



KERN BRIDGES
YOUTH HOMES

NEWSLETTER

April 2015

kernbridges.com

TELEPHONE
661-396-2301

FACSIMILE
661-396-2349

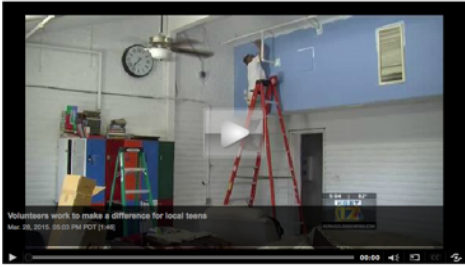
KERN BRIDGES YOUTH HOMES

COMMUNITY IN ACTION



Volunteers work to make a difference for local teens

03/28/2015 06:52 PM 03/28/2015 06:54 PM



News coverage of this event can be viewed here:

http://www.kerngoldenempire.com/story/d/story/volunteers-work-to-make-a-difference-for-local-tee/93531/k4_FnriuE63cktAK0NNCw

When it comes to giving back, one event can truly make a difference. This was the case on Saturday March 28, 2015, when Lowe's (store #790, Rosedale) volunteered to paint Kern Bridges Casa de Ninos facility. Valspar donated all the paint for this special event.

Every year, Lowe's stores across the U.S. collaborate on group projects so they can make a larger difference. Lowe's embraces teamwork as a core value and a key ingredient in maintaining an engaged work force. They believe by working together they can build something better. According to Allison Dinwiddie, Lowe's Delivery Manager at Store #790 in Bakersfield, CA, "that's been the mission of Lowe's since their volunteer program began years ago".

KBYH wants to tell Lowe's Store #790 in Bakersfield: Thanks a Million! Their contribution really made a difference in the lives of these young men. According to KBYH Program Director Robert Carter, "all treatment starts with a good clean environment and to spruce up and give the boys a home environment that they actually call home is phenomenal".

Also, the group homes at KBYH would like to thank their own Adoption Social Worker Carrie Wombacher for helping make this event possible.

Save the Date

KBYH's annual foster parent appreciation dinner will be the evening of Thursday, May 21, 2015



KBYH Staff Spotlight

KBYH Group Home Program Director- Robert Carter, M.S. Criminal Justice

Robert has been with KBYH for over 15 years. During this time he has been dedicated, energetic, and has exemplified outstanding leadership abilities. He's a Bakersfield native and a die hard Driller who graduated from BHS, class of 1995. Prior to his employment with KBYH, Robert was a scholar student athlete who played 4 years of football for College Of the Sequoias and Montana State University. Currently, Robert is a mentor for many youth in the community. He's a proud father and family man with a wife and four children. For the past several years, Robert has volunteered as a football coach for Golden Empire Youth Football League. Just recently, Robert accepted a job coaching at his alma mater BHS. He also works with veterans and other men in our community who are recovering from alcohol and other substance abuse. Because of Robert's diverse background and willingness to go the extra mile to assist those in need, he is as an asset to our KBYH Program and the Bakersfield community. Robert's focus with the youth in our program is that every day is a new day. With that being said, Robert has adopted a "no eject and no reject" policy for the youth in the care of Kern Bridges Youth Homes. In addition to Robert's work with KBYH, he has also worked with the California Alliance of Child and Family Services. The California Alliance shares a commitment to excellence and strives to improve the quality of care and services provided to at-risk children and families statewide. Robert has led KBYH residential department to 100% compliance with the California Alliance. He has also assisted several other residential treatment facilities in meeting these same standards.



Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

April 18, 9:00-11:00AM: "Trauma-Informed Care" with Lillian Adkins

May 13, 6PM-8PM: "Positive Discipline/Self-Esteem" with Ruth Jackson

May 20, 6:00-8:00PM: "Managing Aggressive Behavior" with Mark Dominguez

June 6, 9:00AM-1:00PM: "Case Management/Accessing Children's Services" with Joe Ortega

Ongoing Trainings

Mark Dominguez will be offering the following trainings on an ongoing basis:

CPR/1st Aid Recertification (for anyone who has previously had CPR/1st Aid training): First Thursday of every month from 10:00am-Noon and from 6:00-8:00pm. Participants must RSVP by the Monday of the week of training.

CPR/1st Aid-Initial Course (for those who have never had the training before): First Saturday of February, May, August, and November, 10:00am-3:00pm. Participants must RSVP by the Monday of the week of training.

CONGRATS!!

- *Cheyanne C. passed her Cahsee Math test
- *Zack L. is now in a vocational skill program twice a week
- *Isak R. has outstanding grades
- *Anthony M. is performing well in school
- *Trinity L. is performing well in school
- *Gerardo M. has excellent attendance at Early Head Start



Easter Fun



Thank you to the AT&T Golden Empire Telephone Pioneers for helping us put on another fun and memorable Easter event.

Child Birthdays

April 5: Jacob O.



Foster Parent Birthdays

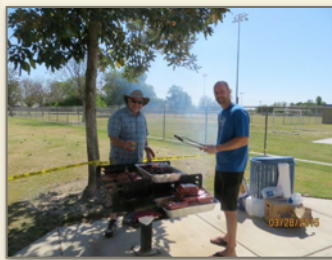
- April 2: Hugo Hernandez
- April 4: Martha Gonzales
- April 8: Alberto Cortez
- April 21: Carmel Hicks
- April 26: Terrence Banks

KBYH Staff Birthdays

- April 3: Ricardo Ramirez
- April 23: Mike Nieto
- April 30: Jessica Mosley

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

- James Boston: 2 years
- Tikeshia Bingham: 3 years
- Jessica Mosley: 12 years



Foster Child of the Month: Thomas T.

Thomas is a five-year-old with red hair. His appearance and his outgoing personality brings attention in any social situation. His nickname is "Red", which is a name he loves. Thomas meets people with a happy heart and often a running hug. He likes to make people laugh resorting to his unique dance steps at times to encourage laughter. He has been living in the Henry home now over one and a half years. Thomas has learned to love his foster parents, his brother, sister and a massive amount of relatives. At one point in Thomas's life, he was not enjoying school and sometimes people were not enjoying him! Now he has become focused on school work with improved grades and behavior in a short period of time. Thomas enjoys playing on his softball team. He has a powerful bat swing. He also enjoys soccer and basketball. Dinosaurs and anything on wheels are his favorite toys.

Foster Family of the Month: Mohesly Palencia & Hugo Hernandez

We take pleasure in recognizing Mohesly Palencia & Hugo Hernandez as April's Foster Parents of the Month. The Palencia & Hernandez's have proven themselves as a dedicated and caring family who are committed to foster care. They were raising their two children and decided to open their home to foster children. These special foster parents operated a Certified Home in Los Angeles about one and one half years ago. When they relocated to Bakersfield, they decided to continue fostering and chose KBYH. They brought one foster child from Los Angeles to live with them in Bakersfield. Since then they have also accepted a special needs child. The Palencia & Hernandez's have done a wonderful job caring for the needs of the children as evidenced by significant improvements in the children. This family readily accepts challenges when the needs arise. We are delighted to have the Palencia/Hernandez family as part of our KBYH family. Congratulations on your selection as this month's Foster Family of the Month.

CASA Spotlight: Jim and Bobbie George

Jim and Bobbie George have functioned as Bradley and Haley's CASA workers for over one and a half years now. They have mentored, counseled and supported Bradley and Haley through many changes and challenges in their lives. Both Jim and George have attended many school meetings and court dates advocating for Bradley and Haley's needs. Bobbi has also been a fun factor for Haley taking her to restaurants, movies, the circus, pottery painting, and shopping.

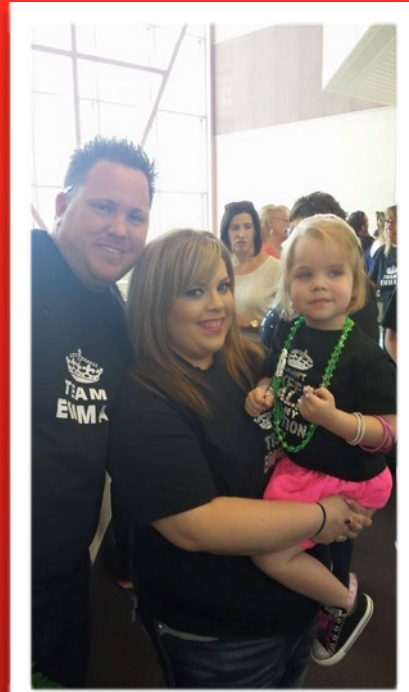
Jim has taken Bradley, who is interested in art, to CSUB and the art museum. He also has taken Bradley to many restaurants. Thank you Jim and Bobbie for the support you have given to Bradley, Haley and their foster family.



Joshua and Sara Henry have been foster parents with Kern Bridges Youth Homes since February 2013. They have always had the desire to have a big family and wanted to adopt children. They received placement of Emma on 2/10/14. After a meet and greet, they fell in love with her. The Henry family has managed to remain positive through difficult times involving Emma's case. Joshua and Sara stayed committed to their daughter Emma and were overjoyed when Emma became a permanent member of their family on March 20, 2015. Congratulations to the Henry family!

Media coverage of their story can be found at:

<http://www.turnto23.com/news/local-news/abandoned-techapi-child-is-welcomed-by-new-family-032015>



CLOSURE

A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT ADOPTION

KERN BRIDGES YOUTH HOMES CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A SPECIAL SCREENING

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2015
 BAKERSFIELD MARRIOTT AT THE CONVENTION CENTER
 5:00-9:00PM
 \$10.00/PERSON

REGISTER AT WWW.KERNBRIDGES.COM



THE EVENING INCLUDES THE FILM SCREENING, DINNER, AND A Q&A WITH ANGELA TUCKER (SUBJECT OF CLOSURE) AFTER THE FILM

THIS EVENT IS BEING PROVIDED THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF THE CALIFORNIA CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY



Human Trafficking

You may not think human trafficking is prevalent in Kern County, however, as awareness of this issue improves, it is clear that this issue affects our community. This includes affecting foster children, who can be particularly susceptible to becoming victims of sex trafficking. KBYH is actively looking to recruit families who would consider taking placement of youth who have been rescued from trafficking situations. If you or someone you know would be interested in meeting this very important need, please have them contact Jim VanderZwan at 661-396-2360 or jimv@kernbridges.com. As a reminder, KBYH has an incentive program for individuals who refer potential foster/adoptive families to KBYH.



Adventure and explorations are about trying something new. Many times our residents come to us with limited experiences and unfortunately many of them are not so good. While our kids are in care, it is our duty to expose them to new and exciting things in order to create new lasting memories. This Spring Break, a few of our residents from Casa De Ninos tried IFLY which simulates skydiving. It was challenging because they had never tried something like this before. Sometimes it can be scary to let go and just have fun. Many of our residents struggle to know what it feels like to just be a kid again. Exposing the residents to diversity can help them later in life to work out problems and to possibly choose a whole new path. Learning that you might be good at something that you had never tried can really open your eyes to more possibilities. We had a great time at IFLY and the boys said that they definitely wanted to do this again.

KBYH at Play

Several KBYH families took advantage of the Spring Break vacation to take trips to Pismo beach, local zoo's, and to participate in family Easter events.





SAFETY

We think it is important to review safety regarding sharp instruments in the home. These are just some items to consider.

1. Metal can open lids are sharp, unless one uses an opener which cuts lids at the edge. Please review procedures and ensure safe practice when opening cans. Remove lids completely and exercise care when opening cans.
2. Exercise care when washing knives.
3. Knives should be stored with blades away from the user.
4. Scissors are sharp. Please store away from reach of children and use scissors in a safe manner.
5. If any hypodermic syringes are in the home, these should be out of reach and used syringes should be disposed of properly.
6. Gardening tools should be stored and used properly.
7. Please take the time to learn how to use sharp instruments in order to prevent injuries.

