

# SIERRA HEARTBEAT

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## INTRODUCING THE NEWEST MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY

Sierra Forever Families has “adopted” the Wonder program - a one-on-one mentoring program focused on providing consistent, caring relationships for children living in foster care. This is a perfect fit for both Sierra and the Wonder program, as Wonder’s mission and values mirrors ours.

**Vision:** No child goes through foster care alone.

**Mission:** To strengthen the emotional and social well-being of children and youth in foster care by building relationships with caring, consistent adults.

Wonder matches kids in foster care, one-on-one, with caring adults who know how to listen, support, and guide them through fun, age appropriate experiences in music, the arts, sports, volunteer service, dining out, and nature. They spend at least eight hours a month together for a year or longer, allowing each child the chance to help plan and actively participate in a wide range of activities and conversations. For some kids, these experiences will be “firsts” - filled with excitement and self-discovery. For others, it’s an opportunity to explore personal interests and talents. For all of them, it’s the stability of a consistent adult who encourages them to try something new, engages them in conversations, and enriches their lives. It’s a connection with an adult who believes in them.

### Wonder Moments:

“When I asked him to go get his calendar so we could schedule the next visit he went “skipping” across the room.” – Guide to Lamon (11 year old boy)

“He wrote a paragraph on his “Hero” . . . about me! I told him that he just made my year and that was the best surprise that I had ever received. That, right there, is why I am a Wonder Guide! To know that we, as mentors, are making a difference in a child’s life.” – Guide to Shaquille (13 year old boy)



**Sierra**  
FOREVERFAMILIES  
sierraff.org

We transform the lives of children in foster care by building and nurturing permanent families

**New Name. New Website. Same Great Mission! Visit: [sierraff.org](http://sierraff.org)**

# DONOR BEAT

## GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING



Great things are happening at Sierra Forever Families. On July 1, Sierra Adoption Services changed its name to better reflect what we do in helping transform the lives of children living in foster care as we build and nurture permanent families. New name - same great mission!

The name change was not the only great thing that happened on July 1. Sierra "adopted" Wonder, Inc., an outstanding mentor program for children living in foster care. Now, Wonder is a part of the Sierra family.

We are delighted to welcome everyone involved with Wonder and invite you to get involved. I invite you to volunteer by becoming a Guide (adult mentor) for an Explorer (child in foster care) on a year-long journey. Approximately 90 foster youth are on their year-long journey with a mentor. Yet over half that number are still waiting. It could be the

best 8-10 hours per month you spend.

I also invite you to support the Wonder Program with a gift. Donations are needed to maintain and grow the Wonder Program. It is amazing to see the time and dedication given by staff and volunteers to make each journey a memorable and rewarding experience. Some Explorers have said that their Guide is the only stable adult in their life, as they transition through the foster care system. That is what Wonder is all about!

You can be a part in helping a child experience their Wonder moment. Please volunteer or give today!

If you would like more information about the Wonder Program, please contact us. We will be happy to share how you can get involved.

Bobby Cobbs, MSW, CFRE

Development and Public Relations Officer



## HELP US GO PAPERLESS!

### CHOOSE A NEW WAY TO RECEIVE YOUR UPDATES: EMAIL, WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK.

Sierra would like to continue to send you updates on our programs and the children and families we serve. Over the coming months, we will begin to post our newsletters online at [www.sierraff.org](http://www.sierraff.org), and we will utilize email and Facebook as additional ways for you to receive updates. Please let us know if you would like to receive your information through one or more of our new communication streams.

To let us know how you would like us to contact you with future updates, please respond one of three ways:

1. go online to [www.sierraff.org/WaysToGive](http://www.sierraff.org/WaysToGive) and complete donor survey;
2. email us at [rsvp@sierraff.org](mailto:rsvp@sierraff.org)



Follow us on Facebook! Please visit Facebook to find Sierra Forever Families under the list of causes and become a member. Join the Insiders club and receive weekly posts and updates available only to members. We encourage you to share the cause with your friends on Facebook.

RECEIVE YOUR SIERRA UPDATES ONLINE AT [WWW.SIERRAFF.ORG](http://WWW.SIERRAFF.ORG) AND/OR VIA EMAIL, FACEBOOK & TWITTER!

# GIVING BEAT

## THANK YOU TO THE FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Bank of the West	\$5,000 for Placement
Caring Hearts Society of Auburn	\$6,500 for Placement
City of Roseville	\$5,000 for Placement
Enterprise Fleet Service	\$5,000 for Placement
Kelly Foundation	\$5,000 for Destination Family
Ronald McDonald House Charities Northern California	\$5,000 for Wonder
Soroptomist International of Sacramento	\$10,000 for Wonder
Target Stores	\$5,000 for Destination Family
The Loveall Foundation for Children	\$5,000 for Placement
The Thomas J. Long Foundation	\$5,000 for Placement
U. S. Bank	\$10,000 for Destination Family
Van Loben Sels/RembeRock Foundation	\$7,500 for Wonder

### GRANTS RECEIVED JULY 1 TO DATE – NOVEMBER 15, 2009



## CARING HEARTS SOCIETY OF AUBURN HOST 2ND VINO DE ART FESTIVAL

For the second year in a row, the wonderful Caring Hearts Society of Auburn hosted their Vino de Art, Wine & Exotic Car Celebration Event in Auburn with the goal of raising contributions to help local Auburn area children. Proceeds this year benefited Placer Kids and the Boys and Girls Club of Auburn. The September 12th event was a great success and raised money and awareness in a challenging year.

Thank you, Caring Hearts Society, for opening up your heart for children in need. We are grateful for your support and generosity.

Special thanks go to Linda Duff, President, Nancy Meyer and Diana Adams who co-chaired the event!



## GIVING RESULTS - LAROYSHA FINDS PERMANENCE

When we first reported on LaRoysha she was a friendly 12-year-old who had been in the foster care system for many years. Separated from her birth family, she and six siblings entered foster care. Many of her siblings found permanence while LaRoysha continued to wait. It was frustrating to LaRoysha to continue to be passed over while her siblings found permanent families. She never gave up hope and worked with her Destination Family Worker to find a FOREVER FAMILY.

In 2008, LaRoysha was placed with Cora, a foster care provider. Cora had been fostering youth for many years; adopting many of the girls who came to her home. LaRoysha felt a connection with Cora and the other girls in the home right away. The two discussed a plan for permanence and began to take the needed steps to finalize the adoption. Happily, LaRoysha finalized her adoption in 2009.

At the time of her adoption finalization, she decided that she wanted to change her name. Cora and LaRoysha talked about many different names until they had a conversation about Ella Fitzgerald. Cora loved Ella the singer, while LaRoysha felt connected to the personal struggle the singer had as a youth; abandoned to the system, she struggled her way through and became a strong, independent female role model...and amazing talent. Today, Ella celebrates permanence with her mom, Cora, and six sisters through adoption.

We last reported that LaRoysha wanted to be a cosmetologist and own her own business. Well, today, Ella is attending the Met, a charter school, and is interested in attending Spellman University in Georgia. What a difference permanence can make in a young life!

# 5TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

## THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THE EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS!

On September 21st, Sierra hosted its 5th Annual Golf Tournament at Serrano Country Club. The tournament was a tremendous success thanks to golf committee chair Jerri Hunt of Waste Connections.

Waste Connections and Livingston's Concrete were our major sponsors and helped to bring in over \$130,000 towards the event. Karen Yip with Vision Service Plan coordinated over 50 volunteers and made sure that a great day was had by all.

One of the BEST parts of the event was the participation of golf legend Mr. Lee Elder. He graciously played a hole with each golf foursome, opened the festivities, spoke at our award ceremony, and brought with him signed memorabilia from his own personal collection. A personal call to Michael Jordon produced a signed ball which, at auction, brought in over \$5,000.

### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

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