



A message from  
Pete Caldwell



Why I volunteer



Spring donations

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Summer 2018

## A Light at the End of the Tunnel

“Casey” came to our Mental Health program two years ago at the age of three. She had been recently placed in foster care because of severe abuse and neglect in her family.

Casey’s new foster parents knew they were taking on a lot of issues because of her history. But with two children of their own, they felt they could offer the right environment to a child who had experienced significant trauma due to a lack of basic physical and emotional support.

Also, much of Casey’s ways of playing and relating to children led our therapists to suspect there had been other types of abuse in her family of origin. It became clear that without therapy, the reasons for her behavior wouldn’t be fully understood or changed.

So Casey’s foster parents were referred to our high-risk foster placement program. Casey received an intensive assessment of history-gathering and observation. Her therapist met with the new family to determine their goals and needs, and begin the best path of treatment.

**Because of Casey’s age and specific needs, We Care set up parallel tracks of support:**

- **One track was individual sessions with Casey in a room with her foster parents where they played together. As issues came up that reflected parts of her trauma, the parents had the opportunity to understand and address them in real time.**

These were the same issues that were coming up at home – aggression, issues with “attaching,” and sexualized behavior. But with the therapist in the room, the family learned that there were even better approaches than ones that felt intuitive. The therapist modeled and taught consistency, calm, and ways to create a bond that Casey had never experienced in her life.

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Marc Greenberg  
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Linsey Dicks  
Fred Piazza  
Lupe Rios  
Nina Rowe  
Bob Sachs

A message from:

**Pete Caldwell,** Executive Director



Dear We Care Family,

I hope this finds you and your family happy, well, and enjoying summer!

Because our fiscal year begins July 1, summer often feels like a new start at We Care – a time to reflect on the past year, and set our sights on new challenges and opportunities.

**In addition to the extraordinary generosity of individuals like you who've ensured that our programs continue, I wanted to specifically mention the amazing support of three private foundations.** These organizations have partnered with us to bring our services to even more of the most vulnerable families in our community:

- **Investment by the Bernard E. & Alba Witkin Charitable Foundation** allowed us to continue to provide our Inclusion Program, bringing typically developing and special-needs children together to learn with and from each other.
- **The Dean and Margaret Lesher Foundation** provided funding for parent and public education, as well as mental health consultation and treatment for children with developmental needs.
- **The Quest Foundation's** broad support for our developmental classrooms allowed us to improve and innovate what we believe are the best available programs in our community for these children.

Each of these foundations has had a long and profound impact on Contra Costa County, and we are extraordinarily grateful that they see We Care as a partner in helping build a healthy community.

**Looking forward, We Care has started a strategic planning process to guide us through the next few years.** Through a series of retreats and monthly board meetings, agency leadership is setting the course for We Care's priorities and growth.

We have a remarkably talented board, and the opportunities to challenge our own assumptions, dive deep into an understanding of the needs of the community, and set an ambitious course are exciting ones. Like all nonprofits, we have limitations to our resources and reach. But these limitations are serving to focus our priorities and will continue to ensure that the resources we DO have are used to the best possible end.

This is an exciting process with a lot of moving parts, and I'm very grateful for the dedication of the board and staff to creating the best possible path for us.

I'll keep you updated!

As always, I hope you enjoy our newsletter! Please pass it on to anyone you know who shares your interest in the ways we're working to improve the lives of children with special needs in our community.

And thank you again for all YOU do!

## Mission Statement

Through targeted, compassionate, and effective early intervention services, We Care helps young children and their families reach their full potential, regardless of their abilities or circumstances.





A Light at the End of the Tunnel, continued from page 1 ↓

- **The other track was meeting with the foster parents alone, and giving them space to express their fears, doubts and questions. These sessions gave them an opportunity to discuss and understand Casey's likely past, and to give them hope.**

As part of the therapy, the foster parents learned how their parenting styles could be adjusted to work well with a wider range of behaviors, and to keep Casey's greater needs from impacting their other children's needs for support and attention.

Throughout this process, Casey's symptoms became more and more manageable. The improvement wasn't always in a straight line, but every slip brought new insight and more determination to see this through. We Care always provided a light at the end of the tunnel.

Today, treatment is complete and Casey is in preschool and thriving. There are still times when aspects of the trauma reappear, but the family knows what to do – and they do it.

And last month, they adopted Casey officially in a wonderful ceremony that their We Care therapist attended.

Casey is home.



*Nina Rowe, board member of  
We Care and classroom volunteer*

## why I volunteer at We Care

Volunteering at We Care brings a lot of joy to my life. I love watching kids' self-confidence build as they learn the social and academic skills necessary to be successful kindergarteners. It's hard to say goodbye at the end of each school year!

SAVE  
♥ THE ♥  
DATE  
OCTOBER  
TWENTIETH  
2018

5:30 pm to 11 pm  
The Clubhouse at  
Boundary Oak



# Our Spring 2018 Appeal

The services we offer only happen because of folks who believe in We Care and the work we do. Thanks to supporters like you and an extraordinary match, our spring appeal was the most successful we've ever had! A huge "thank you" to the people listed below, plus our sincerest gratitude to the amazing – but anonymous – couple who matched every single gift.

Andy Abramowitz

Traunza Adams

Tom Anders

Greg Ansel

Anonymous

Brian and Melissa Assael

Ian Barker

Betsy Beatty, in honor of Nina Rowe

Theodore Berger

Betsy Beros

Jeff and Lyssa Butler

Pete Caldwell

Lucy Chappell

Greg Coplans and Joy Favvre

Barbara Cross, in honor of

Gracie Cannon

Paul de Paschalis

Paul Deer

Jody Deike

Linsey and Natalie Dicks

Celeste Dier

Tracy Duberman, in honor of

Rodger Duberman and the  
great work of Bob Sachs

Molly Enzminger

Mark Estes

Dirk and Marilyn Fitzgerald

Richard and Diana Galbraith

Marc and Wendy Greenberg

Martin Gruner

Alexandra Guardado

Keith Hayman

Monica Hendrix

Margaret Hughes

Brad Jacob

Robert Kadas

Alden Kaplan

Nancy Kenyon

Carol Lane

Barbara Langsdale

Carlos Lopez

Daniella Lopez, in honor of Pete Caldwell

and Barbara Langsdale

Xiomara and Ianthus Martin

Dan and Shay Martin

Michael Papay

Eric Pearson

Fred and Gina Piazza, in honor of

Dr. Jane Brooks

Marilyn Reasoner

Nina and Mike Rowe

Bob and Susan Sachs

Ned Sachs, in honor of Gerald Sachs

David Schubb

Cheryl Sendaydiego

Gail Sexton and Sonja Christopher

Joseph Stratmore

Elaine Taylor

Mieke ter Poorten

Kim Tsutsui

Phil Williamson

## Donations in Memory of Teri Kaczmarek

A wonderful member of our community passed away this spring. Teri Kaczmarek was an advocate for improving services for special-needs children throughout her life. Her family asked that anyone who wanted to pay tribute to her consider a donation to support our programs. Teri's loving family and We Care want to thank the following for their heartfelt generosity and kindness:

Thomas Albanese

Bank of Marin

Frank and Kathy Bartaldo

Michael Benito

Ruth Brown

David and Marian Brubaker

Margo Butsch

Pamela Chalk

Mamie Chew

Tim Coffey

Hannah Comiskey

David Cropper

Richard Daniel

Gary Filizetti, Devcon Construction

J. Dunne III

Ruby Estes

Toby and Barry Fernald

Bill and Marianne Gagen

Susan Garrett

James C. Ghielmett

Shannon Heid

Heritage Bank of Commerce-San Jose

Heritage Bank of Commerce-Walnut Creek

Hopkins & Carley

Juergen Huellen

Joseph J. Albanese INC.

Adam Keefer

Mike Kelty

Andy Lam

David Martin

Lawrence and Lynn McGovern

Debbie Metcalf

Philip and Mutsuko Nishino

Frank and Sherry O'Connor

Maria Pecota

James Raggio

Ransom and Norma Webster Foundation

Debbie Reuter

Laura Roden

Stephen and Patricia Schott

Marilyn Severance

Edmund B. Taylor, Jr.

The Marchese Family Foundation,

Chris and Lisa Marchese, Edward and

Helen Owen

Lynn Tolin

Roxanne Vane

Michael and Frances Wilson

Craig Yoder

Linda and Jim Zaboski

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news

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## why we support We Care

Our family has supported We Care's programs for the past four years, ever since we were introduced to the agency as guests at the Little Stars Gala. In our extended family, there are children with special needs who received help once they got to school, but not earlier when it would have had a greater impact. We want to help other families get an earlier start, and when we toured the facility, we saw amazing things going on. We were hooked and are happy to do what we can to make certain that help is available for everyone.

