staff member since 2007. She works with the Charis 2 program and serves as a resident advocate for three of the women residents. "I enjoy working directly with the residents," she states. "They are an encouragement and joy to me." Teresa also serves as an advisor to the Aktion Club

She learned the value of hard work as a child. Born in El Paso, Texas, she is a middle child of ten siblings. The family moved to Fresno when she was eight years old. With her family she worked in the fields picking grapes, turning and rolling raisin trays, and many other tasks. She was determined to do well in school; after attending grades 7, 8, and 9 in mid-

dle school, she graduated from Roosevelt High School in two years.

In addition to her work at CCMRS, Teresa teaches the Friendship class at College Community MB Church in Clovis. Each Sunday she meets with a small group of adults who are developmentally disabled; they usually have a Bible lesson which is followed with discussion. She says that she enjoys participating in the discussions which result from the lesson.

Residents appreciate Teresa's friendly demeanor and warm smile. She is always ready with a greeting and encouraging words. She is a valued member of the CCMRS community.



Above: Teresa with the two residents of Charis 2: Linda Martens and Julie Lewis

Below: Teresa and Linda at the Bowl-a-Thon.

Board Member Spotlight: Pamela Miller

What are Pam Miller's passions in life? If you ask her, she'll tell you her first passion is family and her second is giving back to families with kids with disabilities. After getting to know Pam a bit, it's easy to see how these passions are intertwined.

Pam, who joined the board in the fall of 2009, has lived her whole life in Selma, California. She and her husband Tim have been married for almost thirty three years. They have two adult children, Rebecca and Scot. Pam, Tim, and Scot are members of Lemoore 7th Day Adventist Church. Rebecca lives in Denver, with her husband Scott and four year old son Connor.

Scot has a seizure disorder. He lives at home and works at the ARC Production Center as a material handler. Beyond work, Scot is the president of the ARC Aktion Club. He is also a Special

Olympian, and competes in swimming where he has earned medals at the U.S. National Games.

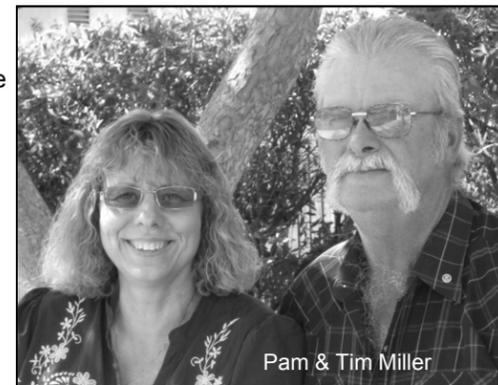
When Scot was growing up, another mother who had a son with disabilities mentored Pam on ways to navigate the school system. With her personal experience, this mother taught the Millers how to advocate for themselves, and she assisted them in Scot's Individualized Education Plan meetings.

Now, Pam has the opportunity to give back the same kind of help she received. For the past five years, Pam has worked as a Family Resource Specialist at Exceptional Parents Unlimited (EPU). She advocates for parents of children with disabilities as they navigate the school systems and Central Valley Regional Center. She also facilitates numerous parent to parent

support groups.

"When you have a child with a disability," she says, "you have a connection with other parents that is very meaningful."

Pam is drawn to working with CCMRS because of her interest in adult housing services. She values how CCMRS allows its residents to express their independence in safe ways.



Pam & Tim Miller



**Central California Mennonite
Residential Services**
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If you are receiving this newsletter for the first time, it means someone has given you the gift of getting to know CCMRS. You may contact the main office at 559-227-2940 with any questions you may have.

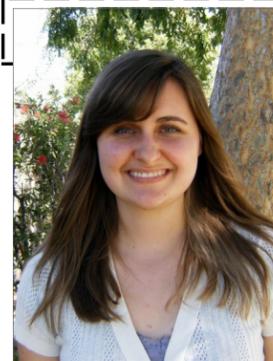
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Experiencing God's love in community...



CCMRS Welcomes FPU Grad to Staff

We would like to welcome Amy Datsko to the staff of CCMRS. Amy graduated from Fresno Pacific University in 2010, where she majored in Social Work and sang in the Concert Choir.

Amy is especially committed to joining her knowledge of social work with her passion for Christian missionary service. During college, Amy spent a study-abroad term in Lithuania for just over 4 months. After her term, she served for three months in the Ukraine working at weekly kids camps serving a total of six hundred kids. In the future, Amy would like to return to the

Ukraine or other foreign field for a longer term of missionary service.

For Amy's social work internship, she worked with Mennonite Brethren Mission and Service International (MBMSI) where she co-coordinated a 10 day mission trip to Guadalajara, Mexico. As part of the internship she also helped plan participated in an Urban Mission Fresno service outreach.

Part of Amy's interest in international service stems from being the child of two immigrant parents from the Ukraine. Amy is able to communicate in Ukrainian, Russian, Lithuanian, and French, and English.

Amy attends River Park Bible Church, where she sings in the choir. She and members of her family also sing at various Russian churches in the Central Valley.

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