

## VTR ALUMNI



**“Alice in Wonderland!”**

Alice Neal-Hill joined our Foster Family Agency in 1991. She was 16. During her years with us, she was in two different foster families and learned a lot about family, God, love, acceptance and work. She left us when she was 18.

Since then, she had a daughter, who is now 14, and then married the love of her life, Monty. She met him here in Fresno as she was training to be a Laidlaw bus driver. Monty was her teacher! He has a son who is 22, and together they have had Bryce, age 10, and Jada, age 8. They live in Compton where Alice works security at USC and Monty drives the school bus for Lynwood Unified School District. They enjoy riding their Harleys and doing family outings.

Her time in foster care gave her  
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▲ Dylan & Colton ... Two of five graduates in the VTR class of 2010.



▲ Staff Training on the Ropes Course at VTR. **T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore. (TEAM)



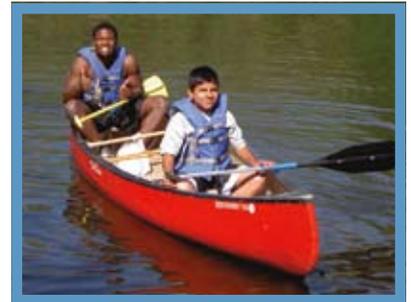
▲ Summer Games at Valley Teen Ranch with boys from KYJO Group Home



▲ VTR staff learning team building & problem solving together.



▲ How to spend a hot summer day in Madera at Valley Teen Ranch.



▲ San Joaquin River Parkway day camp. A wonderful community partnership!

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◀ 2010 VTR prom with the ladies from Alpha Delta Chi Sorority. A night they will always remember! All our boys had a special date they danced and ate dinner with. They looked so handsome in their tuxedos too!

## Upcoming Events

- October 2: Gospel Concert /Benefit at Northwest Church Free Admission 6:00 p.m.
- October 23: 9th Annual Fashion Show & Luncheon at TorNino's. Tickets \$35 Doors Open at 10:30 a.m.
- November 24: Thanksgiving Feast at the Ranch
- December 4: Connie Clendenan's Birthday Concert with the Joe Lenigan Band at Northwest Church 7:00 p.m.
- December 13 - 17: FFA & Ranch Christmas Parties

## Needs List

- Blenders
- Sharp Kitchen Knives
- Chainsaws (new / used)
- Fishing Rod & Reels (new / used)
- Tupperware / Plastic Storage Containers with Lids
- Microwave Ovens (free standing)
- Patio / Pool Furniture
- Large Electric Pancake Griddles
- Large Frying Pans with Lids
- Silverware
- THICK Bath Towels (no red, navy blue, or white)
- Bed Pillow
- Footballs
- Basketballs
- Soccer Balls
- Weekend Volunteer Groups Needed:
  - Tree Trimmers
  - Wood Chippers
  - Manual Labor

## Thank You...

Sequoia Brewery  
 AJ's Tuxedo Junction  
 River Ministries  
 Alpha Delta Chi Sorority  
 Yosemite Lakes Community Church, Seniors Group  
 Agee Construction  
 Northwest Church Prime Timers  
 Northwest Church Volunteers  
 San Joaquin Memorial High School Volunteers  
 New Harvest Church Volunteers  
 Fresno Regional Foundation  
 Fansler Foundation  
 Central Valley Guitar Society  
 California Dairies  
 Great Harvest Bread Co  
 Williams-Sonoma  
 Pottery Barn  
 Office Depot  
 Mor Furniture

# Red Letter Days



▲ The Carter family & their newly adopted daughter, Niah.



▲ Taye joined "Team Brown" & made a family of six for Sandy & Sara.



▲ Pickin' & Grinnin' at the Ranch with five new guitars, thanks to the Central Valley Guitar Society.



▲ Northwest Church "Prime Timers" joined us at the Ranch for a BBQ. The meeting of the Seniors & the Kids, or ... AARP meets Hip-Hop.



▲ Josie is the third adopted child for the Ebright family.



▲ Foster Family/Adoption Appreciation Dinner. "The more we get together the happier we will be."



▲ All our social work interns from CSU, Fresno & Fresno Pacific University.



▲ New Harvest Church built a new fence for our horse pasture as part of their *Project Shalom* service project.



▲ Thanks to Eric Mourdian & Wells Fargo for a \$5,000 grant!

# Connie's Corner



We're having a party and **YOU ARE INVITED!** The Valley Teen Ranch Angels Guild is sponsoring our 9<sup>th</sup> annual Fashion Show & Luncheon on Saturday, October 23, at TorNino's, from 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Fashions will be provided by Coldwater Creek and other Fig Garden merchants. Tickets are \$35 each, or a table of eight for \$280. We will also have silent and live auctions, a door prize, and raffle items at the event. Our auction items are incredible and include a homemade quilt, hot air balloon ride, a weekend trip to Cayucos, and many more items.

We have Table Hostesses who decorate their table with the theme of *Celebrate America*, and then invite seven of their friends to join them at their table. If you want to be a table hostess, we would be thrilled. If you want to come and sit with "new friends", we will make that happen too. If you, your business, church, or family would like to be a corporate sponsor, please consider that generous option. The enclosed card can be returned with all the pertinent information necessary. TorNino's has limited seating, so we need to hear from you as soon as possible.

Proceeds from our event will go toward replacing the roof on our vocational/shop building.

School started August 12! The kids (and staff) were ready to get back into their school schedule. The classrooms are looking great, the teachers and aides are excited, the computers are all networked and working, the weather is cooling down, and we are all learning and growing together. Our goals are: Show up, tell the truth, and do your best! Our relationship with Golden Valley Unified School District is truly a blessing. The boys really improve academically, as well as socially and physically. They enjoyed an incredible week at Calvin Crest Camp before school started. Sleeping out under the stars was a new experience for our urban kids. They learned a lot about nature, creation, God, and having fun in the woods.

Your gift this month will go toward replacing the roof on our vocational /shop building and the fashion show event. I hope you can come.

Thank you for your continued support to our work at Valley Teen Ranch.

Stay Strong and Have Courage,

Connie

Connie R. Clendenan, CEO

*PS: Our fashion show coordinator has issued a call for models to be in this year's fashion show. You can help make this year's show the best ever! Never modeled before, don't worry, you will be trained by the best! If you are interested in making your debut on the runway for Valley Teen Ranch, please call Gina at the office and we will hook you up with Brenda Buckingham. No previous experience required. All women, shapes and sizes are welcome.*



▲ Diana Schuler (bottom left), and her friends at last year's fashion show. She was our VTR Angel Guild founder and chairperson. Diana went to heaven this summer. We will be honoring her memory at this year's event. She was an awesome leader and friend. We miss her greatly.

Imagine yourself on "Project Runway" this year! You only need to bring a pair of black heels to "strut your stuff!"



"Alice in Wonderland" continued from page 1  
stability without the arguing and stressful family dysfunction. She didn't ever dream she would have her own family. When she found out she was pregnant, she was not sure how she would mother a child. Now she has birthed and raised 3 children. They are all getting along well and truly love each



▲ Alice's Children

other. Alice is happy that she's a mother and has a loving husband to share life with. Life has its ups and downs but she is strong, determined and hard working. She has unbelievable stamina. She does NOT give up. She is more than just a survivor, she's an over-comer! I am so very proud of her and the many accomplishments she has made. She continues to learn and grow at age 35. We have so many special memories of camping, going to Hume Lake, eating Me & Ed's Pizza, holidays and birthdays ... and we have photo albums to prove it! Continue to pray for Alice, Monty and their children, their jobs, their finances, mortgage, friends and family. "Alice in Wonderland" could have had a very different ending had it not been for loving foster parents and our VTR families that loved her unconditionally....and we still do!

Celebrate America

Save the Date!

Valley Teen Ranch

9th Annual

Luncheon & Fashion Show

Saturday, October 23, 2010

Tickets \$35

Doors Open  
10:30 a.m.

@ TorNino's

Limited Seating Available!

Honoring Diana Schuler

For Tickets or  
More Information Call

437.1144

or Visit our website at  
[www.valleyteenranch.org](http://www.valleyteenranch.org)

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