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### Volunteers Needed!

10-20 strong men (or women!) are needed for a one-day project. We will be moving the furniture out of 9 apartments for our CPS Home Finding Program on January 30th. The apartments are located in South Sacramento (99 and Florin). Approximate start time is 9:00 am. If you are able to help, please contact Natalie Kuffel at [nkuffel@saehc.org](mailto:nkuffel@saehc.org) or 916-454-2120x302.

### SAEHC in the News

[Book of Dreams Story](#)

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### Dear Friend,

Happy New Year from SAEHC! We hope that you are as excited as we are to begin this new decade.

2009 was a tough year for the agency. We lost 6 of our dorm rooms to a fire and many of our staff to budget cuts. But it was also a year of generosity and support from the community like we have never seen.



There was no better example of that than the holidays. The children in our programs received a day of fun at Health Net's Celebration of Children event, they received coats from the Sacramento Bee's Book of Dreams, new shoes from Payless Shoe Source, a new blanket from the IKEA blanket drive and presents from local employee groups and the community. It truly was a merry Christmas at the shelters.

### The Family Shelter Fire

By Carolyn Brodt, Executive Director

On December 4, 2009, SAEHC's Family Shelter experienced an electrical fire, displacing six of the families to a small family owned motel close to the Family Shelter. These families unfortunately lost all their possessions due to smoke and water damage; however, due to the generous support of our donors and coverage from local media, SAEHC is able to replace many of the items lost. One of these supporters was Roseville's Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, who announced the tragedy of the fire at their production of a *Christmas Carol* and collected over \$1,300 for the families.

A heartfelt thank you to those who contributed:  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection  
AT&T Pioneers

[Local Teens Volunteer  
20 Causes in 20 Days  
Shuttle Donation](#)

### Keeping Families Together

SAEHC runs the only shelter in Sacramento that accepts two parent households, single fathers, and sons over the age of 14.

### Board of Directors

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Marina Smith  
Betty Donelson

SAEHC is fortunate to have good insurance, and a wonderful insurance adjuster, who is dedicated to restoring and rebuilding the seared, soggy, smoke infested building; a task that should begin in the next week or two. We look forward to having our six families back on our campus and fully integrated into our Family Shelter Program this Spring. We will keep you updated on the project through this newsletter and our website.

### Special Events



On December 11<sup>th</sup>, the women at the Women's Refuge and Wilma's Place enjoyed an afternoon of renewal and rejuvenation while attending the fourth Dress for Success event hosted by Deloitte Consulting. The afternoon began with a discussion on work appropriate clothing for a variety of employment

opportunities, the "must have" pieces for a professional woman's wardrobe, and the best colors and styles for each individual attending the event. Next, the clients had the opportunity to search through three bulging racks of clothing for their perfect outfits. The grand finale was a personal makeup session with a Sephora beauty consultant who guided the women through the process of proper skin care and applying work appropriate make-up. The women were now completely made over after receiving free hair cuts and facials earlier in the month from local volunteers.



The dorms also received a makeover thanks to local artists. Flo Grossenbacher coordinated the effort to bring beautiful, personalized works of art to the women's sleeping area. The ladies also got to create their own works of art based on the paintings of Georgia O'Keefe.



*Gingerbread House  
created by  
the Family Shelter kids*

## **New Funding Received** By Devon Good, Director of Community Partnerships

SAEHC is starting off 2010 with additional funding thanks to local organizations seeking to assist the Agency in achieving its mission.

- Homeless Prevention Project received \$10,000 from American River Bankshares Foundation, and \$5,500 from Sierra Health Foundation to continue serving those at risk of homelessness or those unable to enter in to shelters due to capacity restrictions
- We were awarded \$20,000 in general operating funds from the Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation; funds desperately needed in this still uncertain economic climate
- SAEHC received a capacity building grant for \$14,500 from Bank of America that will be used to enhance the communications and marketing abilities of the Agency
- Finally, SAEHC was selected to be a recipient of funding from the Teichert Foundation for our proposal to introduce a weekly Health and Hygiene Education program for the children and adults at the Family Shelter



We also received a very generous donation from Thunder Valley Casino- two 24-passenger shuttle vans to help us transport our clients!

## **Client Spotlight:** **Diedra Norman**

By Mary Anne Wheeler, MCC Children Services Supervisor



Mather Community Campus client Diedra Norman was awarded \$300 from Soroptimist International Club of Rancho Cordova. Their Women's Opportunity awards assist women in overcoming personal difficulties and bettering their lives through educational and skills training. Club award recipients such as Diedra also become eligible to receive region-level awards to offset any cost associated with their efforts to attain higher education, including: books, child care and transportation.

Diedra is currently working on completing her Early Childhood Education hours and units to work in a pre-school setting. She has three daughters and has made a remarkable effort in changing her life and providing her daughters with a healthy,

loving and safe home.

**Volunteer of the Month:**  
**Diamond Robertson**  
LIGHT Project



Diamond has been interning with our LIGHT Project Case Manager Spring Ackerman. She meets with clients needing rental or utilities assistance and helps process their applications.

Diamond is dedicated to her volunteering and is amazing with the clients. She has even signed up to come back next semester to continue her work. She is a true asset to the SAEHC team and the Sacramento Community!

**Employee of the Month:**  
**Amanda Cervantes**  
MCC, Support Staff



Amanda Cervantes has gone above and beyond her role as Mather Community Campus Support Staff. She is a natural with our young clients, helping them with their homework and being there for them in their time of need. Amanda is a dedicated employee and a shining star on our team!

This is the first e-newsletter sent with our new database software.

If you are receiving this email in error, we sincerely apologize.

To opt out of future e-mails, please reply with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.