

## Vintners building Bridges

By Lori Pesavento

On Thursday, Nov. 6, the Napa Valley Vintners invested \$285,731 in Bridges, a collaborative partnership of Napa County agencies that share a common mission of serving families in need of support. This third year of funding from Auction Napa Valley comes at a time when more families are moving into poverty due to the huge financial stressors facing our county.

Strong families are the foundation of a healthy community. Families with mental health and social service needs face challenges in many aspects of their daily lives — at home, at work, in school, in social situations and in the community. Regardless of their economic, educational and ethnic backgrounds, these families have important needs in common. They need a broad range of individualized services designed to be responsive to their unique strengths and challenges. Given this, they need coordinated services and supports from a variety of agencies located in their community.

Bridges is made up of several partner agencies: Family Service of Napa Valley (lead agency), Community Clinic Olé, Cope Family Center, Calistoga Family Center, ParentsCAN, Napa Emergency Women's Shelter, American Canyon Family Resource Center and St. Helena Family Resource Center. As a countywide, coordinated system of behavioral health care and referrals for families, Bridges goes beyond having a kind listener on the other end of the phone or behind a desk. The partner agencies involved in Bridges work together as a team to surround the person in need and their family members with support. Bridges will help families find workable solutions to problems, empowering families to be healthy and whole.

With this exceptional investment by the Napa Valley Vintners, the partner agencies will be able to serve more than 200 families throughout Napa County. Through the development of this program we have added two new partner agencies into the program with their unique strengths, which include the American Canyon Family Resource Center as well as the St. Helena Family Resource Center.

We encourage you to contact us if you have any questions about Bridges or the individual agencies involved. Again, thank you Napa Valley Vintners for investing in this new and innovative program. Without the support of our community members, we would not be able to provide these important services to the Napa Valley.

This letter is also on behalf of: Stephanie Parry, executive director, Calistoga Family Center; Joelle Gallagher, executive director, Cope Family Center; Joan Lockhart, executive director, ParentsCAN; Tracy Lamb, executive director, NEWS; Beatrice Bostick, executive director, Community Health Clinic Ole; Sherry Tennyson, executive director, American Canyon Family Resource Center; and Dan Melligan, executive director, St. Helena Family Resource Center.

(Pesavento is executive director of Family Service of Napa Valley.)

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