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FREE

Amador Learning Centers Logo Contest

All ages and abilities may enter a logo contest to develop an image that will visually identify the Amador Learning Centers as vital local learning hubs. Only residents of Amador County may enter the logo contest by the deadline of January 6, 2012. Middle and High School students, as well as amateur and professional artists, including graphic designers, are encouraged to create and submit one design per person, either electronically or by hardcopy. There is no entry fee for the competition which is sponsored by the Amador Community College Foundation and AmadorArts, two local non-profit organizations. The winner will receive a cash award of \$200 and major public recognition. Complete details of the contest can be found on the webpage at www.amadorarts.org.

The basic requirement for the logo is a clear and sharp design to be the symbol of the Amador Learning Centers, student-focused, modern higher education environments in Amador County. The new logo is an integral aspect of current efforts to promote and enhance distance learning opportunities and to support the use of technology to connect potential students with courses. It will reflect the Centers' interactive linking of local students to the world of education by teaching and transmitting information for career pathways, technical skills, professions, enrichment and personal growth opportunities.

Dixie Camardo, a member of the Board of Directors of the Amador Community College Foundation, says, "Let your creative juices flow." She comments that they'd like to see a logo that is "striking in its simplicity, one that reflects 21st century ways of learning and communicating with technology." One of the goals of the Amador Learning Centers is to provide opportunities to gain and maintain higher levels of education and vocational training locally. By eventually establishing these community centers, residents will not need to commute to college classes outside the county, which is costly and often prevents county residents from enrolling in and attending college classes.

Amador Learning Centers will help develop a sustainable employment base of knowledgeable workers that will boost Amador County economic development. The current outward migration of students to colleges and workers to jobs outside the county economically drains resources in and shifts tax-based income away from Amador County. All information about the judging criteria and how to enter the Amador Learning Centers Logo Contest can be found at www.amadorarts.org. For those without access to the internet, phone AmadorArts at 209-223-9038 and leave a message.

NAMI Amador Sponsors FREE Mental Health and Wellness Programs

The Amador affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has received a grant from NAMI California to bring an innovative Peer-to-Peer Recovery and Education Program to Amador County, and received additional support for the course from Amador County Behavioral Health. The program is a 10-week course and designed for persons working on mental health recovery as they journey to wellness. The course will be taught by Peer-to-Peer mentors, Alysse Adularia and Lois Johnson and Michael Eslinger, who have completed training through NAMI California and are certified instructors with lived experience in mental illness and the recovery process. Class topics ... *Continued on page 16*



Toronto Zoo Elephants to move to the PAWS ARK 2000 Sanctuary

(San Andreas, CA) PAWS directors, Pat Derby and Ed Stewart, were delighted to host Bob Barker and Nancy Burnet, director of the DJ&T Foundation, for a Thanksgiving visit to see the wonderful habitats for bears and lions, and the third bull elephant barn - all funded by the Foundation. Later, in a telephone call, Bob Barker informed Pat Derby, Director of PAWS, that he would be providing all the costs of transport for the relocation of the three African elephants, Toka, Thika and Iringa to the PAWS' 2,300 acre sanctuary in northern California.

"Both Zoocheck and PAWS were prepared to raise the funds because Mr. Barker is constantly the source of funding for relocation and rescue of animals, and we were disturbed that his generosity had generated unpleasant comments from disgruntled zoo staff. We were trying to prevent further diatribes against a man who has devoted his life to helping animals and people," Pat Derby stated.

"I do not want the transition of the elephants to be hampered in any way", Mr. Barker said. "I want them to have the most efficient and humane transition to their new home, and I thank Councillors Michelle Berardinetti, Raymond Cho and Glenn DeBaeremaeker as well as Mayor Rob Ford and the rest of Toronto City Council for their diligent efforts on behalf of the elephants. I said this would not cost the city a penny and I want to assure them it won't."

Both charities will continue their campaigns to raise funds for lifetime care for the elephants once they arrive at PAWS. PAWS is a nonprofit, captive wildlife protection organization that was

founded in 1984. PAWS cares for over 100 animals at its three wildlife sanctuaries in Northern California. At ARK 2000 - a 2,300 acre state-of-the-art sanctuary - animals live in spacious natural habitats with rolling hills, lush natural grasses, trees and lakes and ponds.

PAWS' ARK 2000 sanctuary is home to three female Asian elephants, three female African elephants and three bull Asian elephants -- each of whom have each been successfully relocated from zoos or the circus industry.

To donate to the care of Toka, Thika and Iringa, please contact PAWS (209) 745-2606, www.pawsweb.org or write to PO Box 849 Galt, CA 95632. For further information, please contact Pat Derby, Founder of PAWS at (209) 747-4886 or call Julie Woodyer, Campaigns Director Zoocheck Canada at (416) 451-5976.

Excerpt from an unsigned editorial Sept. 21, 1897- The work of veteran newsman Francis Pharcellus Church, *The Sun*

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus! He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished. Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world. No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

In This Good News Issue ...

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