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BAKERSFIELD ANGELS



Kern Bridges would like to thank the Bakersfield Angels for coming out and treating our KBYH staff to Covenant Coffee for National Social Work Month. Thank you for the amazing work that you all do for the foster care community!

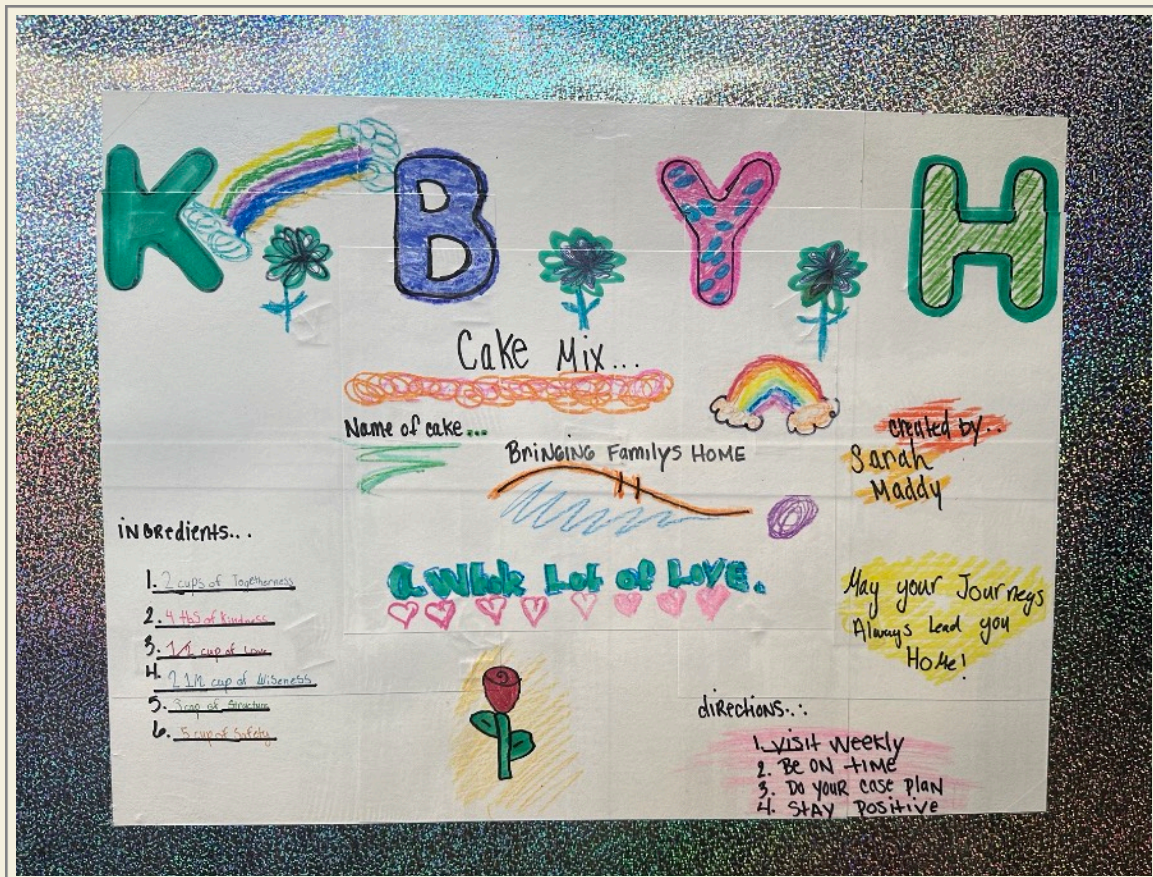


BEACH TRIP!

All the vacations our boys take are awesome. The adventure trips our boys participant in every month helps them bond, releases endorphins, and brings positive meaning to their lives. Last month the boys living in our STRTP's visited several beaches and took advantage of the beautiful weather in Southern California. Beach trips tend to be better than any other trip for our boys because they get in touch with nature. From examining the tiniest little seashell to experiencing the vastness of the ocean, there is nothing quite like it. With their warm sand and gentle waves, there's simply no better place to let go of daily stress than on the beach. You can sit back and soak up the sun, watch the waves roll in, making sandcastle or even do fun activities like beach volleyball, football, and ride bikes along the coastal line. The beach is nature's own playground where kids can run, swim, meet other children, and have fun. It is a place where kids can be kids.



Named after founding board member John Petrini, the Stine Rd. SVP site, called the Petrini Hangar, would like to express gratitude to our visiting families. Each family has brought us a special appreciation for how things in life can break you and how just little moments of togetherness bring so much joy. We have seen families come through our doors hurt, not knowing what to do, or what will happen next...but when they see each other the smiles, hugs, and even the tears of excitement they share have given us so much joy. Families come and go, some reunited, some adopted, but all hold a permanent place in our hearts.



Here at Petrini we see parents help their children do their homework, talk about school, share memories with one another, and work together on arts and crafts projects such as the one pictured above. These types of things are truly rewarding for the SVP staff to know that we provide a space where families can come be comfortable, feel loved, and share a positive experience during such a tough time in their lives.



Upcoming Trainings

May 3, 2023. 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

“Prudent Parent Standard”

RSVP to martha@kernbirdges.com

TRAINING



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.
RSVP to marina@kernbridges.com

“Crisis calls and Risk Management”

April 18, 2023
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm



KBYH's Intensive Services Foster Care program is growing. There are so many Foster Youth that are in need of intensive services and support from families who are willing to work with them as they maneuver through the array of challenges that they have as a result of the trauma they have endured in their lives. It's definitely challenging at times, however, so is being a foster youth.

Please call Marina today if you would like more information on how to become an ISFC Resource Family.





Happy Birthday



Child Birthdays

4/8 Donavan 15 years
4/15 Xavier 5 years

Resource Parent Birthdays

4/2 Hugo Hernandez
4/4 Everardo Viramontes
4/28 Ronald Allison

Resource Parent Anniversaries

4/5 Susanna Chavez 5 Years

KBYH Staff Birthdays

4/3 Rick Ramirez
4/10 DeCondia Ferguson
4/14 Martha Pantoja-Gonzalez
4/15 Kelsey Provencio
4/17 Karen Kenney

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

4/25 Isaiah Guzman 1 year
4/25 Stephanie Martinez 1 year
4/29 James Boston 10 years



Happy Anniversary!



Students Plan Ahead



There are about 2 months before the end of the school year. For high school seniors, this means activities like prom, amusement trips, and GRADUATION. It is important to plan ahead for ordering caps, gowns, dresses/tuxedos, year books senior pictures, invitations, etc. Also, do not forget hairdressing, fingernails and make-up for girls and corsages and haircuts for boys. Plan dinners early.

Junior high school students will need to plan also, especially for graduation. For those high school students who are in Independent Living Program (ILP) take advantage of Incentives/ Reimbursements. ILP will cover expenses or incentive/graduation expenses for opening savings accounts, grades, diploma, program participation, cap and gown, prom, Grade Night Trip, Year book and senior pictures. Maintain original receipts.

Plan carefully for an enjoyable transition to your future.

Class 2023



The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has advised the public about the dangers of brightly-colored fentanyl, also referred to as [rainbow fentanyl](#). According to CDPH and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), rainbow fentanyl comes in a variety of bright colors, shapes, sizes, and forms, including pills, powder, and blocks that resemble sidewalk chalk. Rainbow fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. Fentanyl is also made in a rainbow of colors so it looks like candy.

Below is an image of what rainbow fentanyl may look like:



According to the DEA, fentanyl is the deadliest drug threat facing the country; only two milligrams of fentanyl, which is equal to 10-15 grains of table salt, is considered a lethal dose. The increased danger of fentanyl and overdoses in California's youth, ages 10 to 19 years old, is shown in the below [CDPH statistics](#):

- Emergency department visits related to non-fatal opioid overdoses more than tripled from 379 overdoses in 2018 to 1,222 overdoses in 2020.
- Opioid-related overdose deaths increased from 54 deaths in 2018 to 274 deaths in 2020, which was a 407 percent increase, largely driven by fentanyl.
- Fentanyl-related overdose deaths increased from 36 deaths in 2018 to 261 deaths in 2020, a 625 percent increase.

As child care providers, it is important to remember infants and young children are at higher risk of *accidental* exposure to fentanyl, as they often explore their environment and items within their reach through their senses of touch and taste. Accidental exposure to medication is a leading cause of poisoning in children. Please help spread awareness about the dangers of rainbow fentanyl by reviewing and sharing the resources identified in this PIN.

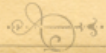
Key Reminders:

- Keep all prescription medications out of reach to children.
- Keep parents and families informed, as they are their child's first teachers.
- Inspect children's play spaces daily, including outdoor area and including parks and public spaces before children have access to the spaces.

If you encounter fentanyl in any form, do not handle it and call 911 immediately.

Resources

- [CDPH Overdose Prevention Initiative](#)
- [CDPH's Alert on Rainbow Fentanyl!](#)
- [Center for Disease Control CDC: The Facts about Fentanyl](#)
- [DEA Warns of Brightly-Colored Fentanyl Used to Target Young Americans](#)



Fire drills are an interesting and fun time (?) going with great gusto at both STRTP's, with Casa being the fastest at evacuations.

Some of the items we have been working on bringing up to a safer status are the old back porch and steep ramp at Casa de Ninos. It is now removed and replaced with a very nice porch, good steps, excellent steel handrails and a sidewalk that the boys and staff enjoyed writing their names in along with handprints.

Fans, always important during the summer, are pretty high up in one of our STRTP's, so we have extended the fans down/lower from the extra high ceiling so they can be enjoyed more efficiently and our staff won't have to climb ladders to clean the fan blades.

A happy Almklov house enjoyed all the rain because of the back porch repair that was completed now slopes water away from the house. Also, the front screen door secures perfectly now, thanks to our friend Javier's repair work.

At our Stine Road location we are updating fire alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Also, all the cabinets and files over 4' are now "Rumbler Ready" and anchored with earthquake qualified straps.

