

Connie's Corner



This month, in addition to including our Annual Report, I want to focus on volunteers and one in particular. Our incredible volunteers include our seven board members. We are actually looking for three more professional adults that would be willing to serve a three-year term. We are looking for men or women from three different professions: Legal, Public Relations/Media/Advertising and Insurance. Our Full Board of Directors meets every other month except for December. Our meetings are the fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM at our office. Call me at the office at 559-437-1144 if you are interested in more information.

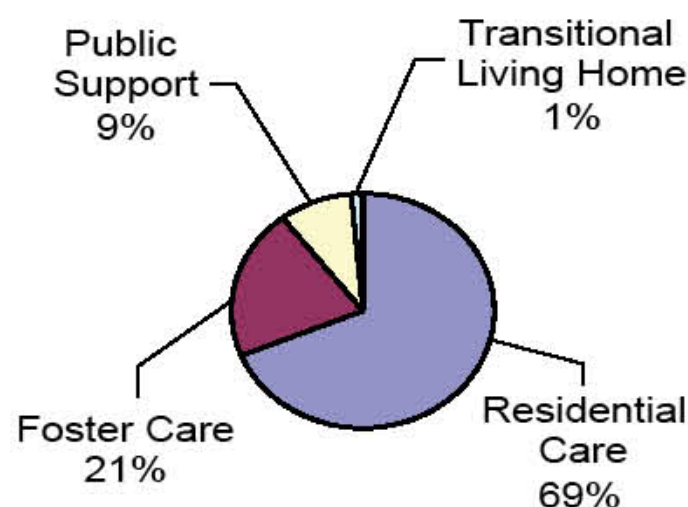
We also have volunteers who come every month to help with our mailings. Additional volunteers include our Angel Guild that puts on our annual Fashion Show/Luncheon, groups that come to the ranch to do specific work related projects, tutors in our school classrooms, and our 15-20 student interns each semester. The interns come primarily from Fresno State, Fresno Pacific University, Heald College, and The University of Phoenix, with an interest and education in social work, criminology, psychology, counseling or information technology.

I just completed the mid-semester evaluations with my social work interns. One of them shared his journey with me last night. He is working full time in the IT industry with a local business as well as going to school full time and completing his 15 hr/week internship. He is also getting married this month. He's 25 years old. He met a wonderful girl when they were in the end of their High School years. She was in foster care and he had no idea that all kids did not have two parents, one home, and a healthy extended family of relatives like he did. His girlfriend (now fiancée) and her brothers had been in eight foster homes from the time they were very young. A short time after they met, the kids got moved out of town and she thought she would never see him again. Well he really liked her and decided he would drive two hours one-way every weekend to see her. It wasn't too long until the relatives they were living with decided that it was time for them to go....again! This is when my outstanding intern decided he was going to see how he could become a foster parent, especially for his girlfriend's little brother. By then, his fiancée was 18 and no longer officially in foster care. Her father had been killed as a result of his drug business and their mother had gotten involved in the same business and got deported. There were MANY meetings with the Department of Social Services. They were NOT interested in making these type of arrangements for these three kids with a young man. They were persistent and did everything he had to do to become licensed by the Department. Eventually, our intern officially adopted his fiancée's little brother who is now 10 years old. There is an older sister who is also living with them until she is able to be on her own. Can you believe this story? He also wants to pursue his Master's Degree and change his career path. What a journey. There are many additional parts to their story but not enough space to tell it all to you. This is an amazing volunteer intern who is practicing what he is learning both at Valley Teen Ranch and at home, too. "God Leads His dear Children Along!"

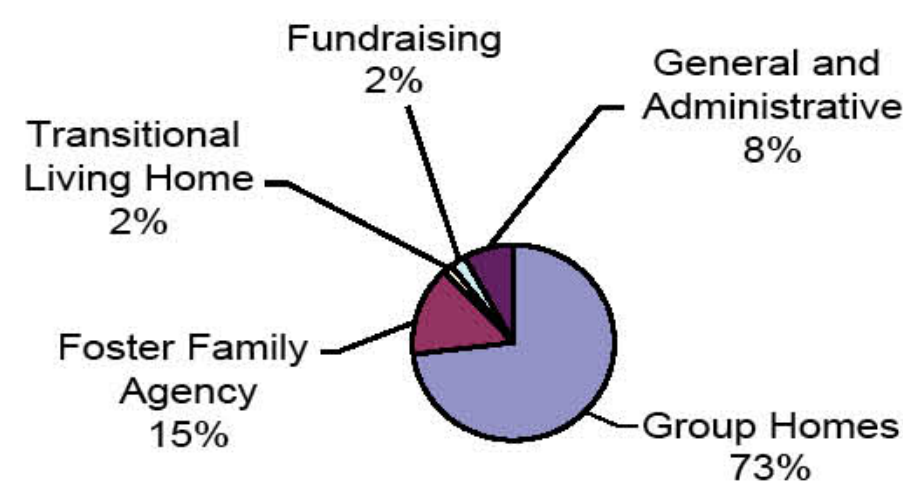
As you can see from our annual statistics we have now worked with over 1600 children and youth in all of our programs during the 25.5 years we have been in operation. Our Adoptions have now topped 140. These children are with their "forever families". We continue to need many more foster and adoptive families to care for the vulnerable children and youth who are in desperate need of a healthy and safe home and family to live with. Our goals for 2013 are to recruit and train another 15-20 families to care for at least another 30 children and youth. We have a huge need for families that want to work with teenagers. We provide excellent training, supportive services, case management, and tax-free financial reimbursement. We do free, no obligation orientations at our office on the third Tuesday of every month; one during the day and one after work. You can call us or go to our web site: www.valleyteenranch.org for more information.

I continue to hear from our former kids every week. They are still growing, learning and becoming all they were intended to be, using the lessons they learned with us when they were younger. Your on-going support helps us as we work hard to make a difference in the lives of our kids, their siblings, relatives, and eventually their own children. "God Leads His Dear Children Along!" Thanks for being on our Valley Teen Ranch Team. We are blessed and pray that God blesses YOU MORE, too.

2012 Revenue



2012 Expenses



This year we had the following children and youth outcomes in our agency:

2012 Totals

Group Home Admissions	36
Group Home Graduates	9
Foster Family Agency Admissions	28
Adoptions	21
High School Diplomas (while at Valley Teen Ranch)	3
Total Admissions	97

25 Year Totals

Group Home Admissions	1065
Group Home Graduates	312
Foster Family Agency Admissions	542
Adoptions	144
High School Diplomas (since 2006)	21
Total Admissions	2084

Our Accomplishments Include:

- Boys' Academics Improved
- Increased Counties Placing
- All Four State Licenses are in Excellent Standing
- Met Our Budget & had a Clean Audit
- 30% Successful Completion at the Group Home

Goals for the Future:

- More High School Graduations and Improved Reading and Math Skills
- Recruit & Train 15 New Foster & Adoptive Parents
- Expand the Vocational Training Program at the Ranch
- Expand Donor Base by 200
- Continue Development of Agriculture and Recreational Projects