

EASTER AT SKATELAND



Nearly 30 years ago, the AT&T (then Pac Bell) Golden Empire Pioneers began partnering with KBYH to help enhance the services we are able to provide. Today, they continue to be a faithful crew of volunteers helping KBYH with several events throughout the year, including our annual Easter event. Thanks you Pioneers for another memorable event, filled with skating, pizza, egg painting, and the Easter bunny.



Foster Parent and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

KBYH's annual Foster Parent and Volunteer Appreciation dinner will be held on May 12 at Hodels starting at 5:30PM. RSVP to your KBYH Social Worker or Kathy if you plan to attend. Hope to see you there!



KBYH Staff Spotlight

STEVE KRESHA, MA PSYCH

Steve was born and raised in Bakersfield. He started his mental health career in 2001 at a nonprofit clinic that specialized in helping individuals in their recovery with Schizophrenia. He worked as a rehab coordinator for 6 years and as a program manager for 2 years. During that time, he was able to earn his Bachelor's of Science in Business Management degree. From 2009-2016, Steve worked as a case manager that specialized in helping individuals on parole with co-occurring disorders to help them acclimate back into society successfully. During that time as a case manager, he realized he desired to acquire more education that would serve him in helping the mental health population. In 2015, Steve graduated with a Master's Degree in Psychology from National University. He is a father to two teenagers (daughter and son) and married to a wonderful wife, mother, and friend. When not working, Steve enjoys spending time with his family; traveling to the Central Coast and Ventura frequently. Hobbies including coaching his daughter's soccer team, walking the dogs, golf, cycling, and movies. He states he tries to live my life by this one principle: treat others how you want to be treated. "The more I try to live by that principle, the more I see people smile". Steve is a new KBYH Group Home Social Worker.



Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

April 16, 9-11AM: "Trauma-Based Therapy" with Lillian Adkins

May 11, 6-8PM: "Positive Discipline/Self-Esteem" with Ruth Jackson

May 18, 6-8PM: "Managing Aggressive Behavior" with Mark Dominguez

June 4, 9AM-1PM: "Case Management/ Accessing Children's Services" with Joe Ortega

Ongoing Trainings

Mark Dominguez will be offering the following trainings on an ongoing basis (participants must RSVP the Monday before training):

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.

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.

Congrats!!

Courtney S.: 3.5 GPA
 Isaac M. made the Golden Empire Varsity Football team.
 Raidene joined the Karate Club
 Nathaniel D. earned a 4.29 GPA and was ranked #16 out of 244 in 7th grade
Honor Roll: Marlin V., Fina C., Bradley C., Courtney S., Anthony W., Cristian R.
Student of the Month: Cloe G.
 AB-12: Cheyanne completed her medical assistant externship, Miriam is making satisfactory progress at CSUB

Child Birthdays

May 3: Halen W.
 May 8: Ayden B.
 May 10: Angel M.
 May 19: Joshua R.
 May 26: Destinee F.



April 30, 2016 is this year's annual "Day of the Children". KBYH will have a booth at

Camelot that day to recruit new foster parents. If you know of anyone who might be interested in fostering, have them come find us. And if you'll be there, be sure to come say hi!

Foster Parent Birthdays

May 6: Frances Cortez
 May 13: Graciela Padron
 May 14: Chelsea Hoover
 May 27: Amanda Ayala

KBYH Staff Birthdays

May 2: Keisha Davis
 May 11: Joe Ortega
 May 13: Tienna Ortiz
 May 14: Reggie Phillips
 May 21: Nicole Juarez
 May 24: Ronny Copeland

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

None



If you haven't already, be sure to find Kern Bridges Youth Homes on Facebook and send us a friend request. You will get useful reminders, articles, and other notifications about KBYH related issues and events. Also, you can help us out by sharing our page and encouraging others to become "friends" with Kern Bridges Youth Homes!

Foster Child of the Month: Nathaniel G.

This month we would like to recognize Nathaniel G. as child of the month. Nathaniel was placed in the Thompson home on 1-19-14 as a ER placement. He became a regular placement on 2-18-14. Nathaniel's reason for placement was medical neglect and failure to thrive. Nathaniel was born premature with retinopathy. Nathaniel was lethargic with a flat affect. Nathaniel could not walk or talk. Now he is full of life with an infectious smile. He had many health obstacles to overcome. Nathaniel could not have had a better advocate than the Thompson home. They obtained all the needed services from Kern Regional Center, Bakersfield City School District, Special Education Services, and Golden State Eye Clinic, just to name a few. On January 20, 2016, Nathaniel started pre-kindergarten for the severely handicapped. Foster mother stated that he is up early and ready to go to school. Nathaniel will likely have a forever family by September 2016.

Foster Family of the Month: Jody & Amber Nichols

Kern Bridges Youth Homes congratulates Jody and Amber Nichols as April's Foster Parents of the month. The Nichols are amazing new foster parents who have been fostering since November 2015, when they began caring for a baby boy. Jody works for Brawn as an Electrical Estimator, is a Journeyman electrician and when not at work, he is helping with the children. Amber is a stay-at-home mother. She home-schools her eldest son and fosters 2 small boys. Amber transports the boys to their twice weekly supervised visits and to doctor and dentist appointments from their home in Frazier Park, always on time and with a smile on her face. The Nichols interact well with bio parents. The family attends church twice a week. They have taken family trips to Disneyland, the beach and other family activities. Congratulations on being this months foster family of the month and thank you for all you do.

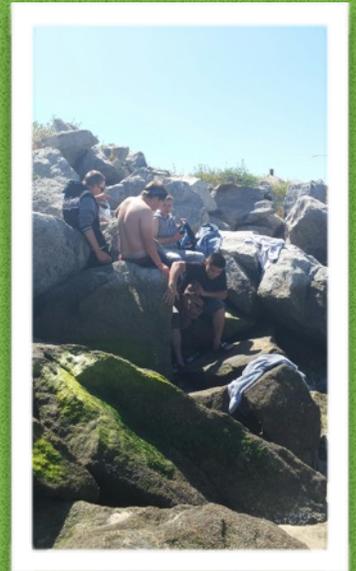
Social Worker Spotlight: Rachel Newell

Rachel Newell is the favorite Kern County Social Worker of Cheyanne. Rachel placed Cheyanne in the Cortez home with high hopes for Cheyanne. She troubleshooted for Cheyanne at school and at home. Rachel continues to believe in Cheyanne through all her endeavors. Throughout her placement, Rachel expressed that Cheyanne was a sweet girl. Cheyanne was sad to see Rachel leave as her social worker but will always be grateful for her "awesome" and "cool" attitude toward her.





The KBYH Group Homes had a very adventurous and eventful March 2016. Getting our boys outdoors is our mission and our passion when it comes to activities. When we travel, our boys experience unique activities that expose them to real life adventures. At KBYH, we believe learning exists when children are exposed to an experience to which they can connect. We want to give our boys the opportunity to go beyond group home boundaries and have first hand experiences.



One of many events that took place last month was an outing to Big Bear. This was a 4-day camping trip where our boys had the opportunity to stay in cabins. While at Big Bear, the boys participated in numerous activities such as a Challenge Course with Zip Line, Canoeing, Rock Climbing, fishing, and snowtubing. In addition to Big Bear, the boys went paddle-boarding in San Pedro, CA. The boys were able to practice paddling around the Marina near the boats. After gaining experience, they will be able to go further into the ocean to catch some waves. The boys also went to the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles and took a hike to the Hollywood sign. Lastly, the boys also toured the USS Iowa Battleship in San Pedro, CA.

David and Timi Mongold

KBYH would like to extend a special thanks to Timi Mongold for her above and beyond efforts at recruiting families for KBYH. She has recently taken it upon herself to lead the charge in finding excellent, new families to help care for our community's children. Timi, along with her husband David, own the Alpha Omega Wellness Center at 7950 White Lane #2E, 661-397-6555. Dave recently surrendered his backyard skate ramps, much to Timi's relief, and donated them to KBYH's group home program. Thank you Mongold's for all your ongoing support to KBYH!



Alpha Omega
Wellness Center

Just a reminder that KBYH as an incentive program for foster parents who refer a prospective foster family to KBYH.



FOSTER PARENT REFERRAL BONUS

KBYH is always looking for families who would consider fostering, and we depend on YOU, our foster parents, to help recruit new foster families. Time has shown that our best referrals come from our foster families. In fact, we are so convinced that this is true, we offer a generous bonus program when you refer a family to us. You could earn over \$500 just for sending a family our way!



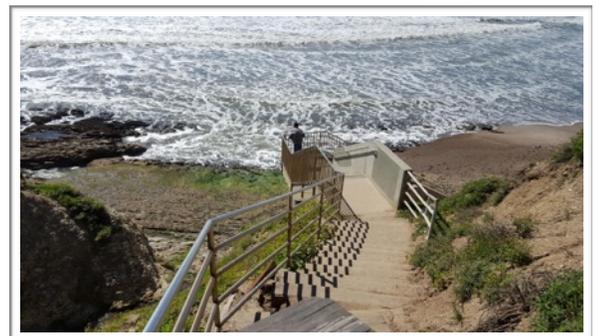
Referral Bonus:

- ★ \$50 If a family comes in for an orientation
- ★ \$250 If that family becomes certified
- ★ \$250 Once that family takes placement of their first foster child

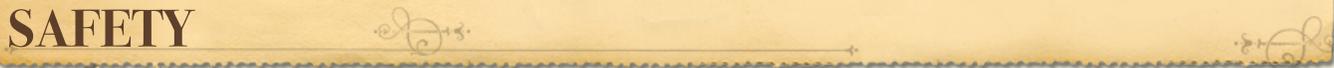
Please direct any potential foster family to Kathy at 661-396-2301 or kirwin@kernbridges.com



Nathien had the privilege of vacationing at Pismo Beach during part of his Easter vacation. He was able to view the waves and walk the beach. He enjoyed flying his kite at Dinosaur Park. Despite these



experiences, Nathien expressed the most exciting part was being able to go to IHOP two times during the vacation!



SAFETY

Medication Safety

Children are curious by nature, and it makes sense that they would be even more curious when it comes to medication. Many medications look and taste like candy. While it's important to encourage our kids to explore and discover new things, when it comes to medication, we want to be careful to keep them safe. Here are a few tips to show you how.

The Hard Facts

Medications are the leading cause of child poisoning. In 2013, over 59,000 children were seen in emergency room for medicine poisoning. That's one child every nine minutes. Almost all of these visits are because the child got into medicines during a moment alone.

Top Tips

- **Put all medicine up and away and out of sight.** In 86% of emergency department visits for medicine poisoning, the child got into medicine belonging to a parent or grandparent.
- **Consider places where kids get into medicine.** Kids get into medication in all sorts of places, like in purses and nightstands. Place purses and bags in high locations, and avoid leaving medicine on a nightstand or dresser. In 2 out of 3 emergency room visits for medicine poisoning, the medicine was left within reach of a child.
- **Consider products you might not think about as medicine.** Health products such as vitamins, diaper rash creams, eye drops and even hand sanitizer can be harmful if kids get into them. Store these items up, away and out of sight, just as you would traditional medicine.
- **Only use the dosing device that comes with the medicine.** Kitchen spoons aren't all the same, and a teaspoon or tablespoon used for cooking won't measure the same amount of medicine as a dosing device.
- **Write clear instructions for caregivers about your child's medicine.** When other caregivers are giving your child medicine, they need to know what medicine to give, how much to give and when to give it. Using a medicine schedule can help with communication between caregivers.
- **Save the Poison Help line in your phone: 1-800-222-1222.** Put the toll-free number for the Poison Control Center into your home and cell phones. You can also put the number on your refrigerator or another place in your home where babysitters and caregivers can see it. And remember, the Poison Help line is not just for emergencies, you can call with questions about how to take or give medicine.

Taken from safekids.org

