



NEWSLETTER

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April 2020

kernbridges.com

Bringing out the Best in our Community

At an agency like KBYH, it's not uncommon for a person or group in the community to express an interest in finding a way to help foster youth. Bakersfield Angels, headed up by Allison McClain, is a newly formed organization doing just that. Except that these Angels have demonstrated a commitment to that end in ways we have not experienced before. A recent example is their inquiry to see if the boys at our STRTP's needed anything during this COVID-era quarantine. They were given a list, created an Amazon wish list, and the donations began to flood in. Pictured below is just some of what has come in already. We wish to thank the Bakersfield Angels for going above and beyond, and extending their support in new and creative ways. Follow them on Instagram at Bakersfield Angels or on Facebook as Bakersfield Angels Non Profit.



GIVE Big KERN

Give Big Kern is a “One Day to Celebrate the Giving Spirit of Kern County!” It is designed to bring all of Kern County together as one community, raising dollars and volunteer hours for local nonprofits through a 24-hour crowd-funding campaign taking place on May 5. But, if you just can’t wait till then to donate, the Give Big Kern donation portal went live on April 5. Donate to Kern Bridges by visiting the Give Big Kern website and search for Kern Bridges. (Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Big Give Kern will be strictly an online fundraising event.)

[Give Big Kern Website](#)

Quarantine Birthdays

Due to the stay at home orders from Covid-19, several of our foster youth could not have a “normal” birthday celebration. Our ISFC staff did not let that keep them from celebrating with our youth! Darrien L. and Jay C. were surprised by ISFC staff on their birthdays in April! Happy Birthday Darrien and Jay!!!



Upcoming Trainings

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

“Prudent Parent Standard”
with Martha Pantoja-Gonzales.
RSVP to martha@kernbridges.com

May 20, 6:00PM - 8:00PM

“Managing Aggressive Behavior”
with Mark Dominguez.
mark@kernbridges.com

CPR/1st Aid

CPR and First Aid trainings are on an as needed basis at this time. Contact your KBYH Social Worker if you need to renew your certification.

ISFC Training/Support Group

Trainings are open to any Kern County approved ISFC Resource Family and include child care (over 2 years old) and dinner. (RSVP to Carrie Wombacher carrie@kernbridges.com)

May 26, 6:00PM - 8:00PM

“Cultural Awareness”

June 23, 6:00PM - 8:00PM

“Medication Administration”

Extreme Kitchen Makeover

The Almklov House, one of two STRTP's operated by KBYH, just completed their kitchen renovation. This gorgeous kitchen renovation was designed to be family friendly. We wanted our kitchen to be a gathering space, a casual hangout, a homework station and a welcoming place for the young men living in the home. Our boys and staff are ecstatic about the renovation and it definitely motivated them to cook more often. The boys really enjoy sitting at the kitchen table playing with their electronics during their leisure time. The Almklov boys and staff would like to thank the KBYH Board of Directors for approving this project. And a special thanks to EJ Construction for the design and making this dream a reality.



Easter to Remember



Kern Bridges Administration would like to express their appreciation to staff Karen "Cookie" Kenny and her co-workers at Casa de Ninos for their generosity and support during this past Covid-19 Easter Holiday. By decorating the group home and creating a buffet style Easter dinner for our boys, y'all demonstrated a personal commitment that was extremely helpful and allowed our boys to have one of the best Easter holidays ever. Your hard work and dedication means so much to us, but even more to our boys!



April

Child Birthdays

- Jetsarit C: 17 years old
- Darrian L: 6 years old
- Xavier W: 2 years old
- Mylee P: 10 years old

Resource Parent Birthdays

- Hugo Hernandez: April 2
- Everardo Viramontes: April 4
- Alberto Cortes: April 8
- Michael Drummer: April 16

KBYH Staff Birthdays

- Ricardo Ramirez: April 3
- Martha Pantoja-Gonzalez: April 14
- Nestor Serna: April 16
- Karen Kenny: April 17
- Hayward Cox: April 24

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

- Ronny Copeland: 5 years
- Martha Pantoja-Gonzales: 2 years

May



Child Birthdays

- Makenzie P: 12 years old
- Roman R: 14 years old

Resource Parent Birthdays

- Frances Cortes: May 6
- Graciela Padron: May 13
- Carmela Marroquin: May 14
- Jenifer Royer: May 18
- Pablo Reyes: May 19
- Luirelys Mirena: May 21
- Montana Gutierrez: May 23

KBYH Staff Birthdays

- Keisha Davis: May 2
- Joe Ortega: May 11
- Zachery Saxton: May 11
- Reginald Phillips: May 14
- Amanda Wood: May 18
- Sharon Harman-Fry: May 21
- Ronny Copeland: May 24

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

- Marina Hernandez: 3 years
- Willie Smith: 3 years
- Aaron McDonald: 2 years



Foster Child of the Month: Darrian L.

Darrian is a six-year-old friendly, funny, and loving child. Darrian moved into his current resource home in November 2019. He resides with his two biological siblings along with their resource parent and her 20-year-old son. Darrian is in kindergarten at Mt. Vernon Elementary School. He enjoys his teacher and receiving rewards for his good behavior. He is active and looks forward to his outings with his rehabilitation specialist, Alfredo, or attending weekly karate classes. In the home, Darrian enjoys playing with toy cars, dinosaurs, or drawing. Darrian has started to adjust to his new environment and is enjoying being part of a family!



**KERN BRIDGES
YOUTH HOMES**

Resource Parent of the Month: Luirelys Mirena

This month we honor Ms. Luirelys Mirena. Ms. Mirena has proven to be a loyal and dependable Resource Parent who has cared for very difficult and challenging teenagers.

She has dedicated a significant part of her life caring for traumatized girls who have needed a stable home and caring family. Ms. Mirena has raised her minor children well.

She encouraged her children to perform well in school and become good citizens. She taught her children good manners and how to behave at home, school and in public. Ms. Mirena did not hesitate to help care for children, regardless of difficulty, sometimes at the last minute. Ms. Mirena is always seen with a smile and tackled challenges without once complaining. She is a valuable asset to this agency.

We thank you, Ms. Mirena, for your dedicated service to our youth.

Home Internet Safety for Kids: How to Protect Your Child From Online Danger

-By Consumer Reports:

As his family hunkers down at home during the coronavirus pandemic, Tony Costa is worried about what his two sons, 9 and 12, are doing online while surfing the web for schoolwork or playing video games like Roblox and Fortnite. Both boys are avid gamers and the banker from Staten Island, N.Y., worries about all sorts of things that may befall them, from exposure to content that's violent or sexual to inappropriate contact with adults. "It's a strange new world," he frets. "I have blocked their devices from adult content, but that doesn't mean predators can't try to chat with them online in the games."

Costa is not alone. As children spend more time online—and parents cope with a broad range of free-floating anxieties—it's natural for parents to dwell on the potential dangers, from a child falling victim to a sextortion scam (in which an adult blackmails a minor into taking and sharing explicit photos or video) to a tragic but rare event like an abduction by an online predator.

The guarded good news from experts is that for most kids, the increased screen time during the pandemic won't automatically translate into increased risk. Other changes caused by the crisis may actually keep children safer. "Parents sometimes go to the worst-case scenario, but the chances of that happening to your child are tiny," says Anne Collier, executive director of the Net Safety Collaborative. "And right now, children are quite likely safer online than they ever were."

As Collier explains, the proximity of work-at-home parents and current restrictions on boundary-testing opportunities outside the home (say, at a friend's house) probably enhance safety significantly, while the added risk posed by more screen time is relatively small. That said, experts view this as a great time to talk with your kids about digital dangers.

We encourage all families to take this opportunity to talk with the kids in their home about internet and gaming safety on an ongoing basis.