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December is National Toy Safety Month

By Barney&Barney b-Vital Newsletter

Did you know that there were over 250,000 toy-related injuries resulting in emergency room visits in 2010? December is Safe Toys and Gifts Month.

When it comes to toys and gifts, the excitement and desire to get your children their favorite toys may cause shoppers to forget about safety factors associated with them. Before you make these purchases, it is critical to remember to consider the safety and age range of the toys.

Prevent Blindness America has declared December as Safe Toys and Gifts Awareness Month. The group encourages everyone to consider if the toys they wish to give suits the age and individual skills and abilities of the individual child who will receive it, especially for infants and children under age three.

To learn more about Prevent Blindness American and Safe Toys and Gifts Awareness Month, go to: <https://www.healthtradition.com/december-is-safe-toys-and-gifts-month>

Source: <http://www.barneyandbarney.com/assets/files/b-Vital-December-2015.pdf>

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Contributors

Teri G., Alice O., Ana N.,
Andrea W., Farley O.,
Brandi C., Jennifer B.,
Chanthra C., Noel D.

Editors

Alesia F.

Policy of the Month:
Personal Communications
By CCC Administration

Personal communications during working hours and the use of company-owned media (phones, computers, fax machines, etc.) are conducted at the will of the organization.

Excessive, unapproved, or inappropriate use of company-owned media is prohibited and may be subject to disciplinary actions, up to and including termination.

Employees are required to keep all personal phone calls to a minimum. Friends and relatives should be discouraged from calling during work hours unless there is an emergency. Necessary calls should be made during break periods and meal breaks whenever possible.

Excessive personal calls disrupt the efficient and orderly transaction of business and service to our clients. Community Catalysts of California (CCC) postage meters/overnight carriers are for the use of business mail only.

Employees are not authorized to send personal outgoing mail using CCC postage/overnight carriers nor have personal mail regularly delivered to the work-site.

E-mail service and Internet connections provided by CCC are for business purposes. Employees are prohibited from use of company property or time to engage in personal business activities.

**Client
Anniversaries**

22 Years
Cora B. | Fresno

18 Years
Antonio O. | San Marcos
Carla G. | San Marcos

17 Years
Emma D. | Merced

16 Years
Brian C. | Santa Clara

14 Years
Darryl C. | Ukiah
Jania M. | Salinas

12 Years
Debbie C. | Santa Clara

11 Years
Fernando E. | Salinas
Jose L. | Salinas
Elbert S. | Manteca
Darren D. | Manteca
Nicolasa L. | Salinas

10 Years
Gilbert A. | Salinas
Flavio P. | Salinas

8 Years
Cynthia A. | Salinas

7 Years
Hugo W. | Salinas
Armando V. | Salinas

6 Years
Sidney M. | Visalia
Jose L. | Salinas
Elbert S. | Manteca

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Southern California

By Teri Geston

December was party month in So. CA. We had the San Marcos and Imperial Valley staff party, and the Client Advisory Committee parties for San Marcos, San Diego, and Imperial Valley. I did my best to attend as many as I could and enjoyed them all. It is always nice to put work aside and just enjoy yourself. I know I sure did at each event I attended.

Wishing everyone a FANTASTIC 2016!

Imperial Valley

By Ana Norris

What's Going On?

December was full of fun and happy events. Our advisory meeting was held at Golden Corral where clients were able to hang out, relax for a few hours, and get to know each other a bit more. The next meeting will be held at the mall as we are looking forward to a nice afternoon with a movie and lunch.

We had our end of the year par-tayyyy at Famous Dave's, and we all had a BLAST! There was a raffle held, we had a White Elephant gift exchange, and ate delicious food. The best thing of all was that we had a few hours to relax, have fun, and just enjoy each other's company.

There is never a dull moment with our Independent Living staff. Here, one of our clients is flexing her muscles with Eloy & Lydia. Physical fitness is one of her goals and her coach does all she can to help Sherrie meet her goal. Way to go team!

Again, thank you for what you do. If it were not for you, we would not be the awesome team that we are. YOU ROCK!

Safety: Do not forget that we have an updated Fire Drill – please make sure you have all our clients review the information.



(Above) Southern California staff party



(Right) Advisory meeting at Golden Corral.



(Above) I.V. client with Eloy and Lydia.



(Above) End of the year party at Famous Daves.



**Client
Anniversaries**

Continued from p2

5 Years

Karen B. | Merced
Lupitac V. | Salinas
Almarosa S. | Salinas
Andrew L. | Fresno

4 Years

Tom T. | Salinas
Maria C. | Imperial Valley
Michael M. | Manteca

3 Years

Rueben M. | Imperial Valley
Elijah M. | Santa Clara

2 Years

Brent D. | Santa Clara
Nicola B. | Salinas

1 Year

Monica M. | Fresno
Natalie P. | San Marcos
Ruben S. | Visalia
Angelita B. | Visalia

San Marcos

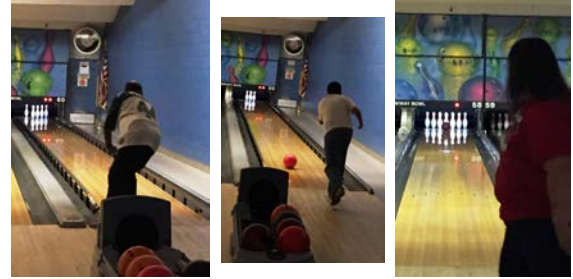
By Alice Olsen

What's Going On?

The San Marcos Client Advisory Committee had a fantastic time at Boomers for our end of the year party. We played miniature golf, laser tag, and A LOT of fun video games. We even created our event calendar for 2016, and are looking forward to a lot of adventures in the upcoming year. Our next big trip will be Knott's Berry Farm.

A very special thank you to DSA, Janine Hobson for setting up our Boomers event and arranging for each client in attendance to go home with free food storage bins.

Stacy Meyer, Case Manager (IL) & Jacqueline Gritton, DSS (IL) are the 2015 winners of the Holiday Door Contest and will be treated to lunch by their Regional Manager, Teri Geston. CONGRATULATIONS!



*(Above photos, left to right)
Clients Chris D, Anthony B,
and DSA Becky Anthenill*



*(Above) 2015 Holiday
Door winners:
Stephanie Meyer and
Jacqueline Gritton*



*(Above) Clients and
Staff at Boomers!*

San Marcos Calendar

January 28

Movie Time & Lunch— Cineoplis, Vista, CA
2:00pm to 6:00pm *Star Wars Anyone?*

Central Valley

Visalia

By Brandi Cross

What's Going On?

Our 2015 client Christmas party was a really great success. Both clients and staff members had a lot of fun enjoying each other's company, and eating amazing food! Clients were able to receive gifts, enjoyed amazing music, and the most delicious cake!



*(Above) Visalia client
Christmas party.*



Employee Anniversaries

22 Years
Shelley Cook | Central/North Valley 🦋

17 Years
Lisa Gallardo | Merced

14 Years
Katherine Peterson | Ukiah

9 Years
Electra Gemmill | Ukiah 🦋

7 Years
Kimberly Berry | Ukiah 🦋
Osayuwamen Ojo | Manteca 🦋

6 Years
Jacqueline Gritton | San Marcos

4 Years
Irene Sanchez | Imperial Valley 🦋

3 Years
Janeth Ventura | VCS 🦋
Emi Landon | Ukiah 🦋

2 Years
Connie Payan | Imperial Valley
James Gorman | Manteca 🦋
Nohemi Garcia | San Marcos

1 Year
Alesia Forte | Corporate 🦋
Patricia Ajayi | Fresno 🦋
Roland Avery | Visalia
Eduardo Contreras | Ukiah 🦋
Annette Fane | Fresno
Rolando Jimenez | Visalia
Rebecca Frausto | Visalia
Sirmone Smith | Manteca

Redwood Coast Ukiah

By Jennifer Bilstein

What's Going On?

We hope everyone had a great holiday! First we'd like to wish Happy Birthday to our client Lloyd and our DSA's Regina and Kitty.

We had a lot of fun up here during December. Some of our clients got to take a ride on the Christmas Skunk Train. Everybody had a lot of fun listening to music, visiting with Santa and his elves, drinking hot cocoa, and eating cookies! The 1st Annual Santa Stomp took place mid-month, and the clients had a great time walking along our new rail trail.

Everybody wore something to show their holiday spirit, and we gathered together at our office afterwards for pastries and hot cocoa.

A few people chose to go to the local skating rink for the Skating Academy's Holiday Show. They got to enjoy a delicious spaghetti dinner and watch a great show put on by the kids of the Skating Academy. Some people even got to enjoy a walk around the rink and chat with the skaters afterwards.

Another holiday tradition that we enjoy up here is taking the clients to Windsor to see the "Charlie Brown Christmas Tree Grove." There were many unique and creatively decorated Christmas trees on display to look at and they even got to play in the snow for a little while.

As for the rest of us, we had a lot of fun at our office holiday party. We had an awesome potluck, nice music, and a great time visiting and playing games. It was nice to be able to relax a little bit and chat with everyone. The best game of the day was trying to draw a holiday scene, on a paper plate, while holding the plate on top of your head. No peeking! Our Case Manager, Diana won that one. Congrats, Diana! 🎉



(Above) 1st Annual Santa Stomp



(Above) Charlie Brown Christmas Lights



(Right) Office holiday party.



(Above) Christmas Skunk Train: Fred with Santa.

South Bay

Santa Clara

By Andrea Walias

What's Going On?

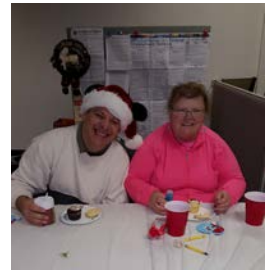
The holiday season started with Santa Clara and Salinas managers enjoying a holiday celebration at The Cheesecake Factory. It was so delicious! For Santa Clara, the celebration continued with staff being treated to a holiday lunch at Harry's Hofbrau. We played a game of White Elephant resulting in a lot of "stealing" and laughing!

A CAC holiday party was held at the Santa Clara office on Friday, December 18th for approximately 30 clients. After eating salad and pizza, clients enjoyed playing Bingo, creating arts & crafts, and decorating cupcakes for their dessert. When leaving the party, clients were able to choose Christmas items to take home.

The New Year started very sadly with the sudden passing of DSA, Darlene's sister. Darlene, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this extremely difficult time. We are here for you in whatever we can do to help. •

**Santa Clara office is hiring part-time and full-time DSA's. If you know of someone who might be interested in this position, please give them our contact information.*

A HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!



*(Above, top to bottom)
Clients and staff at the
Santa Clara holiday party.*



Salinas

By Farley Odad

What's Going On?

Goodbye 2015....

December has been a very busy month with the holidays. Since many clients went on vacation, staff members needed to rearrange their schedules!

We would like to send a special thank you to Star Market Grocery Store for their graceful donations of gift baskets for our end of the year CAC event. Thank you for the second year of generous donations to CCC, assisting the community, and enhancing the lives of our clients.

Client Arthur "Artie" took time to decorate this awesome ginger bread house for staff, so we could have it for dessert. Thank you, Artie!

Thank you CCC for the kind gift this year. Staff had a wonderful time celebrating our end of the year party at Applebee's.



(Right) Artie's gingerbread house dessert.

VCS South Bay

By Noel Donahue & Chanthra Choeum

What's Going On?

VCS had an amazing year and, we celebrated our end of the year event at John's Incredible Pizza.

A special thank you goes out to Regional Manager, Teresa Grenawalt and Program Managers, Janeth Ventura and Maleka Parker for all of their hard work and preparation in putting this event together. It was flawless and fun!

We were presented with to awards, and treated to music, endless good food, a White Elephant gift exchange, and a lot of games. It was a wonderful way to spend time with those you work with in a non-work environment. What a fun group to hang out with!



(Above) Stephanie Hayes receiving an award from Program Manager, Maleka Parker.



(Above) Kimber Peterson receiving an award from Program Manager, Janeth Ventura



(Above) Cristina Cervantes receiving an award from Veteran Specialist, Melissa Calhoun



Success Story in the Field

Case Manager, Dominique Sandifer and Veteran Specialist, Whitney Willis has a wonderful success story to share about our client Jose.

After serving four years in the United States Marine Corps., Jose was discharged honorably. When his time in service was over, Jose found himself in a position he never saw coming. Jose was employed, but with a string of bad luck, found himself sleeping in his car. Before coming to VCS he had spent one year living in a car. Once he found our organization, he became active and diligent in making changes in his life by calling on a daily basis, and conducting preliminary housing searches.

We are ecstatic that on December 11, 2015 Jose signed the lease to his new apartment. Jose is currently seeking more stable employment to help insure housing stability into the future. Great job Dominique and Whitney!



(Above) Case Manager, Kathy Woodridge presenting Veteran Specialist, Wayne Taylor with an award.

New Team Members

We have added two additional team members to round out our team in the South Bay office, Michael Melancon and Candace Smith. Michael is a Veteran Specialist and Candace is a Data Quality Specialist.

Michael served in the United States Marine Corps. for 20 years prior to retirement. He's the father of four wonderful children and really likes the idea of giving back to the community. Welcome, Michael!

Candace is a graduate student at Point Loma Nazarene University studying Strategic Organizational Leadership. Originally from Indiana, she enjoys peppermint tea and Thai food. Welcome, Candace!

We have also added a new Intake Coordinator, Derrick Torrence. Derrick is a veteran who came to us with a passion to give back to the community. Welcome!



(Above) Maleka Parker receiving an award from Regional Manager, Teresa Grenawalt.



(Above) Welcome to VCS, Candace, Michael, and Derrick!



10th Annual Opportunity Drawing Fundraiser

Safety Drawing Winners:

Jacque Kvapil –
Corporate

&

Eula Wilburn – San
Marcos

Congratulations!

Winners!!!!

Romy Yang (Fresno) - **Fitbit Charge HR Heart Rate + Activity Wristband**

Gabby Hutchinson (CCC Friend) - **\$100 MasterCard Gift Card**

Alice Olsen (San Marcos) - **\$100 Visa Gift Card**

\$50 AMEX Gift Card - Linda O'Leary (CCC Friend)

\$50 AMEX Gift Card - Georgina Alacron (San Marcos)

\$50 Target Gift Card – Kimber Peterson (VCS)

\$50 Target Gift Card – Tasha Kurland (CCC Friend)

\$25 Walmart Gift Card – Mone Tate (Ukiah)

\$25 Walmart Gift Card – Wendy Forkas (CCC Friend)

\$25 Target Gift Card – Alice Olsen (San Marcos)

\$25 Target Gift Card - Teri Geston (San Marcos)

\$25 Brinkers Restaurants – Tammy Hutter (Visalia)

\$25 Brinkers Restaurants – Wendy Forkas (CCC Friend)

\$25 Panera Bread – Denise Mansfield (Santa Clara)

\$25 Panera Bread – Alice Olsen (San Marcos)

\$25 Kohls Gift Card – Bill Montegue (San Marcos)

\$25 Kohls Gift Card – Tammy Hutter (Visalia)

\$25 Darden Restaurants – Marti Diegan (San Marcos)

\$25 Darden Restaurants – Ricardo Mejia (VCS)

\$25 AMC Gift Card – Myisha Walker (CCC Friend)

\$25 AMC Gift Card – Whitney Willis (VCS)

\$25 Amazon Gift Card – Alesia Forte (Corporate)

\$25 Amazon Gift Card – Shannon Doane (CCC Friend)

\$10 Subway Gift Card – Sandy Caldwell (Manteca)

\$10 Subway Gift Card – Ricardo Mejia (VCS)

\$10 Subway Gift Card – Jim Jenkins (Corporate)

\$10 Subway Gift Card – Chanthra Choeum (VCS)

\$10 Starbucks Gift Card – Denise Mansfield (Santa Clara)

\$10 Starbucks Gift Card – James Jenkins (Corporate)

\$10 Starbucks Gift Card – Linda O'Leary (CCC Friend)

\$10 Starbucks Gift Card – Tracy Fowlkes (VCS)