

Your Homeschooling Journey

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From the President

November is a delightful season of change, harvest and thanksgiving. The nice aspect of seasonal change is that you can actually see it as evidenced by the beautiful transformation in the color of deciduous trees. Autumn change can also be felt, as with the introduction of cooler temperatures. I can confirm that difference in temperatures does exist since we are now experiencing mid 30's where I live. The Fall season is also an introductory agent for the relative harshness of Winter. This allows us to prepare for the next season.



In respect to CHN and homeschooling we are observing some interesting changes, some good and some causing concern. Homeschooling is becoming more Main Street with the general population but at the same time government (local, state and federal) are becoming concerned and imposing some extra measures to control our magnificent movement. An example of this would be current legislation that is investigating the Charter System which could present some very challenging hardships to the entire Charter Independent Study system.

This time of year, is that of harvest. The farmers are busy now harvesting the crops before the weather component creates hardships for the farmer. The success of the farmer is the preparation and maintenance of the crop they grow. Tree crops (almonds for example) required a different protocol than root or grain crops. The secret to success lies in the knowledgeable techniques of the farmer. But, even with the best intentions and approaches, the farmer can also experience some degree of failure like an early rain that can potentially destroy certain crops like raisin grapes. The prepared farmer would have a backup plan like crop insurance.

CHN and homeschooling in general can be proud of our harvest. Homeschooling has always enjoyed academic and post high school successes in all areas of life. Higher education institutions love our graduates as well as industry. We are a major source of well-qualified employees, students as well as entrepreneurs. CHN's progress in increased membership and a fantastic volunteer corp is awesome.

We are also in the time of Thanksgiving. A wonderful part of success is where we can identify and be thankful for the achievements of the previous season. It's a time of recognition for the many people that help usher in the success and growth of society or an organization. It is with deep gratitude that I and the Board recognize the great contributions of the many individuals who have and are continuing to make CHN and homeschooling great. Thank you to our new members, Ambassadors and other volunteers.

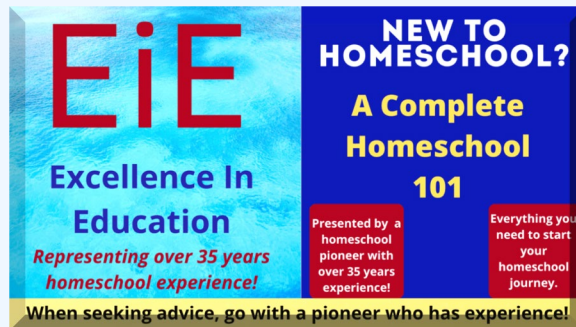


I personally want to thank our wonderful Board of Trustees (Windi Ecklund, Trina Rueber and Rhonda Hamilton) for their dedication and hard work sacrificing time and energy to the success of CHN while balancing family and work to make this happen. Also, a special recognition to the spouses and family members of our Board.

Thank you for reading and supporting CHN.



Helpful Homeschool Information:



Just the Facts

Start by downloading our step-by-step guide to starting your homeschool!

[Download](#)

Private School Guide

Need information on what to do after filing the PSA? Check out our Private School Guide below.

[Download](#)

Treasurer's Report

Below are the fiscal year end reports. You can click on each statement to view it.

Financial Statement

Statement of Financial Position	
California Homeschool Network	
As of September 30, 2025	
DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Assets	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Certificate of Deposit (994)	22,317.51
General (0529)	2,060.32
PayPal	-60.57
Petty Cash	0.00
Savings (4611)	20,154.52
Union Bank General	\$0.00
Raffle - Restricted	0.00
Raffle - Unrestricted	0.00
Total for Union Bank General	\$0.00
Total for Bank Accounts	\$44,451.78
Accounts Receivable	
Other Current Assets	
Undeposited Funds	960.00
Total for Other Current Assets	\$960.00
Total for Current Assets	\$45,411.78
Fixed Assets	
Furniture and Equipment	
Accumulated Depreciation	-4,157.11
Cost	4,156.60
Total for Furniture and Equipment	-80.51
Total for Fixed Assets	-80.51
Other Assets	
Total for Assets	\$45,411.27
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Credit Cards	
Other Current Liabilities	
Accrued Payroll Taxes	0.00
Total for Other Current Liabilities	\$0.00
Total for Current Liabilities	\$0.00
Long-term Liabilities	
Total for Liabilities	\$0.00
Equity	
Opening Balance	93,027.48
Opening Balance Equity	109.39
Retained Earnings	-39,697.65
Net Income	-8,026.95
Total for Equity	\$45,411.27
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$45,411.27

Cash Basis Thursday, October 02, 2025 02:32 PM GMTZ 1/1

Profit and Loss Statement

Statement of Activity	
California Homeschool Network	
October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025	
DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Income	
Membership Dues	1,911.70
PayPal Sales	315.06
Products	
HS Guide Companion download	130.87
Total for Products	\$130.87
Services	-25.00
Total for Income	\$2,332.57
Cost of Goods Sold	
Gross Profit	\$2,332.57
Expenses	
Accounting Fees	1,236.00
Communications	
E-mail	240.00
Telephone	670.29
Total for Communications	\$910.29
Credit Card Processor	
Expo Expenses	4.98
Expo - Moving & Storage	1,440.00
Total for Expo Expenses	\$1,440.00
General Administration	
Board Meetings	179.88
Treasurer Dues	55.00
Total for General Administration	\$234.88
Insurance	3,425.00
Licenses, permits & fees	25.00
Misc.	0.00
Outreach	560.00
PayPal Fees	48.84
Software	515.88
Storage	1,585.00
Taxes	\$14.00
Fees	79.90
Total for Taxes	\$93.90
Website	1,460.51
Total for Expenses	\$11,330.29
Net Operating Income	-8,997.72
Other Income	
Bank Interest	970.77
Total for Other Income	\$970.77
Other Expenses	
Net Other Income	\$970.77
Net Income	-8,026.95

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The Homeschooler Challenge

Real-world skills. Playful learning. Family connection.

Welcome to *The Homeschooler Challenge*—a monthly invitation for families to learn, grow, and make memories together! Each challenge blends hands-on fun with life lessons that build confidence, creativity, and character. From teamwork and problem-solving to kindness and personal growth, every month brings a fresh opportunity to explore real-world skills in joyful, meaningful ways.

Homeschooler Challenge of the Month: *A Season of Gratitude*

November is the perfect time to slow down, reflect, and celebrate all the good things in our lives. This month's challenge invites families to grow in gratitude, kindness, and connection — together!

Choose one (or try all three!) of these fun and meaningful activities:

1. The Gratitude Scavenger Hunt

Grab your journals or cameras and go on a thankful treasure hunt!

Find 26 things you're grateful for — one for each different letter of the alphabet (the letter X is wild). Look indoors, outdoors, and everywhere in between. (Want something shorter? Let kids just use the letters in their names.)

2. The Acts of Kindness Challenge

Let's fill our days with small moments that make a big difference. Each day this month, do one act of kindness — write a thank-you note, share a snack, help a sibling, or surprise someone with a kind word.

Keep a tally of your "kindness points," and see how many you can earn by Thanksgiving Day!

3. The Thankful Tree Challenge

Create a "Thankful Tree" in your home using construction paper, real branches, or even a chalkboard. Each day, write something you're thankful for on a leaf and add it to your tree.

By the end of the month, you'll have a beautiful reminder of all your blessings!

Whether your family chooses one challenge or tries them all, the goal is simple — to notice, nurture, and celebrate gratitude in our hearts and homes this season.

Let's celebrate the power of thankfulness—one thoughtful moment at a time.



CHN Local Ambassadors

Become a CHN Ambassador—Because Community Starts with YOU! Love homeschooling? Love sunshine, field trips, and making new friends? Then you're halfway to becoming a **California Homeschool Network Ambassador!**

We're building vibrant local homeschool communities across California—and we need *fun-loving, big-hearted parents* like you to help host park days, plan adventures, and bring families together.

No experience? No problem. We'll train you. All you need is a willing heart and a positive attitude (bonus points if you love snacks and playgrounds).

Let's make homeschooling feel a little less lonely and a lot more awesome—one park day at a time!

Email chn_secretary@californiahomeschool.net for more information.



New Ambassador

We would like to introduce our newest ambassador in County. Susan Monteiro.



I am a mom and a professional classical violinist. I also run an online homeschooling consultation business called, Homeschooling Nation. I attended the University of Cincinnati and Northern Arizona University and have a Bachelors of Arts degree.

I homeschooled my son from kindergarten to his high school graduation. In fact, there was only one week where my son had attended public school and it was absolutely miserable. He hated every minute of it and so did I. As every homeschooling parent knows, it doesn't feel right to have your young child with complete strangers 6 - 7 hours a day Monday through Friday. After that first week, I pulled him out of school and we never looked back.

I enrolled my son in a charter school where he attended class 3 hours a week. For us, even that small public school level of "education" took its toll. The complete breakaway from curriculum and self directed homeschooling allowed my son to grow without the weight of artificial expectations, pressures and demands. It allowed him simply to learn. I do understand that all families are different but I believe that the evolution of our homeschooling journey allows me to understand other families'

journeys. As a parent, I believe I can speak for all of us when I say, “We want what is best for our children.”

As far as I am concerned, keeping families together while unconditionally loving and allowing our children to be comfortable being themselves is everything. As fellow homeschooling parents I am certain you have even more ideas that work with your individual and extraordinary families and I am excited to assist and meet all of you!



November’s CHN Park Day Theme

Park Day Fun: *All Things Pumpkin!*

Get ready for a gourd-geous day of fall fun!

Join us for our November CHN Park Day as we celebrate *All Things Pumpkin!* Each park day may look a little different depending on the host and location.

We’ll have pumpkin-themed games, crafts, and activities for all ages — from silly **pumpkin bowling** and **pumpkin tic-tac-toe** for little ones to **pumpkin candy hunts** and **pumpkin balancing relay races** that get progressively harder the older you are!

Bring your favorite pumpkin treat to share (pumpkin bread, seeds, or pie — we love it all!) and enjoy an afternoon of **community, laughter, and autumn cheer**.

Engage together in **fun fall crafts** like: Beaded pumpkins, tissue paper poppies, or pumpkin seed mosaics!

Guess the pumpkin weight and **Take Your Pic fall photo booth** are more examples of some activities you might find this month, so don’t miss out.

Bring a blanket or chair, a snack to share if you’d like, and your smiles! Remember that Park Day festivities vary by host and location, but the positive friendly atmosphere is always the same!

Whether you’re new to CHN or a familiar face, this is a perfect day to connect, play, and celebrate the season together.

We can’t wait to see you there!





Find a Park Day Near You: Park days are hosted by CHN volunteers across California. To see if there's one happening in your area, visit our website or contact CHN directly. If your county doesn't have a park day yet, we'd love to support you in hosting one—we're here to help with ideas, resources, and encouragement!

All ages welcome—come play, connect, and celebrate the season with your homeschool community!

Want to see our new park day in action? Do you happen to be in or near Amador County, specifically Ione? Then come join Susan on November 18th at 2 pm at Walnut Grove Park for an *All Things Pumpkin!* park day. More details below.



Known Park Day locations:

Ambassador Sue
Nov 18th at 2pm
Walnut Grove Park
(Meet at the Red Barn)
1950 Sycamore Drive,
Escondido, CA. 92069



CHN Host
November 26th at 3pm
Rivercrest Park
800 Woodacre Dr.
Redding, CA 96002

Ambassador Andrea
Nov 19th at 1-4pm
Detert Park
108 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642

EIE / Ambassador Eileen
November 20th at 1pm
Encanto Park
777 Encanto Pkwy
Duarte, CA 91010

Ambassador Vera
November 11th, from 1:00pm-4:00pm
Gerald Turner Park
287 Treat Avenue
San Andreas, CA 95249

CHN Host
November 25th at 3pm
Trainor Park
1000 Trainor St.
Red Bluff, CA 96080



Give Thanks. Give Back.

This month, we're inviting families to join us in spreading warmth and kindness by bringing **canned or non-perishable food donations** to their local CHN Park Day. Your contributions will be shared with a nearby charitable organization to help families in need within your own community.

Whether you're staying to play or just stopping by to drop off donations, every item makes a difference—and every act of giving reminds us of what this season is truly about: gratitude, compassion, and community.

Let's fill hearts (and cupboards!) with a little extra love this Thanksgiving. 🍂

Thankful
& grateful

The text "Thankful & grateful" is written in a brown, cursive script. The ampersand is a golden color. There are several golden autumn leaves scattered around the text: one to the left of "Thankful", one to the right of "grateful", and a small cluster of three leaves below the ampersand.

Carolyn's Corner



If you have a question you would like to submit for Carolyn to answer, please send it here at info@californiahomeschool.net

Dear Miss Carolyn,

What is the best curriculum for 3rd & 4th grade? My kids are struggling and one of them had an IEP in school. We tried Oak Meadow and hate it!

Dear Homeschooler,

Then sell it! Don't buy a packaged curriculum. They are all loaded with busy work and will seldom fit your children's learning style. Homeschooling works best when it encourages a child's innate love of learning. Find some interesting books that your children will enjoy reading and find more that you can read aloud to them (NOT textbooks). Get a cheap, simple math workbook like Spectrum 3rd grade and have your 4th grader take the last test in the book. If it's too difficult, work back to find where to start. See if the 3rd grader can do the first lesson in the 3rd grade book. If not, get the 2nd grade book and find the lesson where he is comfortable. Don't worry about "keeping up." Make sure both kids understand the math they are asked to do before moving on. If you do this, they will wind up ahead of their peers down the road. You can have lots of fun with science and history. Do real things like growing a garden, flying a kite (what keeps it up?), build a bird house or balsa wood airplane, learn to cook (the kitchen is filled with science), visit nature centers, museums and local parks. Have them make a little scrap book of their favorite places and activities. Read exciting stories from history to them. While you are doing this, pay attention to what sparks interest and feed that interest. If you are skeptical, read *The Successful Homeschool Family Handbook* by Dr. Raymond and Dorothy Moore. You'll be glad you did.



Craft Time with Trina

Craft Project: Spiced Sensory Play Dough



Thanksgiving season is all about warm scents, cozy moments, and creative play — and this month's craft brings all three together!

This **DIY Spiced Sensory Play Dough** is easy to make, smells amazing, and keeps little hands happily busy while you work on your holiday feast or preparations. Kids can “cook” up pretend pies, roll out pumpkin cookies, or simply squish, squeeze, and create to their hearts' content.

You'll Need:

- 2 cups of flour
- 1 cup salt
- 2 Tbsp cream of tartar
- 2 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 1½ cups boiling water (add slowly with parent's help)
- Food coloring (optional)
- A teaspoon or two of your favorite fall spices — try pumpkin spice, and ground varieties like cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, or cloves!



Directions:

1. Mix all the dry ingredients in a bowl.
2. Add the oil
3. Slowly stir in boiling water, mixing until it forms a dough.
4. Once cool enough to handle, separate into evenly measured clumps.
5. Add spices, and food coloring (if using), knead until smooth and stretchy.

This picture shows the dough with spices only (before the added food coloring, which you see in the first picture).

Store your finished dough in an airtight container to keep it soft for weeks of play!



Play Ideas:

- Make mini-Thanksgiving “meals”, such as pies, cookies, mashed potatoes!
- Use cookie cutters and rolling pins to set up a pretend bakery.
- Create a “Scent Guessing Game” with different spice-infused batches.

This craft is as fun as it is festive!

Plus, your home will smell like fall magic in no time!

Warmly, *Your Homeschool Craft Companion*

Trina





Welcome to This Month's "Would You Rather?" – The Family Fun Edition!

Get ready to stretch those imaginations and spark some laughter—our monthly "Would You Rather?" challenge is back! Each question is designed to bring your family together for silly debates, creative reasoning, and maybe even a few unexpected insights along the way.

Whether you're chatting around the dinner table, driving to your next adventure, or hanging out at park day, this month's scenario is sure to get everyone thinking (and daydreaming!).

So, round up the crew, cast your votes, and see who's the most daring, practical, or potentially heroic in your bunch. Let's dive in and discover what everyone *would rather* do!

Would You Rather: DC or Marvel?

Superpowers, secret identities, and epic showdowns — it's time to step into the world of heroes!

Would you rather live for a year in the DC Universe or the Marvel Universe?

Would you swing through New York City alongside Spider-Man and join the Avengers for a celebration party after saving the world? Or would you rather patrol Gotham with Batman, zip through Central City with the Flash, or hang out at the Hall of Justice with Wonder Woman and Superman?

Both worlds are filled with adventure, danger, and heart-pounding action — but they each have their perks. In Marvel, you might meet quirky geniuses like Tony Stark or travel the multiverse with Doctor Strange. In DC, you could fly over Metropolis with Superman, explore Atlantis with Aquaman, or learn the ropes from Robin himself.



So, ... where would *you* spend your heroic year — the Marvel Universe or the DC Universe?

Cast your vote! Bonus points if you share what your superhero name and power would be.



💡 Got a great “Would You Rather?” question? We’d love to hear it! If your family has a fun, quirky, or thought-provoking idea, send it our way. Email us at info@californiahomeschool.net. Your question might be featured in an upcoming edition — and spark some lively debates across our homeschool community!



Twig & Wonder: Nature Adventures for Curious Homeschoolers

Because crunching, collecting, and jumping in leaves never gets old!



The air is crisp, the leaves are turning, and adventure is calling! This month, Twig & Wonder invites your family to slow down, look closely, and celebrate the colorful beauty right under your feet. Our featured activity transforms ordinary leaves into extraordinary art through simple, hands-on exploration.

So, grab your crayons, pack your curiosity, and head outside for a little creative nature magic. Each leaf tells a story—let's discover what they have to say!

Nature Activity: Leaf & Tree Rubbings



Fall is the perfect time to slow down, explore outdoors, and discover the hidden beauty of the trees around us. For this month's activity, grab your nature journals – we're going on a *texture adventure*!

Here's how to do it:



1. Head outside with your journal or a few sheets of paper, along with crayons or colored pencils (remove the paper wrapping from the crayons).
2. Find a variety of leaves – big, small, smooth, bumpy – and place one under your paper.
3. Gently rub the side of your crayon over the paper to reveal the leaf's pattern. Try layering colors for extra fun!
4. Next, hold your paper flat against a tree trunk and make a **bark rubbing**. Each tree has its own unique texture – oak, pine, and maple all tell different stories!
5. Add notes, labels, or sketches of where you found each leaf or tree.



Bonus Challenge: Try to identify each leaf or bark pattern using a field guide or an app like "Seek." Then, write a short journal entry about your favorite discovery.



This simple activity combines art and science while creating beautiful keepsakes from your autumn adventures.

Happy exploring, friends—may your pockets be full of treasures and your hearts full of wonder!



Upcoming Events

November's Events:

Workshops are online through Zoom and are interactive. Attendee participation is encouraged. These are small group workshops, which will not be recorded, but video and microphone are required for participation. Because these are small groups, pre-register by the dates shown on the calendar of events or the zoom registration page to ensure your spot.

Tuesday November 4th at 7pm.

Homeschooling Q & As

Homeschool Curious? Confused? Just Need to Vent? Join our **Homeschooling Q&A Zoom Session**—where questions are always welcome, curiosity is celebrated, and “silly” questions simply don’t exist (we prefer to call them *brilliantly brave*).

Whether you're wondering how to teach fractions without tears, or just need reassurance that your living room counts as a classroom—this is your space.

New homeschoolers, seasoned veterans, and everyone in between—come hang out, ask away, and leave feeling a little more confident (and a lot more supported).

It’s casual, it’s comfy, and yes—lounging while eating a bag of chips is totally acceptable.



Thursday November 6th at 7pm.

Homeschool Support Group

Calling All Homeschool Heroes! Whether you're brand new to homeschooling or a seasoned pro with glitter glue in your veins, come join our **Monthly Zoom Support Group**—a cozy, members-only chat hosted by the California Homeschool Network.

Swap stories, share tips, ask questions, or just enjoy some good company with fellow homeschool parents who *get it*. It's casual, encouraging, and full of heart.

Happening every month—come as you are, pajama pants welcome!



Thursday November 13th at 7pm.

CHN Ambassador Info Meeting

Become a CHN Ambassador—Because Community Starts with YOU! Love homeschooling? Love sunshine, field trips, and making new friends? Then you're halfway to becoming a **California Homeschool Network Ambassador!**

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No experience? No problem. We'll train you. All you need is a willing heart and a positive attitude (bonus points if you love snacks and playgrounds).

Let's make homeschooling feel a little less lonely and a lot more awesome—one park day at a time!

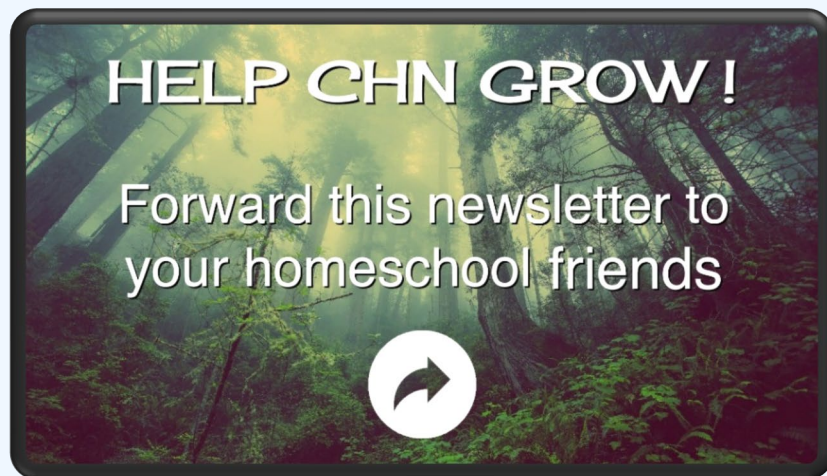




Thursday November 20th at 7pm.

CHN Ambassador Training

This is the session to attend if you are at a loss on what you can do to enrich your role as an ambassador. We discuss several topics such as a monthly universal Park Day theme, field trips ideas, and more.



November Book Club

Mondays November 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th at 7pm

A Cozy Gathering for Homeschool Parents

As the leaves begin to turn and the rhythm of fall settles in, we're thrilled to invite our homeschool parent community to join us for a special **Members-Only October-November Book Club**—a space to connect, reflect, and grow together.



Continued from October, we are reading and discussing *The Successful Homeschool Family Handbook* by Dr. Raymond and Dorothy Moore—a trusted guide that has empowered thousands of families to embrace a more relaxed, joyful, and effective approach to homeschooling.

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING



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Our mailing address is:

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