



Alameda Family Services

Changing Lives, Building Community, Since 1969



IN MEMORIAM

Maria Lourdes Leano was our devoted coworker and loyal friend who worked in our Head Start Enrollment Office for over 20 years. She sadly passed away on December 27, 2022 from complications caused by ALS which she had bravely fought against for over six years. A funeral mass is being held at St. Joseph's Basilica in Alameda on Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 4 PM. AFS will be hosting a memorial gathering in her honor after the service.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAVE TREES AND RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL, PLEASE CONTACT INFO@ALAMEDAFS.ORG TO GET ADDED TO THE LIST. THANK YOU!

AGENCY UPDATE

By Katherine Schwartz, Executive Director

Alameda Family Services would like to wish everyone in Alameda a Happy New Year! AFS would also like to celebrate with all of our brothers and sisters who celebrate Lunar New Year. On Jan 22, 2023, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a proclamation declaring Lunar New Year a new state holiday. AFS recognizes that this event is celebrated by numerous cultures in various ways at diverse dates. This year will be the year of the rabbit symbolizing longevity, peace, and prosperity. May we all enjoy these gifts in the coming months. Happy New Year everyone!



SBS Staff Winter Celebration in December

Donate at alamedafs.org/donate



PROGRAM UPDATES

Behavioral Health Care Services

BHCS welcomes six new members to the team! Dr. Peggy is a staff therapist supporting youth, family, and adults in the clinic. Zoe is a staff therapist supporting school-aged children and their families at the private and charter schools in Alameda as well as in the clinic. Charissa, Jummy, Nettie, and Sara are pursuing their doctoral degrees in psychology and join the clinical training cohort in providing support to the community. They are also offering a new weekly online support group "Parenting LGBTQIA+ Teenagers" for parents, caregivers and guardians of adolescents (age 13-17) who identify as LGBTQ+ or who are questioning or exploring their gender identity and/or sexual orientation. The group meets on Zoom on Thursdays from 5-6pm. For more information call the intake line at 510-629-6210.

School Based Services

Alameda Unified is back in sessions after almost 3 weeks for winter vacation. The SBS team knows that although the holiday season can be restorative and full of joyous occasions, they are not for every youth or family. The SBS team was able to host virtual drop-in mental health hours where students over the age of 12 could access a therapist over the long holiday break in order to continue to build the support network for struggling students. The School-Based Health Center was also able to promote and provide crisis resources through our social media platform to reach students across the district. With school back in session, we are gearing up for some great outreach events and workshops ahead in the spring semester!

SPOTLIGHT: ELCN ACTIVITY BAGS

Early Childhood & Family Support

The City of Alameda - Early Learning Community Network (ELCN) was out on Christmas Tree Lane right before the holidays passing out over 300 holiday activity bags filled with school readiness activities and materials. Each bag included a hard copy of the Caldecott Award winning book "Extra Yarn" and related art and cooking projects for children and parents to enjoy making over the winter break. Thank you to Colin Blake - Berkshire Hathaway, Peter Holmes - Welcome Home Funding, and Patrick Russi - APRD Recreation Manager, who joined the AFS-ELCN team members in passing out bags. Thank you also to homeowners Jeri & Greg Morgado for the use of their home and driveway, and to the entire Thompson Avenue Homeowners who made this event possible.



The team also popped over to the Alameda Point Collaborative (APC) to enjoy cocoa and candy canes with families and where they distributed another 80 activity bags. Thank you Suzanne Martin from APC for helping put this fun event together.