



KERN BRIDGES
YOUTH HOMES

Where Children Thrive

NEWSLETTER

April 2019

kernbridges.com

TELEPHONE
661-396-2301

FACSIMILE
661-396-2349

GIVE *Big* KERN

Give Big Kern is “One Day to Celebrate the Giving Spirit of Kern County!” It is designed to bring all of Kern together as one community, raising dollars and volunteer hours for local nonprofits through a 24-hour crowd-funding campaign taking place on May 7. BUT, if you just can’t wait till then to donate, the Give Big Kern donation portal went live on April 7!

Please consider making a donation to Kern Bridges!

<https://www.givebigkern.org/organizations/kern-bridges-youth-homes>



BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

Foster Family Day

May 24, 2019

@ Bakersfield College

Resource Parent Appreciation
Dinner

May 9, 6:00-8:00 PM

@ Coconut Joes Banquet Hall



Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

May 8, 6:00-8:00PM:

“Prudent Parent Standard” with Jessica Mosley. RSVP 998-0146

May 15, 6:00-8:00PM:

“MAB” with Mark Dominguez. RSVP to 865-2352

June 1, 9:00-11:00AM:

“Crisis Intervention” with Bianca Ruiz. RSVP to 396-2303

Ongoing Trainings

Mark Dominguez will be offering the following trainings on an ongoing basis (participants must RSVP by the Thursday prior to the training to 661-865-2352):

CPR/1st Aid Recertification (*for anyone who has previously had CPR/1st Aid training*): First **Monday** 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.



Congratulations to two very special KBYH Resource Families. The Contreras-Isidoro Family (right) and the Suorsa Family (left) both finalized their adoptions on April 12, 2019. Congrats!



A huge Thank You to Dr. Thurman & his Smile Squad
 With help from JoVi Mongold, Dr Thurman has decided to sponsor 2 group home boys per year for free braces. Let's show him our appreciation by referring families and giving him social media shout outs. Please make sure to "tag" Thurman Orthodontics on all posts and photos shared.

Thurman Orthodontics
 9550 Brimhall Rd
 Bakersfield, CA 93312
 661) 395-0698



Child Birthdays

May

- Christian M: 18 years old
- Roman R: 13 years old
- David R: 18 years old



Resource Parent Birthdays

May

- Frances Cortes: May 6
- Jose Contreras: May 10
- Graciela Padron: May 13
- Carmella Marroquin: May 15
- Jennifer Royer: May 18
- Montana Strunk: May 23

KBYH Staff Birthdays

May

- Keisha Davis: May 2
- Joe Ortega: May 11
- Reginald Phillips: May 14
- Sharon Harman-Fry: May 21
- Ronny Copeland: May 24



KBYH Staff Anniversaries

May

- Diana Cisneros: 2 years
- Marina Hernandez: 2 years
- Willie Smith: 2 years
- Aaron McDonald: 1 year
- Donovan Rutherford: 1 year

Resource Family of the Month: Mohesly Palencia & Hugo Hernandez

This month we honor Mohesly Palencia and Hugo Hernandez as Resource Family Parents of the Month. The Palencia and Hernandez's originally became foster parents in Los Angeles. When they relocated to Bakersfield, they chose to join us. In doing so, they brought with them a foster child from Los Angeles also. Along with their son and daughter, the Palencia Hernandez's have cared for some challenging children. They have always tried to meet the needs of all children placed under their care. Recently, they decided to accept siblings from another Resource Family in order to keep the siblings together. This caused a significant and positive impact upon the welfare of the siblings. We thank the Palencia & Hernandez's for their dedication and wish them the very best for the future.

Kern Bridges Child of the Month: Isak R.

This month's Child of the Month resides in the Palencia & Hernandez Resource Family home. He is a non-minor dependent who is completing his senior year at Frontier High School. Isak R. accompanied his foster parents from Los Angeles when the foster parents moved to Bakersfield. He became bonded closely to the family and his foster siblings. It seems as though he is "adopted", just minus the process. Isak is a polite gentleman and outstanding person with a warm and pleasant personality. He developed excellent work ethics and has been holding jobs while completing his schooling. He has also obtained his driver's license and an automobile. He drives responsibly and follows the rules of the home. Isak plans to graduate and attend junior college. We hope that your future brings outstanding rewards Isak and we hope that you meet your goals and expectations.

Congratulations on your selection as Child of the Month.

A Kind Gesture from the Heart !

This past year, KBYH has received charitable gifts from various people and organizations within the Bakersfield community. From bikes to clothes to money, KBYH has received it all! Donating is an emotional act people tend to connect to personal stories. As you probably already know, charitable giving is contagious. In addition, donating has proven that generosity stimulates positive pleasure and builds great relationships. Last month, former foster youth Keenan donated a beautiful Cherrywood Foosball table for the Casa de Ninos recreation room. The Foosball table has created a competitive culture that all the boys enjoy. Thank you Keenan for your very kind donation. Your generous gift has made an immediate difference in the lives of the youth living at Kern Bridges Youth Homes Residential Treatment Facility.



Safety

This month I would like to deviate from safety and address a different but important topic. A couple of weeks ago I observed Mr. O'Doherty, from our main offices, carrying a trash bag and picking up trash in our parking lot. I thought I was the only one with this bad habit. My kids criticize me when I pick up trash at parking lots at Winco and other public areas. Kern Bridges does not have a trash collection person or department, therefore, we pick up the trash or the trash remains causing unsightliness of our agency. We have done an exemplary job becoming safety conscious which has helped us protect person and property. I hope habits develop so that we not only keep our agency free of trash, but Bakersfield as well. Thank you.

-Joe Ortega

Girl Scout Cookies!!

A big Thank You to this crew, who recently stopped by and donated numerous boxes of delicious Girl Scout cookies to benefit the foster youth of KBYH.

Kudos to leaders Heather Hafem, Ana Banuelos, and Carina Herrera who helped these girls understand the power of giving. We appreciate the girls of Troop 8035 for choosing KBYH!

