



**HELP
ONE CHILD**

Dividends

Mission to Children at Risk

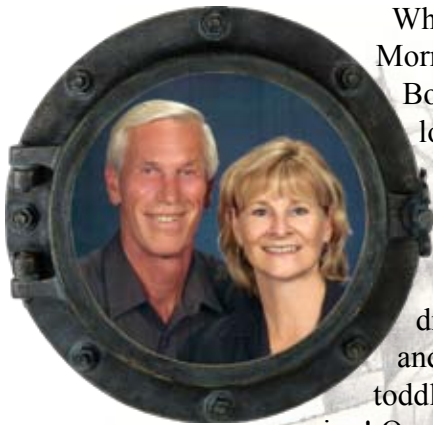
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Welcome A-Board!



When Mark and JoAnne Morris decided to expand the Board, they did not have to look far on the horizon.

Judi Van Elderen has been “Mom” to more than 50 children including four biological children, two adopted children and 45 foster infants and toddlers. But who is counting! Over the last 20 years, Judi

and Dan Van Elderen have opened their home to numerous children who just need a safe stopover before returning to their biological parents or to an adoptive family.

Along the way, Judi has served on the Board of the Santa Clara County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association as well as previously serving as a Help One Child Board member from 1997 through 2003. When Help One Child created a video several years ago to explain and promote its ministry, Judi and Dan offered their home as “the set” and shared their personal experiences and why they support the organization’s church-based approach.

Dan began his career in Silicon Valley in 1973 at a new start-up called Atari Games, where he spent the next 30 years. After serving as the corporation’s President and Chief Operating Officer for the last 12 years of his career there, he retired in 2003. Since retirement, he has continued to stay very busy as a Board/Committee member and volunteer at several non-profit organizations, including New Creation Home Ministries (East Palo Alto), San Jose Christian Schools, The Center for Public Justice (Washington, DC), and Young Life as well as other local and international ministries.

A desire to spread foster care ministry at their church, Peninsula Bible Church in Palo Alto, led the Van Elderens to present a Sunday morning class focusing on the “fatherless.” Class members’ warm reception to the foster care and adoption ministry meant that the church was ready to sail as Help One Child’s fourth Ambassador Church.

Now, Judi and Dan have started a new voyage as they have accepted the invitation to co-chair Help One Child’s Board of Directors.

Joining them, Sandi Orlando is also a recent addition to Help One Child’s board. Sandi and her husband, Gary, have been foster parents for eight years.

Sandi will contribute by being a liaison between the ministry and foster parents she comes in contact with through classes and the Foster and Adoptive Parent Association, and will host informal gatherings in her home to introduce friends and neighbors to Help One Child’s services. Rather than attending an orientation held at a church, inviting members to a foster parent’s home will appeal to an additional set of people, says Help One Child Executive Director Susan Kammerer.

“It’s a very personalized, intimate venue by a very committed couple that can strengthen our network of families,” Kammerer adds.

Help One Child founders Mark and JoAnne Morris say, “We are so excited to have these talented individuals and longtime supporters bringing their gifts and expertise to serve this ministry.”

The Morris’ will continue on the Board, but welcoming our new Co-Chairs will enable them to focus on their area of interest, parent education.



November

Adoption Month Events

Redwood City Church Hosts Adoption Seminar in San Mateo County

On November 11th, Peninsula Covenant Church in Redwood City plans to host a free seminar for church members and the public highlighting different routes to adoption. Family and Children's Pastor Jeff Smith invited Help One Child's Executive Director Susan Kammerer to present a session on adoption through foster care. Susan has invited San Mateo County and a private foster family agency to accompany her to explain their services. Other sessions will feature agencies that facilitate international adoption and private adoption. In addition to hosting the seminar, Peninsula Covenant Church has "adopted" Help One Child's suggestion to hold an adoption-themed worship service on November 11th in honor of National Adoption Month.

Adoption Event Button

Help One Child Calls Churches in Both Counties to Honor "Adoption Sunday"

As part of the "A Home for Every Child" campaign, Help One Child is encouraging churches across the Bay Area to recognize families caring for another's child on Adoption Sunday, November 18th. Churches have celebrated this occasion in various ways, including inviting foster and adoptive parents to speak, inviting anyone to stand who has raised someone else's child, watching videos of families who have adopted, planning service projects to benefit foster children in individual, shelter or group homes or simply saying a prayer for these committed families. November is an important season to highlight Help One Child's campaign and to engage Christian churches in ministry to foster children and create awareness for the general public.

Middle-Schooler Organizes Care Kits for Children

Besides playing soccer, volleyball and riding her bike, 12-year-old Tahniah also wants to change the world. A trip to Africa at age nine opened her eyes to global need. But she is going to start right in her own backyard to help people she can really relate to—children in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. Tahniah, who lives in San Mateo County, brought her project "Kits 4 Kids" to Help One Child in August.



12 year-old Tahniah holds some of the personal items she has collected for foster care intake kits.

The "Kits 4 Kids" project consists of gathering the items for seven different personal item kits for children and teens, based on their ages. Each kit is age-appropriate and includes the personal items a young person needs and rarely has the resources to get for themselves, everything from toothbrushes and stuffed animals to gift cards, underwear, and school supplies.

"Intake kits help a child keep some self-esteem, gain confidence that they will receive good care, and show that others are concerned about them," she says.

Tahniah's project is exciting on many levels, says Help One Child Executive Director Susan Kammerer.

"Not only is it amazing and wonderful to work with such a young, committed person, but Tahniah has incredible enthusiasm that she can spread to others of all ages to do something practical and hands-on to help at-risk children in their community," Kammerer says.

Buying and assembling a care kit is a project of feasible scope for groups and individuals such as church youth groups, school clubs, small groups and families that want to donate and serve.

The "Kits 4 Kids" program is being finalized this Fall, but watch for it to appear in the San Jose Mercury News Wishbook. Call Help One Child at 650-917-1210 for more details.



Camp Connection Bonds Families

Sixteen families that have children with attachment issues trekked to Mt. Cross Lutheran Camp in the Santa Cruz mountains among the redwood

trees to learn from parenting specialist Nancy Thomas. This was Help One Child's Camp Connection's seventh year. The week provided therapeutic parenting training, family bonding activities and campfire memories.

Along with the enthusiastic and fun-loving camp counselors who facilitated the camp activities, families were assisted by licensed therapists and trained volunteers who donated a week of their time to guide children and their families through the inevitable "meltdown" and ultimate restitution and healing process.

Adoptive mom Jan Marie says, "Theo had not bonded to Al in these three years since we adopted him. Out of frustration and misunderstanding, Al had remained on the sidelines. The camp setting presented the day-to-day situations that occur at home, so we were able to more realistically let the professionals into our world. Al was given guidance and encouragement on how to work with and love Theo through his rage. Al's confidence as a Father soared. It has been beautiful! Theo is much calmer and more secure. I don't believe we could have arrived at this place on our own."

Camp Connection would not be possible without the marvelous the support of the Lutheran churches, Mt. Cross Lutheran Camp staff and our dedicated volunteers.

Camp Connection Photo

Good College Aid News

On September 27, 2007, President Bush signed into law the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (HR 2669), making it possible for teens in foster care to be adopted without losing access to college financial aid. Under this new law, youth who are adopted after their 13th birthday will not have to include their parents' income in the calculations for determining their need for financial aid.

Help One Child Steps In For Kinship Care Family

It was every grandmother's nightmare. When Jan made a surprise visit to her son's distant home last spring, she found her four grandsons ages 3 to 13 years old home alone with no food in the cupboards and cockroaches crawling about. She had not known that alcoholism and drug addiction were affecting her grandsons' lives. She did what any grandmother would do, she says. She took them home with her.

But because her son voluntarily agreed to give her guardianship and the children were not removed by the state, Jan does not qualify for any government funding as a relative caregiver. While her income stayed the same, she had to upgrade from a one-bedroom apartment to a three-bedroom house.

When she took custody of them, there was a lot of catching up to do. There were immunizations, dental work, eye exams and counseling appointments.

"They are all underweight and undernourished," she says. Stories emerged how the eldest brother would sell his toys at the flea market to buy food for his brothers.

"Not eligible" for any monthly stipend for the boys, Jan searched far and wide for any agencies that could assist her. Through a friend of a friend, Abundant Life Christian Fellowship staff member Rosemarie Nola, also a former Help One Child Executive Director, she learned about Help One Child.

"Within days, Help One Child brought me backpacks, Legos, towels, sheet sets and clothes for the toddler," Jan says. "They have been more than willing to help me. I get goosebumps when I think about it."

She adds that she does not know what she would have done without the support. "I have been dipping into my retirement funds so I can support the kids," Jan says.

If she had a wish list, she says, she could use an algebra tutor for the 13-year-old who skipped seventh grade because he was home taking care of his youngest brother, then 2 years old. After tutoring, she wishes she could afford to pay for after-school activities for Jay (13), Gary (11) and William (8). They would like to take karate and guitar lessons.

But the real miracle of all is that the boys have found a stable and loving forever home with their grandmother and were not split up into different homes in the foster care system.

Help One Child accepts goods and services to help families such as Jan's. The organization is committed to serving all foster families, whether inside or outside the child welfare system. If you would like to become personally involved in assisting this family or others, call Judy at the Help One Child office.

Christmas Party Elves Needed and “Giving Trees”

Help One Child’s annual Christmas party is scheduled for Saturday, December 8th from 4-7 PM.

Last year more than 170 foster and adopted children attended! In preparation for this joyous affair, there are several ways you and/or your family, school or small group can help:



- **Volunteer elves are needed on December 8th to put up decorations, prepare and serve food, supervise games and hand out Santa gifts.**
- **Buy a gift (\$25 value) on a foster child’s Wish List**
- **Contribute \$5 gift cards for the Santa gift**
- **Bring a “Giving Tree” to your church with ornaments listing age-appropriate gift ideas for foster children**

Benefit Concert Plays to Large Audience

Help One Child’s first ever Benefit Concert on September 14th was full of sweet melodies for many. Pianist David Stein, flutist Eugene Lee, cellist Sue Larson and vocalist Heidi Fisher brought top-class talent to the audience, which excelled expectations at more than 180 guests!

“The talent of the musicians was perfectly displayed for a very welcoming audience,” says Help One Child co-founder JoAnne Morris. “It was highly successful as our first benefit concert.”

The concert raised more than \$10,000!

Help One Child would like to thank the devoted and talented performers, dedicated volunteers, Eugene and Soona Lee for suggesting the concert, Union Presbyterian Church, Safeway, Lucky, Costco and Nob Hill Foods for refreshments and the Help One Child foster and adoptive families who provided food for the event. Bravo to all!

Upcoming events

Orientations & CPR / 1st Aid

858 University Ave, Los Altos

	Orientations		CPR & 1st Aid
	7 PM.	9 AM Sat	8:30 AM Sat
October	17	20	20
November	14	17	17
December	12	-	-
January	16	19	19

Orientations 2 hours • CPR & First Aid 5 hours
Call for Childcare: 650-917-1210

Parent Child Connection meets the third Thursday of every month from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at the Help One Child offices in Los Altos. Childcare by request.

Parent God Connection meets immediately after the Parent Child Connection in Los Altos.

Parent Child Connection (South County) meets the first Tuesday of every month from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at Morgan Hill Bible Church in Morgan Hill. Childcare by request.

Neurofeedback Support Group meets the last Thursday of each month 7-9 PM at the Help One Child offices.

October 28

Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church Presentation

November Campaign Support Events

Ascension

Church of the Epiphany

Neighborhood Bible Church

Union Presbyterian Church

West Hills Community Church

November 4

Peninsula Bible Church North’s

Joy to the World Faire

November 11

Adoption Seminar

at Peninsula Covenant Church
9:15 AM, 11:15 AM, 4:00 PM

December 8

Christmas Party

4-7 PM