



The GATE



Central
California
Mennonite
Residential
Services

Feb 2011

Spring Harmonies Concert: March 21st



Spring Harmonies

The second annual "Spring Harmonies" benefit concert is ready to welcome spring with a bouquet of musical talent on March 21.

The concert is designed to

showcase talented musicians and groups from Central California while simultaneously serving as a fundraising event for CCMRS.

This year's concert will feature a pianist, a tenor vocalist, and an instrumental ensemble.

Joungmin Sur will be the featured pianist. She received her master's degree in music from Fresno State in

2009. Currently she serves as accompanist for the music departments of Fresno State and Fresno Pacific University. She also serves as the congregational pianist for the Clovis College Community Mennonite Brethren Church.

The vocalist is Dr Zachary Durlam, the new choral music director at Fresno Pacific University. His doctoral work was done at Michigan State University. He has been a featured soloist in recitals, concerts, and oratorio productions around Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Indiana. He will be accompanied by his wife Eryn, an accomplished pianist, singer, and flautist.

An instrumental trio consisting of

clarinet, cello, and piano from Moment Musical, one of Fresno's premier chamber music groups, will perform.

The concert will begin at 7 pm in Ashley Auditorium on the Fresno Pacific University campus. The event is free of charge; a collection will be taken to benefit CCMRS.

**Spring Harmonies
7:00pm, March 21st
Fresno Pacific University**

Community Happenings



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- RECENT ACTIVITIES**
- 1 Fresno Fair
 - 2 MBMSI Mission Fresno
 - 3 Fresno State Basketball Game
 - 4 Harvest Dance
 - 5 Pumpkin Carving



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Updates from the Aktion Club



Aktion Club Members brought Santa Claus to Children's Hospital



"Hero in the Community" Speech Contest

This fall, the **Charis Community Aktion Club** attended the third annual Cal-Nev-Ha Aktion Club Convention, watched the lighting of the state Christmas tree in Sacramento, and threw a party for the Ronald McDonald House at Children's Hospital.

CCMRS CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

A 25-year history was celebrated at the annual fall dinner on September 30, 2010. Approximately one hundred persons gathered in Ashley Auditorium at Fresno Pacific University to enjoy a meal, listen to music, and hear testimonies and reports about this unique residential program.

Jen Foster, executive director, reminded the group that "25 years ago a group of individuals with long-range vision for the future of their family members formed the first board of a newly incorporated faith-based, nonprofit which has grown in the CCMRS which we celebrate today." She added, "Their goal was clear: something better than current models, something God-honoring, something that expressed the value of sharing life together with people of all abilities, something that celebrated individuals and emphasized interdependence, and something the church community could participate in and play a meaningful role. And so CCMRS was born."

After the welcome of guests by Ben Jacobs, staff member who is a

Mennonite Voluntary Service worker, a meal featuring New York steak was served by Pioneer Catering Service of FPU.

Music was provided by the University String Quartet, four students of FPU: Blong Vang, Jenny Deibert, Natalia McMillan, and Margaret Leith. The group is coached by faculty member Dieter Wulfhorst.

Nancy Klassen, former staff and board member, reflected on her experience as one of the first residential managers of Huntington House. Board chairman David Friesen offered a challenge for guests to raise funds to replace old windows with new on the aging Huntington House.

A video provided a glimpse into "a day in the life of ..." two residents: Lillie Ann Brown and Marvin Reimer, both long-time residents of CCMRS.

In her challenge to guests, Jen Foster shared a vision of the future.



A video presentation told the life stories of Lillie Ann and Marvin

The evening was not only a celebration of twenty-five years but also of the generosity of supporters who contributed over ten thousand dollars to CCMRS.

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

THE DIRECTOR'S REFLECTION by Jen Foster



Who will CCMRS serve? Our community will expand beyond the circle of the founding residents and families. We will also continue to serve our current residents as they and their families age. This will mean helping the residents transition from their parents to their siblings for

primary family connections and supporting these siblings in their evolving roles with our residents. We want our residents' families to trust that the community they envisioned and began will continue throughout the remainder of our resident's lives and beyond.

Where will we grow next? Our physical capacity for housing community members is limited to one home and seventeen apartments—only ten of which we own. Our buildings are aging and need growing attention to maintenance. Our dream is to open additional communities in new areas of the central valley which will allow us to develop additional resident and staff communities. In order to do this our financial capacity must grow.

What part can you play? I don't have to explain the state of our economy to you; you've all heard the news. You may not have heard how the economy impacts our communities. Our state funding has been reduced by 4.25% since February of 2009.

Our annual organizational expenses are right around \$612,000. For 2011 we are projecting our annual state funding to be \$506,000. This leaves a shortfall of \$106,000.

A portion of this difference is covered by the rent income we take in on our properties, which we put toward maintaining the current buildings. But we are still left about \$25,000 in basic operational expenses that must be covered by donations.

The good news is in the last twenty five years God has provided for this need through individuals like you. The bad news is our financial capacity to expand the services we provide has been limited to almost nothing. We are able to keep doing what we've been doing, which in this economy we know is something to be grateful for.

What difference does your gift make in the fulfilling of our mission? Without your donations we would have to make significant cuts in staffing. This would severely limit our capacity to work with the residents in reaching their individual goals. This would mean less support for managing medications, finances, health, nutrition and personal safety—all of which would mean lower quality of life. Your contributions also enable us to host a full time Mennonite Voluntary Service worker who assists with administration and resident support.

In the next year our board will compose a plan for expansion of our current services, which will rely primarily on the ongoing generosity of our donors. In the next twenty five years, we anticipate a growing number of individuals who would like to become part of our communities. We have the passion to see our mission brought to fruit in their lives.

This article is adapted from Jen's speech "Looking Back, Moving Forward," which she delivered at the 2010 Fall Dinner.

Annual Operational Expenses	\$612,000
Annual State Funding	- \$506,000
Property Revenue	- \$81,000
Required Donations	= \$25,000



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.

Want to save paper? You can receive "The Gate" via email.

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Experiencing God's love in community...

Staff Changes



Karen Reed, a senior social work major at Fresno Pacific University, joins the CCMRS team this spring as part of her internship. Karen participates in some CCMRS clubs and helps with cooking. She will also be interviewing all the residents to create "get to know you" packets for visitors and newcomers to the community.

We are very excited to renew this connection with the FPU social work program. The first intern from FPU came to CCMRS in the mid-90s and now serves as our executive director!



After five years of working at CCMRS, **Vanna Vath** is moving to the next chapter in her life. Vanna worked most recently at the Huntington House, but she also has experience with the SLS program.

Vanna plans to spend more time with her family and eventually continue her education, either in social work or nursing. She will be missed by residents and staff.

CCMRS

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