



## **2012 Annual Report**

As North Star Family Center approaches its fourth year, there is much to celebrate. We have protected hundreds of children just in these past three and a half years. We have helped an untold number of families. And we've made a difference every day since the beginning of North Star's existence. There is so little time to pat ourselves on the back because there is too much work still to be done!

Hardly a day goes by without seeing another headline of a child getting hurt, being abused by an adult, going hungry or living in the streets. Child abuse is still a big problem in our community and the numbers are growing as the economy puts pressure on more families. Fortunately, North Star has been able to keep up with the changing needs that surround us.

We experienced our biggest growth between 2011 and 2012. It has been a group effort, involving 16 dedicated employees, a committed board of directors, more than 60 compassionate families who give of themselves each day. Volunteers who have given countless hours of their time and service and our donors who make all things possible for our children and families also make a difference.

During times like these, with service levels growing and government budgets shrinking, our donors and volunteers are essential to the work we do. Thanks to you we have been able to rise to the challenge. Examples include our clothing closet where children can come in and pick out some new and gently

used clothing and the events we sponsor, such as the spring picnic, summer swimming, and especially our children's Holiday Party.

With your help, North Star Family Center will be able to weave a strong fabric of programs that will serve the families in our Community. North Star Family Center has submitted an Adoptions Program Statement to the State of California's Department of Social Services in Sacramento. We hope our application will be approved soon. As a Foster Care agency an adoptions license is crucial to give our children hope in securing a forever family.

This year North Star Family Center is looking forward to serving and supporting our youth years and older. As many know, most 18 year olds are not quite ready to be adults and go out into the world. It can be very stressful and confusing without continued support from an adult. Because most of our 18 year olds were not properly aging out of our foster care system, they were out on the streets with nowhere to go. Because they are considered adults they are too old for foster care and not old enough to support themselves. As of January 2012, Assembly-Bill AB12 was passed; this bill will allow youth to remain in care after age 18, enabling them to maintain a support system through their transition to adulthood. All youth who wish to remain in placement can receive help with their education and employment needs.

The future for North Star Family Center—and the many lives we touch—is bright. We have made much progress, overcoming the typical challenges faced by any startup organization. Our dedicated team of social service professionals, invested board members, and gracious volunteers are working together to help children in need enjoy life, learn life skills, and grow to become happy, fulfilled adults ready to experience the world confidently.