



# The 411

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY NEWSLETTER: OCTOBER–DECEMBER

*Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined—Henry David Thoreau*

## From the Office

*Greetings! My name is Stephanie Gibbs and I am excited to introduce myself as a new employee of Housing Authority of the County of Butte in the role of Special Programs Coordinator. I am most enthusiastic about the opportunity to work with the (FSS) Family Self Sufficiency program and the incredible initiative the participants show. I previously worked in the social service field for almost ten years with homeless families at the CAABCI-Esplenade House. It allowed the opportunity to case manage many and support building lifestyle changes from crisis to em-*

*ployment, permanent housing and extensive knowledge of the local resources. Although Doug DeSoto cannot be replicated, he is training me with precision. My optimism believes you will find this transition an asset to your services. I look forward to continuing a positive atmosphere to foster creativity, encouraging individuals to discover their own ways to overcome barriers and create success. Please do not hesitate to contact me, at (530) 895-4474 ext. 234 or email -StephanieG@butte-housing.com*

Let perseverance  
be your engine and  
hope your fuel.  
~ H. Jackson  
Brown, Jr.

## Seasonal to Permanent



**How to Find a Seasonal Job:** By Caroline M.L. Potter. As soon as the calendar turns over to September, retailers will know how much help they'll need to handle the holidays.

The National Retail Federation predicts retailers will add 585,000 to 625,000 seasonal work force. **Know Where to Look-**"The best opportunities for seasonal job seekers will be at the large discounters like Target and Wal-Mart, which will be heavily favored by cost-conscious consumers this holiday season," Challenger says. But be prepared to look past retail sales jobs for other opportunities. "The big-box stores need extra workers on the floor, but they also need extra workers in their shipping facilities and overnight stocking positions," he says. "Opportunities also exist outside of retail, in areas like catering and with shipping companies such as UPS and FedEx."

**Start Early-**Employers already know how many people they'll need, so start searching today. Even if a job doesn't begin for another month, it's best to lock

in an opportunity sooner rather than later. **Dress the Part-**When you're looking for any kind of job, show up dressed in business-casual attire, at the very least. Even if the seasonal work for which you're applying is outdoors (think Christmas trees), wear neat slacks, polished shoes and a collared shirt. **Be Prepared-**If you're stopping into an establishment to shop for seasonal work, be prepared to fill out an application and participate in an impromptu interview. Bring your own pen, necessary documentation to prove you can work in the US legally, a resume if you have one and all contact information for your professional references. Be sure you block off enough time to meet with a few supervisors should the opportunity arise. **Know What You Want-** If you're applying for seasonal work, know precisely what you offer to a potential employer -and what you want in return. Determine what hourly rate is acceptable to you, what hours and days you're available, if you've got the wherewithal for a particular position (some may involve lifting heavy boxes or standing for the greater part of your shift), and if the location is viable in terms of fuel costs and transportation options. (Will you always have access to a

reliable car or a convenient subway or bus line?) You don't want to make a commitment only to leave an employer in the lurch during the hectic holidays. **Be Flexible-**The best way to make sure you stand out from other seasonal talent is to present yourself as flexible -- but only if you really are. A hiring manager revealed that demanding a specific schedule from prospective employers is a sure way to jettison your chances at landing a job. Instead, advises Challenger, "Temporary workers must be prepared to be flexible, whether it is hours or type of work. Either can vary as the holiday season progresses." **Clinch that Permanent Position-**How do you turn your supervisor's attention to your interest in a permanent job when he is working 80 hours a week at the peak of the holiday season? Ask your supervisor how you can find out on your own what permanent positions may be available -- via a jobs bulletin board, a Web site or the human resources department, for example. Use the human resources department to learn how to apply and when. Give your supervisor and HR department a summary of your accomplishments as a seasonal worker with your application. Good Luck!

# Community Corner

## Valley Oak Children's Services—Early Care and Education Services

287 Rio Lindo Avenue, Chico, CA 95926 or 2362 Lincoln Street, Oroville, CA 95966

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

(530) 895-3572 (530) 534-8458 1-800-345-8627

The Resource and Referral Program offers the following services:

- Referrals to licensed family child care homes, child care centers, license exempt providers and subsidized programs.
- Information about child and family related services and employer supported child care.
- Advocacy for quality child care services and subsidized care.
- Technical Assistance services regarding the business aspect of child care, licensing, start-up procedures and child related legislation.
- A Lending library which includes assorted resource materials, toys, books and equipment that are available for loan at two week intervals. The Mobile Lending Library delivers items to child care providers throughout Butte County.
- Workshops for parents and child care providers
- The Valley Oak Exchange, a free quarterly newsletter that covers child care news and information on a local, state and national level.

Child care payment program is designed to help low income and Cal/WORKS families with childcare cost while parents are working, seeking employment or enrolled in a school/training program. Families where children have been identified as being at risk of abuse or neglect are also eligible.

The **Family Self Sufficiency** program is looking for someone to sit on the Program Coordinating Committee as a program representative. The FSS program representative for the past three years, Barbara, will be graduating from the FSS program this fall. I'd like to take this opportunity to express heartfelt thanks to Barbara for all her hard work, enthusiasm, and wonderful ideas. Barbara will be missed. We wish her the best of luck in all of her endeavors. For more information on this position, please contact the FSS office. (530) 895-4474 extension 234.

## Fun-Downtown Chico



### \* **2014 National Yo-Yo Contest**

The 2014 National Yo-Yo Contest will be held in Chico. Contest includes five championship divisions, including a sport division for intermediate and advanced players, a National A and National AA levels for the best players in the country. The excitement builds throughout the day, leading up to the finals for the National Championship in the afternoon. This is a fun, free event for everyone in the family and all are invited to participate. You will be astonished at what these kids can do! Saturday, October 4, 2014 at 10:00 am Downtown Chico Plaza

### \* **2014 Parade of Lights**

Celebrating the "Unity in Community" and have fun by being a part of the parade of lights on Saturday, October 18, 2014 at 7:30, Downtown Chico.

### \* **Letter To Santa**

During December, boys and girls under 8 years old can receive a letter via CARD from jolly old Santa and his elves. Children should mail their letter to the CARD office, 545 Vallombrosa Avenue, Chico, CA 95926, no later than December 5. A self-addressed, stamped envelope must be enclosed. The return envelope will be postmarked from the North Pole. Unfortunately, due to the amount of letters received, any letters collected after December 5 will not receive a response.



### **CREDIT & BUDGET WORKSHOP**

#### **CHIP Community Housing Improvement Program**

1001 Willow Street  
Chico, CA 95928  
891-6931 or 888-912-4663

Will help you examine attitudes about money, budgets, organize finances, understand credit and FICO score, dispute errors and improve your score.

Thursdays 3pm—5pm  
October 2  
November 6  
December 4  
Reservations Please

