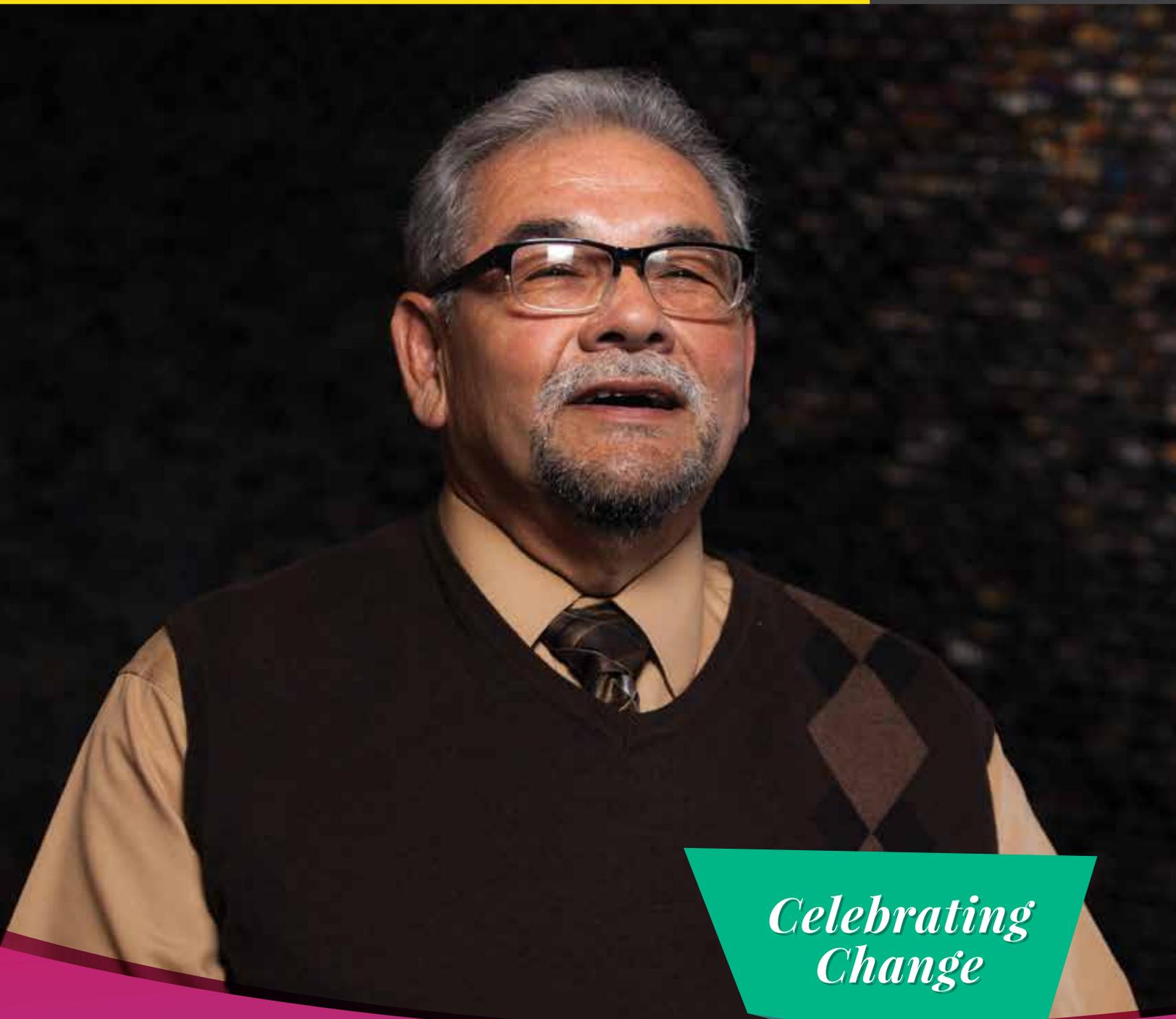


# CENTER LINE

*Newsletter*

A publication of Center for Human Services

SUMMER 2018



*Celebrating  
Change*



**Center for  
Human Services**

changing lives building futures helping families

A nonprofit serving Stanislaus County since 1970



# Center for Human Services

changing lives building futures helping families

## CENTER LINE *Newsletter*

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Center Line is published by Center for Human Services' Development and Communications Department as part of an ongoing effort to inform and educate the public.

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Center for Human Services (CHS) is a nonprofit agency serving youth and families since 1970. Our mission is to change lives and build futures through programs that strengthen and support youth and families. We provide proven prevention, education, treatment, counseling and shelter services in Stanislaus County.

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## Celebrating Change

BY CARMEN WILSON  
*Operations Director,*  
Center for Human Services

We have some big changes happening within our Center for Human Services (CHS) family and we'd like to tell you about it.

Change can happen in the form of retirement at the end of a long career, when accolades come from all around letting you know your time served was well spent (see Amos' story on page 4). Change can happen as an early retirement, when you are able to redirect your energies to new activities that are truly important to you (see Kathryn's story on page 3).

And finally, change can happen as you make a choice to move from what is known and satisfying to what is unknown, but exhilarating (see Kate's reflections below).

With all these changes, our CHS family grows. Amos, Kathryn and Kate will always be a part of our family, but others will step in to continue the work of CHS.

In June, I began the transition from finance to operations, assuming Kathryn's role as Operations Director. And as I leave the finance department, CHS welcomes Betty Ann Martinho as the new Finance Director.

I am so excited about my new role. I will miss many of the details of finance, but if I don't step outside my comfort zone I will miss out on opportunities to grow and contribute in a different way.

Our CHS Leadership Framework invites us to "embrace the not knowing." *If you can do that, you don't work in fear or hesitation but with curiosity, intention, and energy.*

That is how many of us at CHS work, and as we do so, we cultivate the conditions that invite others to do the same.

## Reflections from Kate

In 13 years, Kate Trompetter advanced through Center for Human Services from a project specialist in the Youth Services department to Director of Development and Communications. As she moves on to her new coaching career, she shares her reflections.

One thing I've appreciated so much about CHS is how diligent people are about tending to the culture.

We are now about three times bigger than when I started, but what it feels like to work at CHS is pretty much the same: caring, innovative, empowering.

I've continued to work here because of the people. Cindy Duenas and the rest of the Senior Leadership Team have raised me in so many ways. I've always felt invested in. And I have some of the best, strongest, most lovely friends in my co-workers that I've ever known. Good humans work at CHS.

Very rarely in my life have I had an experience that so explicitly invites me to feel both sad and happy at the same

time. That's how I feel when I think about the last 13 years. It's like the most mature and caring kind of break-up. I've loved, I've been loved back, and now it's time for something new and exciting. I wouldn't change a thing.

One of my fondest memories is from a Halloween when I dressed up like David Collins. It was both hysterical and a tribute to how crazy I am about him. Also, any of the retreats with the Senior Leadership Team. Rarely have I laughed and learned so much in just a few days.

I've learned that life is about trusting your instincts, focusing on where you have influence, taking chances and learning from the past. Everything about my new career is about those things. CHS prepared me for this in every way and I



am celebrating these changes. It's part of my nature and it's been modeled for me during my time at CHS.

Moving forward, I'll continue to work with CHS as a contractor. I am exhilarated and excited to work as a coach for systems and organizations in Stanislaus County. All of the folks I'm preparing to work with I'm very proud to be aligned with. I have so much to look forward to.

I'm also excited to watch my bonus kids continue to launch their adult lives. I'm so looking forward to my daughter starting kindergarten. My husband, Dave, and I have so much to look forward to.



# It's a Heart Thing

*A tribute to Kathryn Inman and her 30 years of service at CHS*

When you meet Center for Human Services (CHS) Director of Operations Kathryn Inman, you probably wouldn't guess that she's worked at the agency for more than 30 years.

"She started when she was 12 years old," Executive Director Cindy Duenas joked at a recent all-staff meeting.

Kathryn is CHS' longest-serving employee ever. And at the end of May, she retired from the agency to spend more time with her husband who lives in Hawaii and her new granddaughter in Washington.

"I'm super grateful to have had these last 30 years at CHS," Kathryn said. "I know I'm a better, stronger person because of it. It's truly been an honor."

Her career with CHS started as the office manager in 1987 when there were only 18 staff members. She quickly rose to administrative manager, then was promoted to Director of Administration in the 1990s, which was later reclassified as Director of Operations.

"In her role over the years, she has set the bar very high for us," said CHS Executive Director Cindy Duenas. "She does everything with all of herself and she's our #1 culture setter. She has helped us define the high standards that we have professionally as an organization - from personal

appearance guidelines to the way we handle ourselves, the way our sites look, and how professional we are in the community."

At the core of her work is the people - those we serve as clients, as well as employees.

"You want to watch your son's ballgame? Go, you need to be there. If you're caring for your elderly parents, we support you. When your child graduates from high school, we celebrate with you. It's a mutually respectful and supportive relationship between leadership and all team members. We believe in shared and servant leadership and I love that I was able to contribute to that valuable practice."

Kathryn balanced professionalism with warmth. Her welcoming and humble demeanor nurtured lifelong friendships within the organization.

"Kathryn taught me so much, guided me through the difficult times and was always very insightful," said Maria Lopez, CHS Administrative Manager. "She was a true mentor and role model for me. Our relationship held no barriers. We have great respect for one another and the trust was never questioned. This enhanced our work relationship in such an extraordinary way."

It's those relationships and the laughter that make up Kathryn's fondest memories at CHS.

"When you work as hard as we do, you have to have some fun and the folks I work with have kept me laughing," Kathryn said. "There's something inspiring about working with passionate, driven people. It's the best place to work ever! We all show up every day and keep fighting the good fight, we serve our community and send a message of hope."

Even with the excitement of carefree days in paradise, a new grandbaby to cuddle, and travels ahead, Kathryn says she will miss her CHS family.

"I also know that when I walk out of these doors, a piece of my heart will stay behind."

Literally and figuratively. Kathryn loves inspirational quotes and one of her very own will adorn the wall near her old office:

*"It's a feeling, it's a passion, it's a heart thing ... Revel in it, be fierce for it and never settle for less than your very best."*  
— KATHRYN

# A Mentor to All

## *A tribute to Amos Reyes and his 20 years of service at CHS*



After two long careers, 65-year-old Student Assistance Specialist Amos Reyes retired in June. Despite five decades of work, two factors make it tough for him to leave: his coworkers at Center for Human Services (CHS) and the children he serves.

"CHS has meant so much to me," Amos said. "I've had awesome supervisors. The people I work with are sincere and very caring. Everything the agency stands for is so great. It's done so much good for so many people."

### **After 20 years with the agency, Amos is the longest-serving Student Assistance Specialist in CHS history.**

He's worked with about a thousand students in individual sessions and nearly 70,000 students through classroom presentations throughout Turlock at elementary schools and the junior high.

"You mentor children, comfort them, give them advice, help them when they're grieving, share personal stories," Amos said. "I share my heartbreaks and then I find we're both crying. It helps me and it helps them."

This is more than just a job to Amos. It's his calling.

"It's not just having a student come in and do a worksheet on anxiety or anger and you're out the door," Amos said. "You forge relationships with these students. They come up and hug me; they're happy to see me. It's

almost like being a parent, or uncle or grandfather. It's more than mentoring. It has to come from within. You have to have an insatiable desire to help children."

His coworkers and supervisors agree that Amos was meant for this job.

"Amos is one of the most flexible, 'willing to do whatever it takes to help a child' people that I've ever known!" said CHS Program Director Taryn Muralt.

Amos' first career was as a police officer for the Turlock and Firebaugh Police Departments for more than 22 years before transitioning to his work at Center for Human Services.

The combination of experiences as a police officer, mentor and father proved impactful at the schools where he worked.

Recently, Amos received an email from a former student we'll call Jaime, whom he worked with as a sixth grader. Jaime's dad and brothers were in a gang and it seemed likely he was headed down that same path.

Jaime wrote Amos to say, "I want to let you know that I am now a correctional officer for a local County Sheriff's Office and I want to personally thank you for helping me because I was going in the wrong direction.

*"It's more than mentoring. It has to come from within. You have to have an insatiable desire to help children.*

— AMOS

If it hadn't been for you, I probably would've ended up like my family. I'm so grateful."

Amos was shocked. The boy he figured would break the law was now enforcing it.

"I teared up when I read that," Amos recalled. "I couldn't believe this was really him. I responded right away. I told him how proud I was of him and how happy I was for him. He had just gotten married, had a baby on the way and had a job as a correctional officer."

Jaime is just one of many success stories. Amos has seen countless former students who are now close to 40 years old at the schools where he works picking up their own children.

### **A father figure. A mentor. A friend to all who know him.**

Thank you, Amos, for your dedication to Center for Human Services and to the thousands of children you've impacted.



## What We Do

**Center for Human Services (CHS)** was established as a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 1970 to serve youth and families. Currently, CHS serves tens of thousands of children, individuals and families annually in Stanislaus County through **several core program areas**.

### Mental Health Services

**Community Counseling** - no or low cost counseling services

**Support Groups** - depression and anger management support groups

**Parent Mentor Program** - providing support services to parents

**LMFT & LCSW training site** - in association with local universities

### Family Resource Centers

"One-stop shops" providing services and support to families

**Ceres Partnership**

**Oakdale Family Resource and Counseling Center**

**Patterson Family Resource Center**

**Newman Family Resource Center**

### Substance Abuse Treatment

**Substance Abuse Treatment** - teen and adult drug and alcohol treatment

**First Step** - outpatient treatment for pregnant and parenting women with children 5 years of age and younger (A partnership with Sierra Vista Child & Family Services)

### Youth and School-Based Services

**Alcohol and Other Drugs** - prevention, intervention & education programs

**Community Youth Connection** - youth-run, adult-supported community service project operated by Hutton House

**Counseling Services** - youth, individual and family sessions

**Student Assistance Program** - education, prevention and intervention for students K-12

### Shelter Services

**Hutton House** - temporary shelter for 13-17 year old youth in crisis

**Pathways** - housing, life skills and employment support for 18-21 year olds experiencing homelessness

### Projects and Initiatives

**Father Involvement Learning Network** - a collaborative network to engage and serve fathers at risk of mental health problems in our community

**Love Modesto/Love Our Schools** - a partnership with our neighborhood school, Garrison Elementary, to improve educational outcomes and raise morale

**On My Shoulders** - a support group for non-custodial parents, primarily fathers, teaching skills, tools and strategies for more effective parenting (A partnership with Stanislaus County Department of Child Support Services)

**Workforce Development** - assisting welfare recipients to obtain or prepare for employment (A partnership with Stanislaus County Alliance Worknet and Community Services Agency)



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**NEWMAN FRC SCHOOL READINESS GRADUATION: APRIL 2018**

Congratulations to these kids for graduating from our Newman Family Resource Center's School Readiness Program in April! The 12-week program is for 3-5 year olds to introduce them to a school setting where they can practice letters, numbers, shapes, and arts and crafts.



**PATTERSON OPEN HOUSE: JUNE 2018**

The Patterson Family Resource Center Open House on June 8th gave us a chance to show off our new and improved "one-stop" center that allows us to serve dozens more families in our large conference room, clinicians' offices and parking lot. The event offered activities and resources for kids and adults, like games, face painting, tours, food, and information about our services.

**CERES COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER: MAY 2018**

In May, we celebrated expecting mommies at a Community Baby Shower at the CHS Ceres Partnership. These moms are strengthening their families by participating in parenting classes.



**HUTTON HOUSE REMODEL: JUNE 2018**

Hutton House got a much-needed facelift with new flooring, bedroom furniture, wall paint and décor. Thanks to the Stewart Family Foundation and E. & J. Gallo Winery for their generous support of this remodel.



**I AM PROJECT RECEPTION: JUNE 2018**

Dozens of community members attended our I AM Project reception in June at the Mercedes Benz of Modesto showroom where we exhibited beautiful and poignant photos and videos that highlight our shared humanity. I AM is a multimedia project showcasing the faces and stories of Center for Human Services through photos, videos and words.





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