



## Introducing Our New Executive Director, Mark Fleming

Newsletter Spring 2016

The Board of Directors of Twelveacres is delighted to announce Mark Fleming as our new Executive Director.

Mark is a devoted Christian Scientist whose long, successful track record in executive management positions in both non-profit and for-profit businesses will bring inspired leadership to Twelveacres. He also has held leadership positions with Christian Science organizations, including Administrator of Sunland Home Foundation and Executive Board member of The Willows Foundation. Mark's extensive management experience and prior work with Christian Science facilities make him an ideal match for Twelveacres.

He will work to further the organization's mission and ongoing activities. Mark commented, "I am delighted to join Twelveacres in its long-standing service to the cause of Christian Science. It is evident through my initial work with the dedicated Board and Staff, there is so much good taking place for our residents in our homes. It is a



privilege to get acquainted with Twelveacres' supporters, and I look forward to communicating our continued progress with you."

We are also tremendously grateful to Amy Hellyer for serving as our Interim Executive Director over the past six months in addition to fulfilling her responsibilities as Program Director. She has led the organization with a steady hand. She will be continuing in her role as Program Director.

Mark, who relocated to Campbell from Newport Beach, California, joined us the first week in April. The Board looks forward to working with him and the rest of the Twelveacres team in developing short-term and long-term strategic plans. We will share our progress in our next newsletter.

Please join us in giving him a hearty welcome from the entire Twelveacres community!

The Board of Directors



## Reports of Healing and Progress

by Amy Hellyer, Program Director



Twelveacres provides a home environment where those labeled "developmentally disabled" can overcome the challenges and behaviors associated with developmental disability through Christian Science treatment, rather than through the use of medication. Individuals who come to Twelveacres have been labeled with

mental retardation, cerebral palsy, autism, Down's Syndrome, or epilepsy.

Some generally accepted behaviors associated with these conditions include inability to reason, to learn certain things, and to make decisions; resistance to change; lack of awareness of those around them; and problems communicating with others.

Here let me share two examples of healing and progress I witnessed recently in my work with our residents.

### Acknowledging Another's Feelings

One morning as I was helping a resident get ready to go to his swim session, the resident said some things that were unkind.

## Aktion Club Convention

Some of the Twelveacres residents are members of Aktion Club, a branch of the Kiwanis Club for special needs adults. These residents regularly attend the Aktion Club Convention, a fun-filled weekend held annually for club members.



At the December 2015 gathering, held at Wonder Valley Ranch, our members joyfully reunited with friends from all over, including California, Nevada,

*continued on p. 6*

(He has had a habit of repeating negative statements that he has heard over the years to see if he can get a reaction.) I looked him straight in the eye and pointed out that what he said was hurtful. The resident continued to repeat these phrases, but I chose to be quiet, praying silently and refusing to react as we continued on our way. After chattering nonstop for the next 10 minutes, he noticed the quiet. Suddenly he looked at me with new awareness and in a thoughtful voice said, "Amy, I'm

*continued on p. 4*

**Twelveacres  
Board of Directors**

**President**  
**Francesca Karpel**  
Belmont, CA

**Vice President**  
**Gene DeBolt**  
Santa Rosa, CA

**Treasurer**  
**Tim Ames**  
Arroyo Grande, CA

**Secretary**  
**Jean Wehner**  
Vista, CA

**Jane Faller**  
San Mateo, CA

**Jeanne L'Heureux**  
Hayward, CA

**Gene McAlister**  
San Carlos, CA

**Andrea Moon**  
Walnut Creek, CA

**Michael Reynolds**  
Berkeley, CA

**Lisa Ritterbuck**  
Avila Beach, CA

**Administration**

**Mark Fleming**  
Executive Director

**Amy Hellyer**  
Program Director



**Twelveacres  
Spring 2016 Newsletter**

Published By  
**Twelveacres, Inc.**  
595 Millich Drive  
Suite 104  
Campbell, CA 95008  
Telephone: 408.341.0400  
Fax: 408.341.0411

**Website:**  
www.twelveacres.org

## Highlights from the 2015 Annual Meeting

Much warmth and gratitude was felt inside of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Menlo Park on the first Sunday afternoon in November. It was a day to celebrate the spiritual progress that residents of Twelveacres have made over the past year and to recognize the staff members who tirelessly assist the residents in their daily growth.



Board Member Jane Faller thanks Linda Graser for her board service

Residents from two of the Twelveacres homes greeted attendees at the entrance, handing each a Twelveacres lanyard and a program. Once seated, the guests were warmly welcomed to the gathering by Twelveacres Board President Francesca Karpel. First she introduced the organization itself: "Twelveacres has been serving Christian Scientists since its founding in 1932 and helping those who are 'overcoming developmental challenges through Christian Science' since 1968." Then she introduced the ten board members. Next, speaking on behalf of everyone at Twelveacres, Francesca expressed deep gratitude to former Executive Director Lin Watts for his ten years of service. She also thanked Program Director Amy Hellyer for stepping in as interim executive director.

A thank you went to all the donors, whose generosity has enabled Twelveacres to continue its mission: "We want to thank all of our donors and supporters for their tremendous support earlier this year in answering our emergency request for funds. Your ongoing prayers and donations are essential to Twelveacres serving our residents. I am happy to report that our funds-on-hand have stabilized as a result of your generous response. Thank you!"



Following board reports, Amy Hellyer gave a report in her dual role as program director and interim executive director. After summarizing her history with the organization, she invited members of the audience to come work for Twelveacres to both "bless and be blessed." Amy then related an example of healing she had witnessed, in which one resident had expanded

his awareness beyond himself to embrace others. (See "Acknowledging Another's Feelings" on page 1).

At each Twelveacres annual meeting, one resident receives the Marlie Brooks Award for demonstrating significant progress during the year. Before acknowledging the 2015 recipient, Amy first attested to the advancing footsteps of every resident. "The truth is," she said, "all the residents have made great healing progress this year. Please give all the residents a round of applause for their good work."



The winner of the 2015 Marlie Brooks Award was then announced. She was invited to the front of the room to accept her certificate, which honors her for expressing helpfulness and greater self-control in the previous twelve months. In nominating her, staff members had commented on the consistency with which she is now expressing her God-given abilities. Examples they cited of her helpfulness around the house included putting away laundry, shredding papers, and helping to blend food for meals. They also noted her increased calmness and willingness to accept assistance from staff members when confronted with frustrating situations.

Both Francesca and Amy recognized staff members who have been part of the Twelveacres team for five or more years (see "Recognizing Our Employees" on page 7). They also asked that all staff members be honored for their dedication with a round of applause. Francesca then thanked outgoing board member (and former board president) Linda Graser for her years of service.

For the final portion of the meeting, Christine Irby Williams joyfully launched into her topic, "Cups of Cold Water'... and Twelveacres" (see insert for the text of her talk). Her uplifting spiritual ideas and healing accounts were taken to heart by everyone in attendance.



Christine Williams

Please mark your calendars for Twelveacres' 2016 Annual Meeting: Sunday, November 6.

## Twelveacres Blessed My Family, by Jean Wehren

Greetings! I am a new member of the Twelveacres' Board of Directors. In addition, I'm the parent of a Twelveacres resident. My daughter has lived there for six years.

Let me share a few thoughts about our family's experience with this wonderful organization and how it has blessed us.

We heard of Twelveacres and its mission from a family member and from other church friends. After making several trips over several years to get acquainted with the home's staff and administration, I decided that Twelveacres was the right place for my daughter to live.

This was not a quick or easy decision! However, with the support of a loving and conscientious practitioner, I found I could rely more consistently on God as her true parent, conservator, provider, and caregiver in practical ways as well as spiritually. As I trusted God more, I let go of my sense of self-importance as her mother.

On move-in day, the house manager met us in the driveway with these words: "Welcome home!"



What a loving greeting. Since then, the entire house staff has consistently been outstanding, always caring and loving, regardless of personnel changes over the years.

This Bible verse often sustains me, "Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off?" (Jer. 23:23). I am heartened and encouraged by the dedication of all Twelveacres employees — regardless of their capacity (administration, house staff, maintenance, board members) — to this unique ministry and to the residents. They all understand the desire the residents have for wanting Christian Science healing. They also understand the deep appreciation of the families who have entrusted their loved ones to the care of God and Twelveacres.

Indeed, Twelveacres truly is an expression of God's omnipotent care for Her children.

I am filled with gratitude for this organization and for all those who support it prayerfully and financially. ❤️

## "A Faithful Man Shall Abound With Blessings" Proverbs 28:20

Thank you for your devotion to Twelveacres, where blessings always abound! God's supply is truly limitless, and evidenced by your generosity. The Board and staff of Twelveacres are humbled by and grateful for your faithful metaphysical and financial support.

As our fiscal year draws to a close, your ongoing support can help us meet our 2016 operating budget. Our goal is to raise \$96,000 in general contributions by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Please consider your (tax-deductible) gift to Twelveacres as an investment in active healing. It goes directly toward meeting the residents' needs in the form of a home, companionship, education, and personal care.

Did you know that your donations support the idea of "opportunity"? Yes, Twelveacres offers the opportunity for our residents to:

- practice Christian Science in a supportive atmosphere —  
"In atmosphere of Love divine,  
We live, and move, and breathe;" (Hymn 144)
- heal and progress in a way that the world says is "not possible" —  
"... progress is the law of God, whose law demands of us only what we can certainly fulfil" (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 233).
- share healings with the community, enabling neighbors to witness the harmony that divine Love establishes among our residents. (See examples of healing in this newsletter.)  
Your expression of gratitude, generosity, provision, trust, and joy, as exemplified by your prayerful and practical support, is dearly valued.  
Thank you! ❤️

If you are interested in becoming part of the Twelveacres team, please contact us at 408-341-0400 x103 or inquire at [info@twelveacres.org](mailto:info@twelveacres.org).

## Reports of Healing and Progress *continued from p. 1*

sorry.” I felt overwhelming gratitude and thanked him for his apology. For this individual, this was a huge progressive step. His sincere response demonstrated his ability to recognize someone else’s feelings and the effect his words can have on others. To me, his turnaround refutes the world belief that individuals with developmental disabilities are only able to see their *own* needs, live in their *own* worlds, and not recognize the needs of others.

### Healing Witnessed in Community

Another morning I received an urgent call from a day program reporting that one of our residents was having a seizure and that they would need to bring her home. I could hear fear and concern in the day program staff member’s voice, so I assured him that all would be well. After hanging up, I called the staff at the Twelveacres home where the resident lives, explained the situation, and asked them to request prayer



Celebrating on Christmas Day

from the resident’s Christian Science practitioner. As I was talking with the home staff, the day program called again — this time asking us to be waiting outside the home with a wheelchair for the resident. I reassured him that we would be ready to receive the resident. Within

a matter of moments, I received a third call from the day program saying that the resident was fine and would not need to be brought home. The good news that healing had taken place was immediately shared with the home staff, who quickly relayed our gratitude to the practitioner. This all transpired in less than 20 minutes.

Because we love to celebrate every advancing step, I am happy to share with you some additional recent examples of healing and progress experienced by our residents, who live in four different homes in the community based on their abilities.

### Independence Maintained

“Sight, hearing, all the spiritual senses of man, are eternal. They cannot be lost. Their reality and immortality are in Spirit and understanding, not in matter, — hence their permanence” (*Science*

*and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 486).

A resident at AST House (“Adaptive Skills Training,” our home with the most independent residents) has consistently lived by the above principal while experiencing a challenge with her vision. She has displayed a sense of independence and she asks for help only when faced with very unfamiliar circumstances. The vision challenge has not deterred her from carrying out her activities of daily living, including chores in the apartment. Recently, this resident cleaned her bathroom and took out trash without prompting from a staff member.



Relaxing at Prusch Park

### Clear Communication and Decision Making

The day after a holiday, the residents of Braeburn House were relaxing during their vacation when the van driver from one of the day programs knocked on the door. (Residents attend day programs on weekdays to help them develop life-skills, such as appropriate interaction skills, communication, pre-vocational skills, etc.) It turned out that the day program that one of the residents regularly attends was open that day. When the staff member asked the resident if she would like to go to her day program, she responded with a smile of pure joy. The staff member quickly helped her get ready, and off she went! Later the staff member expressed gratitude for this example of progress in the ability to make a decision and to communicate this decision clearly (whether verbally or non-verbally).

Another resident also demonstrated decision making. When given the opportunity to take daily walks, she gladly goes along with the group. One day she was given the choice between going for a walk and staying home. In this instance, she chose to stay home. This was an important — and twofold— step of progress! She actively made the decision to stay home (rather than deferring to someone else’s plans) and she was able to communicate this decision clearly. She had a preference and she expressed it.

### Awareness of Others

One generally accepted behavior of the “developmentally disabled” is that they often

*continued on p. 5*

## Reports of Healing and Progress *continued from p. 4*

retreat into their own world. Recently a resident who typically chatters randomly about herself, became quiet while observing a staff member turn on a movie for her housemates, and said, “I like your nails.” This comment demonstrated to the staff member that the resident was not only aware of others, but was able to communicate on a topic which was relevant at the moment.

### Speaking Up

One morning, when leaving for his day program, a resident remarked, “I don’t like this group,” referring to the group of day program residents on the bus. The Twelveacres staff member asked him why he felt that way. After repeating “I don’t like this group,” he decided to go ahead with that group to his day program. (This was his way of expressing a preference; he was not complaining.) Staff at the day program was informed of his comment, and the resident’s practitioner was called for prayerful support. Later the same day, the resident was reassigned to another group, where he’s very happy! This resident, who in the past tended to not speak up, learned he could advocate for himself and be blessed for doing so.

### Leadership Demonstrated

One Sunday the residents of AST were not able to attend a Christian Science church service. Realizing that they were about to miss this

inspiring church activity, one of the residents said, “I think we can hold our church service here at home.” She quickly gathered her housemates and convened in the living room of their apartment to conduct a Sunday service, with each resident taking turns reading the Lesson Sermon aloud.

Her solution proved that she understood church to be not a physical structure or a specific place but a gathering of God’s children. All the AST residents felt a sense of satisfaction and comfort from organizing and conducting their own service, as was made clear when they happily shared



**Bucknall residents at a park**  
this special experience with an afternoon staff member who had not been present.

### Receptivity and Responsiveness

Staff members have persistently prayed for a resident to become an active participant in her home. As a result, the resident has been more responsive to requests to participate in choes.

*continued on p. 6*

## From September 2015 through March 2016 Twelveacres received greatly appreciated donations in the names of the following:

### In Honor of:

•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••
All Staff	Debbie Mueller	Joanne H. Mattson	Olga M. Hoy
Amy Long	Elissa Charles	Laura Spaulding	Peter Untch
Andrea Moon	Gene DeBolt	Lin Watts	Shari Tobias
Arthur W. Wuth	Glynis Watts	Mary Martha Joyce	Sue Watters
Barbara McCabe	Jackie King	Melinda Wehren	
Carol Miller	Jane Lowry	Michael Ford	
David & Alice Bullwinkle	Jeannie & Rick L'Heureux	Noel Spencer	

### In Memory of:

•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••
Alan Willis	Clint Tobias	Jeanette Devoe	Penny Peticolas
Ann O. Spaulding, CSB	David C. Stevens	Jim McGrew, CSB	Robert Johnson, CSB
Barbara Wyman	Elizabeth Williams	Karl & Connie Untch	Robert Posgate
Betty Johnson	Emmett J. Moran, Jr.	Luanne W. Wallace	Sharon Snow
Beverly Cushman	Henry Loya	Margaret Double	Susan Schoettler
Bob Brown	Hugh Scott Pennington	Marian Wells	W.K. Holzman
Carol Antos	Jane Schmit	Marjorie Grant	Wendy Larson
Chris Eshbaugh	Janet Benson, CSB	Mary R. Kircher	William Webster Kuhl
Chuck Spaulding	Jean & Lois Duperrault	Muriel Nagle	

---

## Reports of Healing and Progress *continued from p. 5*

Whereas previously she would walk away or need numerous prompts to participate, she now needs very little prompting when asked to open the door, assist with dressing, and put her lunch pack away.

### Thinking of Others

One of the residents at Lily House has been actively helping her housemates of late. She helps blend smoothies, deliver laundry, and turn lights on/off in the hallway as needed — all signs of her ability to understand, to retain instructions, and to think of others.

### Behavior Corrected

A resident sometimes struggles with telling the truth. Recently a staff member observed two instances where he was being untruthful. On both occasions he became upset when gently confronted. The staff member asked the practitioner to pray — to know the resident could demonstrate the correct behavior. In both instances, the resident approached the staff member a few days later to apologize. This progressive step shows that he desires to be truthful and is actively taking responsibility for his words and actions.

### Maturity Expressed

“Collecting” is another generally accepted behavior that some of our residents exhibit. It eventually leads to a very cluttered living space.

When a resident was recently asked to straighten his room and dispose of things that were no longer useful, he was initially opposed to the idea. However, he remained calm and cooperated with the staff member who guided him through the process of sorting through his possessions. In doing so, he learned to identify items that belonged in other places, such as a water bottle that should be stored in the kitchen. The staff member was grateful to see his progress toward outgrowing a longstanding habit.

### Physical Healing

In addition to progress with overcoming challenges with developmental disabilities, we are happy to report many healings of physical difficulties through Christian Science treatment lovingly provided by the resident’s dedicated Christian Science practitioners, including:

- Anxiety before an appointment
- Bump on hand
- Cough and sore throat
- Injury after a fall
- Lost item
- Mobility
- Sadness
- Seizure
- Swollen leg

We are immensely grateful for each and every example of progress and healing experienced in the daily lives of our dear residents. 

---

## Aktion Club Convention *continued from p. 1*

and Hawaii. And with friends old and new, they participated in a wide variety of activities, which included making dolls for babies in local hospitals, creating cards for veterans, and putting together “giving” jars. They listened to inspirational speakers, learned how Aktion Club chapters throughout the state have helped their communities, and shared how their own Aktion Club has blessed the San Jose area.

Rest assured, though, it was not all work and no play! Our residents also found time to fish, work on crafts, ride a horse-drawn trolley, dance the night away, watch Polynesian dancers, and eat delicious food.

Twelveacres staff who attended the convention observed that each Aktion Club member inspired and motivated the others. So much so that the residents are thinking of ways they can contribute to the community during the coming year and of ideas they can share at the next convention.

A gigantic “thank you” goes out to our local Aktion Club advisor, Pete Edwards, for his help in coordinating the trip. Another giant “thank you” goes to all of the Kiwanis members who give generously of their time and talents in helping the Aktion Club members plan activities and who make every convention so enjoyable and rewarding! 

## Recognizing Our Employees

In addition to celebrating the residents, recognition and gratitude was given to the staff members who have been part of the Twelveacres team for five years and longer. The following list includes those honored:

### 5 – 9 Years

- Brenda Phillips (5 years): Bookkeeper in the Twelveacres main office.
- Emily Leonard (8 years): Administrative Assistant in the Twelveacres main office.
- Winifred Ashong (8 years): Staff member at Braeburn and Bucknall Houses.



Emily & Brenda

- Mathew Oyoo (8 years): Assistant Manager at AST House.
- Genet Abdi (9 years): Staff member at AST House.

- Agnes Tamba (9 years): Staff member at Lily House.

### 10 Years and Above

- Lin Watts (10 years): former Executive Director of Twelveacres.

- Doreen Kainessie (14 years): Staff member at Braeburn House.

- Zelda Mbawa (15 years): Staff member at Bucknall House.



Winifred, Genet, Doreen

- Jackie Leonard-Dimmick (20 years): Staff member at Lily House.

- Amy Hellyer (20 years): Program Director and Interim Executive Director (photo on page 1).

- Rita Njoki (22 years): Staff member at Lily House.

- Charlie Johnson (27 years): in charge of facility



Jackie, Muthoni, Mathew

- Muthoni Macharia (30 years): House Manager for Braeburn and Bucknall houses. ♡

## Twelveacres' Wish List

Friends often ask what our needs are. In response, we generated this list of current needs that would greatly benefit from your support

- An annual subscription for the Christian Science Quarterly Bible Lessons (Full-Text Edition) for each of our four houses (\$150/yr/house)
- GPS for Braeburn House van (\$160)
- CD/radio for Braeburn House van (\$500)
- New fence at Braeburn House (\$1,000 to cover Twelveacres' portion)
- Electrical panel upgrade at Braeburn House (\$3,000)
- Double-pane windows at Braeburn House (\$6,000)
- 7-to-8-passenger van (\$30,000)
- Wheelchair van for Lily House (\$45,000)
- \$5,000 per month to cover the cost of caring for one resident in addition to State of California funding

Please contact [assistant@twelveacres.org](mailto:assistant@twelveacres.org) or 408-341-0400 x103 if you would like to grant any of these wishes.

**We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for the following Wish List items that were granted:**

- 39" LED TV for AST House
- 20-cubic-foot upright freezer for Bucknall House
- Renewal of audio Bible Lesson subscription for AST House

# In This Issue...



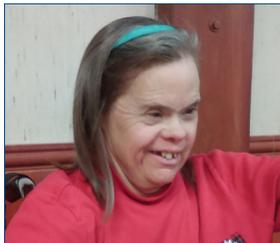
**TWELVEACRES**

595 Millich Drive, Suite 104, Campbell, CA 95008

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed

- Introducing Our New Executive Director
- Reports of Healing and Progress
- Aktion Club Convention
- Highlights from 2015 Annual Meeting
- Twelveacres Blessed My Family
- “A Faithful Man Shall Abound With Blessings” (Prov. 28:20)
- Tributes
- Recognizing Our Employees
- Wish List



## Do you have a friend or family member seeking healing of developmental challenges?

We can help! Please contact our Program Director Amy Hellyer by email at [program@twelveacres.org](mailto:program@twelveacres.org) or call (408) 341-0400 x104 for information about Twelveacres and other possible resources.

### Additional Resources:

- Rainbow Valley Resource Network  
<http://rvrnetwork.org>
- Wellspring Gardens  
<http://wellspring-gardens-texas.com>
- California Department of Social Services  
<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/default.htm>
- California Regional Centers  
<http://www.dds.ca.gov/RC/RCList.cfm>
- San Andreas Regional Center  
<http://sarc.org> (regional center in San Jose, CA)

### \*\*\* SAVE THE DATE \*\*\*

**2016 TWELVEACRES ANNUAL MEETING**

**Sunday, November 6, 2:00-3:00 p.m.**

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Menlo Park  
201 Ravenswood Avenue  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Refreshments will be served after the program.

For more information, call 408-341-0400 x103

## Help Us Fulfill Our Mission!

**DONATE NOW at**

[www.twelveacres.org](http://www.twelveacres.org)

Send special instructions to [info@twelveacres.org](mailto:info@twelveacres.org)  
or mail the enclosed envelope