



Message from the Executive

Director- Sandra Scherer

Fall is always an exciting time to be at Monument Crisis Center. The kids are back for After School Café. There is a pleasant “hum” in the room as the children are reading aloud to their tutors. Upstairs in the MCC Teen Center middle-schoolers are making new friends and learning about coding, cooking and college. Staff are working on several

initiatives to help our families – gang prevention, homeless issues, adult education, health and nutrition.

It is a time for me to be publicly thankful - acknowledging the outstanding efforts of our incredible full time staff Yolanda, Liz, Danny, Jozy, and Sabrina and our wonderful interns Alisa and Antonio. They are on the frontlines every day as our “first-

responders” confronting poverty in its many forms.

Emily, joined our team last month through a pilot project called the 180° Program, collaboratively launched with Concord Police Department, Mt. Diablo Unified School District, and Monument Crisis Center, to work primarily with at-risk youth offering support, mentoring, and alternatives to gangs.

This is also a chance to welcome 2 new AmeriCorps VISTA members – Maggie (Stanford class of 2016) and Lili (St. Mary’s class of 2015) who are giving a year of service to our country and our community, building our organizational capacity and expanding education initiatives. You will learn more as you read this newsletter.

Most importantly Fall is a time to be reflective and thankful to all of you – our dedicated supporters who so purposefully volunteer and generously donate. We thank you for all your support and encouragement to make a positive impact in our community.

Heartfelt thanks.

Contact Sandra at sscherer@monumentcrisiscenter.org

Views from Our New Staff- Emily Hampshire

Throughout my formative years, my parents shared with me their hope that they could provide my roots – our family, our home, meaningful time spent together – so I could grow my wings to fly. At Monument Crisis Center, we strive to create a sense of family and belonging for every young person who walks through our door. With the help of a new grant, Monument Crisis Center will be collaborating closely with Mt. Diablo Unified School District and Concord Police Department to expand and strengthen the support networks for young people in our communities.

As the MCC-based coordinator for this new project, I will be tracking communication protocols between community partners and assisting coordinated efforts towards gang prevention in our schools. My own background includes coalition-building experience at a student resource center in Claremont, California and violence prevention research with the Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence Initiative of Contra Costa County. I am thrilled to join the MCC team and to embrace the challenges ahead. From our K-8 after-school program to our concurrent weekly parenting workshops, we hope that Monument Crisis Center can provide holistic support to local youth and their families that allows them to grow their strongest wings.

Contact Emily at ehampshire@monumentcrisiscenter.org

To Volunteer Please Visit:
monumentcrisiscenter.org/support-us/volunteer/

To Host a Food Drive: Please contact Daniel Scherer at dscherer@monumentcrisiscenter.org

Contact us!
Phone 925.825.7751 Fax 925.825.8732
Site: 1990 Market St. Concord Ca 94520
Mail: PO Box 23973 Pleasant Hill Ca 94523
www.monumentcrisiscenter.org

Upcoming Events 2016-17

Halloween Food Drive

-October 22nd - October 31st
Trick-or-Treat for canned food for
Monument Crisis Center this Halloween!
See attached flyer for further details.

Halloween Party

-Thursday October 27th 3pm
Monument Crisis Center hosts the kids and
families of After School Café and Teen
Center for a spooktacular afternoon of
trick-or-treating, games, and prizes!

Turkey Collection

-Monday November 21st 9am-1pm
Donate a frozen turkey to Monument Crisis
Center Monday the 21st and help a family
have the Thanksgiving everyone deserves.
If you are interested in donating money
towards this distribution, we are asking for
\$20 per turkey. Help us reach our goal of
giving 1,000 Thanksgiving turkeys to
families in need in Contra Costa.

Holiday Food Box Collection Dates

-November 21st-23rd 9-11am, 2-4pm
November 28th-December 1st 9-11am,
2-4pm
Saturday December 3rd 9am-12pm
December 5th-8th 9-11am, 2-4pm
Tuesday nights' hours are extended until
6pm
Give the gift of the Holidays by donating a
Holiday Food Box, our greatest food
collection of the year, to a family in need.
See attached flyer for details and
instructions.

Breakfast with Santa!

-Saturday December 3rd, 2016 at 9am
Open to families of Monument Crisis
Center's After School Café and Teen
Center. Families enjoy breakfast, holiday
festivities, and are joined by a special
guest!

Heartfelt Gala 2017

-Saturday February 25th, 2017
Save the date for Monument Crisis Center's
Annual Heartfelt Gala!

Views from Our New Staff- Maggie Cremin

Hi, my name is Maggie Cremin. I am an AmeriCorps VISTA working with MCC for the next year. I will be coordinating the Teen Center, which is the after school program for middle schoolers. The Teen Center is a unique program that gives students access to a safe environment, healthy snacks, math tutors, arts & crafts activities, and the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. This year, MCC is pushing to have more workshops for the students and the parents. St. Mary's College students will be leading three EnactU workshops this fall focused on preparing and informing the students and parents about higher education, financial aid, and career options. As part of my role as an AmeriCorps VISTA, I will also be creating more STEM activities for the students to strengthen their Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math skills.

Wednesday September 14th was the first day of the fall semester. The students were full of energy and happy to be back. The Teen Center is already a tight knit and friendly community. The students are excited for the fun activities planned this fall and our volunteers are also ready to get started again! The volunteers mentor the students as well as help them with their homework. Many of the volunteer tutors come from St. Mary's College "Justice, Community, and Leadership program." My goal this semester is for the students to engage in fun and intellectually stimulating activities to supplement the homework help. It'll be a great fall semester!

Contact Maggie at mcremin1990@gmail.com

Views from Our New Staff- Liliana Campos

The fall semester for our After School Café Program (ASC) started on Wednesday September 14, 2016. As the new After School Café Coordinator, I was both excited and curious as to how the first week would go. Any worries or concerns I had quickly disappeared when I saw the families arrive. Students walked in smiling, laughing, excited to see their friends from last semester. There was one student who was a little anxious about not being with her mom and hesitant to engage with her peers and tutors. I noticed she mostly spoke Spanish and immediately felt connected to her as I too spoke only Spanish when I started school. I sat with her and we read together, helping her practice her English. After she relaxed, I was able to have her work comfortably with a tutor. Seeing how the tutors and students were working together harmoniously was amazing.

On the second day I met a student's older sibling who wanted to tutor for ASC. It turns out that she was a part of the program when she was younger and she now wanted to become a tutor. It is remarkable to see how many individuals who have been recipients of Monument Crisis Center programs come full circle and give back. It was awesome to witness how MCC is not just a family resource center but a real community. I am excited to be a part of it for the next year. After School Café is on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 3-4:30pm for children in grades K-5th.

Contact Liliana at lcampos2350@gmail.com