Diners are bibbed and ready to feast during the Friends of the Yolo Crisis Nursery’s 4th annual crab feed last week. They are, from left, Dale Taormino, Jason Taormino, Chris Ferragamo and Tracy Ferragamo. The event raised about $40,000 to support the nursery.

Amid fund drives, keeping the focus on the children

By Karen Adams
Member, Yolo Crisis Nursery Board of Directors
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We have lots of fundraising news this month, but first let’s take a look at why we work so hard to generate income for the Yolo Crisis Nursery.

- A 6-week-old girl in our infant program is quietly stealing our caregivers’ hearts. Born prematurely, she left the hospital at 3 pounds and now weighs in at a mere 4.

  “She looks like she should still be in the womb,” says Heather Sleuter, executive director. “We wake her every three hours to feed her. She’s had a rough start in life, but we’re showering her with as much tenderness and love as we can during her time with us.”

- A far more robust 4-year-old recently spent three weeks at the Nursery. Her mother, newly unemployed and putting domestic violence behind her, used our case-management resources to find a new job, secure transitional housing and even enroll in a career-enhancement class at Woodland Community College. The 4-year-old is now happily enrolled in a regular preschool program.

- A single mother visited the Yolo Food Bank recently, and told staff there that she couldn’t afford groceries because she was between jobs. She and her 8-month-old son needed not only food but also a place to live. Fortunately, the Food Bank staff told her about our services, and soon we were caring for her infant while also helping her find a new job and housing.
These three recent cases illustrate our reason for being. We take in and care for the kids whose families don’t have the resources to fall back on during tough times. We soothe the parents’ anxieties and help them find a path forward. Outcomes vary, but we navigate toward family stability for our county’s most vulnerable children.

Of course it takes money to offer our services. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and with it comes our annual “One Child, One Day” campaign. We are seeking donations of $50, enough to provide one child with one day of care at our Nursery.

This year, rather than mailing customary appeal letters, we’re taking a two-fold approach. We’ll use social media to spread awareness about child abuse and prevention efforts in Yolo County. Then, on May 3, our campaign will ask individuals to make an online gift to us in the regional “Big Day of Giving,” affectionately nicknamed BigDOG. We’ll share details as the date gets closer, but we’ll have an online link to the donation website on our own site, www.yolocrisisnursery.org.

In other fundraising news, we are pleased to report on the success of our annual benefit crab feed last weekend. We expect to net $40,000 after paying bills, and we have many groups and individuals to thank. First, our Premier Sponsor, Sutter Health, helped us start strong with a gift of $7,500.

Our Blue Crab sponsors, each donating $1,000, include Cable Car Wash, Carlton Plaza Senior Living, Jim and Lucinda Childress, Davis Waste Removal, Sierra Health Foundation, sate Sen. Lois Wolk, Union Bank, University Honda, and John and Judy Whitcombe.

Snow Crab sponsors, at the $500 level, include David and Tammy Amaral; Anderson Plaza; Will and Nichole Arnold; Brooks Painting; Davis Ace Hardware; the Eadie Family; Fleet Feet Sports – Davis; Davis City Council Member Lucas Frerichs and Stacie Frerichs; KMS Financial Services Inc., Jim Belenis, AIF; King Properties; John and Sandi Kniep; Morse Custom Homes and Remodeling; Nugget Market; Yolo County Supervisor Jim Provenza and Donna Provenza; John and Penne Sleuter; Stratovan Corp.; and Beth and Tony Tanke.

A huge number of individuals and businesses donated food and items for our auctions and raffles. They include Amador Cellars, Jay Aziz, Balance Point Pilates, Caffé Italia, Costco, Lisa Young, Crème de la Crème, Cut-N- Loose, Davis Home Trends, Davis Strength and Conditioning, Dennis and Rebecca Foster, Dick Berry, Linda Dullum, Hallmark Inn, Kitchen 428 / Mojo’s Lounge & Bar, Stella and Dot, and It’s All About the Scrapbook.

All That Jazz, John Lescroart, Lutheran Church of the Incarnation Women’s Group, M3 Photography, Davis Golf Course, Pizza Guys – Woodland, Blue Note Brewing Co., Sherry Richter, Ron and Kris Sleuter, Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department, Sanctuary Salon, Seasons Restaurant, Skin by Terri, Lynette Temple, Tres Hermanas, Wild Wings Golf Course, Connie and Marc Zuercher, Debbie Murdock, Sophia’s Thai Restaurant, Golfland Sunsplash, Sassafras Beauty, Heather Sleuter.


Finally, we’d like to thank the mothers and daughters of the National Charity League, who served the meal and provided any help we needed. Overall credit for the evening’s success goes to the co-presidents of the Friends of the Yolo Crisis Nursery, Martha Bernauer and Nancy Storm, and their hard-working group of Friends members and other volunteers: Sherry Richter, Becky Heard, Veronica Stanton, Karen Adams, Liz Malinoff, Paul Bernauer, Dana Hawkins, Susie Holden, Tammy Amaral, Kyle Garlick, Ron Sleuter, Todd Storm, Marc Hicks, Gary Bernauer, Winfred Roberson, CK Hicks, John Chuck, Judi Berry, Chris Denton, Linda Dullum, Lynn Evert, Heather Sleuter, Patti Sparks, and Lynette Temple.