

**MEMORANDUM**  
OFFICE OF THE  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: F.C. "Rocky" Rockholm, Supervisor, District 1 and Kirk Uhler, Supervisor, District 4

DATE: November 25, 2008

SUBJECT: REVENUE SHARING - Approve appropriation of \$650 in Revenue Sharing monies to Koinonia Family Services *Foster Care Program* as requested by Supervisor Rockholm (\$150) and Supervisor Uhler (\$500).

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve appropriation of \$650 in Revenue Sharing monies to Koinonia Family Services *Foster Care Program* as requested by Supervisor Rockholm (\$150) and Supervisor Uhler (\$500).

**BACKGROUND/COMMUNITY BENEFITS:** In approving the following contributions, the Placer County Board of Supervisors finds that each and every approved contribution serves a public purpose by promoting the general welfare of the County and its inhabitants therefore a benefit results to the County.

The Board of Supervisors is being asked to help support the Koinonia Family Services *Foster Care Program*. For nearly 25 years Koinonia Family Services has provided foster care to thousands of children. Koinonia has become a leader in the industry because their programs and services are specifically designed to address the special challenges faced by today's children and families. Koinonia strives to provide the highest quality of services for children, especially those who need a lasting, adoptive home. The funds designated will help aid the agency in obtaining the finances to secure placement of adoptive children, with a full range of services including adoptive family assessment, parenting classes, finalization, professional counseling and therapeutic services for children.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds are available in the Revenue Sharing budget.

\$150-

# KOINONIA

## Christmas Newsletter



December 2008 ★ Giving Hope to our Children and Families



Will you aid a child who's crying out for help?



All children deserve . . .  
to believe in themselves . . .  
to grow up to be somebody . . .  
to make a lifelong connection in society,  
and most importantly, children deserve



a place to belong  
and a family

### What we value most in life

As this dynamic hour in history draws us to look at what we value most in life and our country, it brings us back to the foundational importance of family and the future of our children. There is an unprecedented shaken generation rising up around us. We are beyond the luxury of simply choosing to "look the other way" and believing everything will be status quo. Koinonia continually seeks to meet the challenges of our children and to embrace their broken hearts and spirits.

As we contend for America's children and offer hope to this generation, Koinonia makes every effort to work effectively within the wide variety of world views and cultural forces. We lead in the mission to provide the highest quality care and programs with over 26 years of experience. We maintain systems that are in touch with the urgency of the present hour.

Koinonia raises its own financial support for special programs to meet the needs of children. By diversifying and offering greater programs, we will cultivate more opportunities for new relationships within our counties and the children they place with us. This diversity creates family connections, youth development, emotional and physical security and the opportunity for a child to become a permanent member of a family.

Koinonia is endeavoring to find people like you who will join us in an effort to provide our children with many new advantages in a cross-cultural society.

Will you contribute to . . .  
the talent,  
the resources,  
and the commitment youth need  
in order to succeed?

There are many ways to express love toward a child, and your generous gift to Koinonia will afford you with an expression of love that will be life changing for a child and their family.

We thank you for your donation that will empower Koinonia to fulfill its mission and vision for America's children; let us be your hand extended.

Sam Bolden  
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# Miracles never cease!

## Interstate Child Adoption

In 2003 Jim and Lori Reite lost their two year old son, Tucker, to a rare chromosomal disorder called Trisomy 13. This disorder can cause physical abnormalities and/or result in mental or motor deficits. The Reites had four other children, yet they missed the distinctiveness that only comes from a special-needs child. Although they were blessed with Tucker for two wonderful years, after some time the Reites began to discuss the idea of adopting another child with Trisomy 13.

As the syndrome is quite rare, Jim and Lori believed the chances of finding an adoptable Trisomy 13 baby weren't great. Lori said, "If God wants me to have another Trisomy 13 baby, He'll have to drop one in my lap!"

Four years later, via the internet, they came across Joey, born March 6, 2007. His adoption attorney chose Jim and Lori after viewing Tucker's website ([www.cowboytucker.com](http://www.cowboytucker.com)) and reading a letter they wrote to her. However, there were several

obstacles to overcome with an interstate child adoption which can take a year or two to complete. Koinonia Family Services was contacted, but Koinonia only processed in-state adoptions. In faith, Koinonia and the Reites began the home study process, and Joey's attorney helped with all the interstate adoption red tape. Within just a few weeks, the home study and all the Missouri state paperwork was completed, and a meeting date was set for May 5, 2007 in St. Louis.



As one miracle after another continued, the Reites raised about \$4,000 to make the trip and cover their expenses. After arriving in St. Louis, they had to extend their campground stay to finalize the adoption. Finally, they received a phone call telling them to be in court at 8:00 am the following Tuesday, even though they were not on the judge's docket. Upon arrival at the courthouse, a bailiff informed them that they might not get called in at all that day. A court trustee

overheard their conversation, and moments later the judge was ready to see them. Within 15 minutes, the judge pronounced the Reites as Joey's new parents, telling them they were the sunshine in his day.

No one knew Jim and Lori's funds were low as a result of their extended stay, yet God provided another miracle through donations from a fellow camper and their attorney's family. Joey arrived at his new home on May 21, 2007, at only ten weeks old.

Because of your generous donations, Koinonia was able to provide services for the Reites pro bono, helping make this adoption miracle possible.

## From the Heart

In February 1992, as an infant, Dino was placed in the foster home of Darrell and Linda Romani. The Romani's later welcomed Dino



as a permanent part of the family through guardianship. Dino has a very special story. During his senior year, Dino's heart was deeply touched by a hometown soldier's death in Afghanistan, and his heart has touched ours.

Dino was among the crowds that lined the streets during the soldier's funeral procession. He later jotted down the following verses:

*The more divided we become, the quicker we shall fall,  
But if we stay united, we will survive through all.  
The hardships that we go through might strengthen or kill,  
But that does not mean that when our needs help, we stay and watch upon a hill.*

*For everything that happens, a reason's to be had,  
And if we stay divided the things that happen will be bad,  
So for those of you who fight, your brother, please listen to me,  
If you do not like your neighbor, it doesn't have to be.*

*A fight that you think you must fight, that never shall be done,  
Instead of fighting your neighbor, befriend him and make our nation one.  
A large family to survive till the end of time,  
That may not be your dream, but it certainly is mine.*

Dino graduated from Sonora High last spring and currently attends Columbia Community College. Dino is just one of many children cared for by the Romani's. Koinonia commends Darrell and Linda for their years of unconditional love for so many foster children in addition to their adopted and birth children.

*Without your generous donations, Koinonia could not provide for all the special needs of our children.*

