

Summer Fun



The KBYH FFA enjoyed it's annual camp July 28-31 at Lake Lopez. Over 20 youth participated in a the ropes course, zip line, boating, fishing, hiking, talent night, and great food. Thank you to the AT&T Golden Empire Telephone Pioneers for all their help in making it possible.



In the month of July 2019, the boys living in our STRTP explored a few amazing outdoor activities. Our adventures took us to many destinations which included camping and rafting in Kernville and paint-balling locally. It was an exciting time for many of our boys as this was their first time rafting, camping, and paint-balling. Both events taught our boys the value of teamwork while having fun. It's our goal to meet challenges through critical thinking and help our boys build resiliency with these experiences. We believe there are emotional benefits for young teens who participate in these types of outings and spend time outdoors.





Car Seats

As a reminder, effective 1/1/17, the following are the California laws regarding the use of car seats:

- A. Children under 2-years old must be rear-facing unless they weigh 40 pounds or more, or are 40 inches tall or more.
- B. Children under the age of 8 must be secured in a car seat or booster seat in the back seat.
- C. Children who are 8 years of age OR have reached 4'9" in height must be secured by a safety belt.
- D. Passengers who are 16 years of age and over are subject to California's Mandatory Seat Belt law.

Additionally, the KBYH expectations for transportation includes all drivers must:

- 1) Have a valid California driver's license.
- 2) Carry evidence of current liability insurance for at least the minimum amount prescribed by state law and proof of vehicle registration.
- 3) Maintain the vehicle in safe mechanical condition as required by law.
- 4) Have an available seat belt for each child in the vehicle and have the capacity to transport all children residing in the home.
- 5) Will refrain from ever leaving a child alone in a car.
- 6) Will refrain from smoking in any vehicle that may be used for the transportation of a child or nonminor dependent.
- 7) Will not permit any child or nonminor dependent to be transported by a person known or reasonably known to not have a valid driver's license.

Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

September 7, 9:00AM - 11:00AM

“Effects of Domestic Violence on Children and Non-minor Dependents” with Marina Hernandez. RSVP 396-2353

October 9, 6:00PM - 8:00PM:

“Effects of Drug and Alcohol Abuse on Children and Non-minor Dependents” with Mark Dominguez. RSVP 865-2352

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.

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 396-2352)

August 27, 6:00PM - 8:00PM

“Medication Administration”

September 24, 6:00PM - 8:00PM

“Self-Care/Secondary Trauma

KBYH Recognizes: Michelle Blaylock

This month we take great pleasure in recognizing the work of Michelle Blaylock. Michelle is the Project Specialist for Homeless/Foster Care with the Kern High School District. She also functions as the Foster Care Educational Liaison. Often, we complain to officials like Ms Blaylock regarding frustrations we encounter within the school district. This month we would like to say "Thank You Very Much" for the assistance you have given in our efforts to meet the educational needs of our high school foster youth. Your involvement has helped clear the obstacles that we have encountered. Whenever we have called, we have been met with a friendly, highly competent and professional person who has offered no excuses, but solutions. We are grateful having you.

Please accept the thanks of all of us at Kern Bridges Youth Homes who are grateful to you for everything you have done for us.

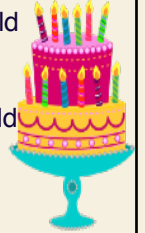
Movie Watch: Fosters (HBO)

"Fosters" is a show on HBO that explores the often-misunderstood world of foster care through compelling stories from the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, the largest county child welfare agency in the country. The documentary mixes firsthand accounts of people navigating the system with insights from social workers, advocates and others, offering a realistic but hopeful perspective on a community that needs society's support.

Child Birthdays

August

- Isis T: 4 years old
- Damirrah L: 4 years old
- Kayla M: 18 years old
- Jaxton S: 7 years old
- Michael A: 10 years old



Resource Parent Birthdays

- Chris Boss: August 11
- Amando Reyna: August 17
- Anastasia Cardwell: August 30

KBYH Staff Birthdays

- Michael O'Doherty: August 17
- Della Freeman: August 21
- Jim VanderZwan: August 23
- Lily Cha: August 26

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

August

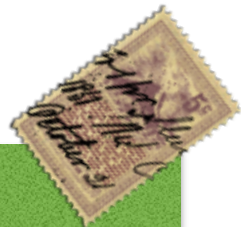
- Marlon Wilkerson: 11 years
- Fernando Ortega: 6 years
- Judy Pilchard: 5 years
- Diana Gil: 5 years
- Stephen Zuniga: 2 years
- Alfredo Hernandez: 1 year
- Bobby Brown: 1 year



Foster Child of the Month: Kayla M.

This month we honor Kayla M., who just turned 18 and has begun attending College of the Canyons. Kayla first came to Kern Bridges over 5 years ago. She lived at two homes in Frazier Park, attending local schools. While there she became part of a family who nurtured her and encouraged her to excel in her academics. There were others who came to Kayla's side including her social workers, a wonderful CASA worker and many others who painted a bright future for Kayla. Kayla listened and developed into a beautiful, kind and well cultured adult.

Kayla recently entered her freshman year at the College of the Canyons. She stays with a caring family that gives her unconditional support. She also is supported by an incredibly wonderful foster child support agency. We are very proud of Kayla. She has come a long way and consistently strived to meet her dreams. We wish Kayla the very best the future has to offer.



Resource Family of the Month: The Alfaro's

Congratulations to the Alfaro family, and Dio, who was adopted on 7/26/19!



KBYH Cell Phone Policy

After much consideration, KBYH has adopted the following policy. We believe that all youth need a cell phone, with a long-term phone number, in order to compete and succeed in school, work, and with their peers. The following is effective 9/1/19:

Unless prohibited by court order or the person or agency responsible for placing the child, any foster child may acquire, possess and use his or her own cell phone. Although the law does not require Resource Parents to purchase or pay for phone service for a foster youth, it also does not forbid it. Therefore, KBYH has determined that in keeping with providing normalcy for foster youth*, all resource parents approved through KBYH will be required to adhere to the KBYH Cell Phone Policy that does require resource parents to purchase a cell phone and pay for ongoing services as part of our program, per the following guidance:

- 1) Foster youth should have a cell phone by at least the age of 12.
- 2) A cell phone should be acquired within 4 weeks of placement, assuming that the placement will be ongoing for at least the immediate future
- 3) The cell phone and plan should be purchased by the Resource Family using foster care funds paid to the Resource Family (currently (7/19) \$1,000-1,337 per month) and not with the youth's allowance. Purchasing low cost phones and low priced, no contract plans is acceptable, but it is assumed an initial phone and plan will cost a minimum of \$85 and the ongoing minimum month-to-month cost will be at least \$35. In addition to these minimums, foster youth can opt to use allowance to help towards the purchase of an upgraded plan or cell phone (provided the Resource Family and youth both agree to the terms). Additionally, the Resource Family will purchase a reasonably priced case for the phone.
- 4) KBYH and the KBYH Resource Families assume no liability for the cell phone. If it is stolen, confiscated, damaged, or lost, it will be the responsibility of the foster youth, using allowance or other earnings, to replace the phone (if they so choose).
- 5) If a foster youth has a cell phone at the time of admission, the Resource Family will not be obligated to the terms of that cell phone's existing plan.
- 6) Foster youth have the right to privacy; therefore, resource parents do not have the right know the password to the cell phone and/or review the contents of the phone unless approved by an authorized representative (county social worker, attorney, court system, etc.).
- 7) It is recommended that youth be able to maintain the same cell phone number over the course of time, regardless of where they are placed. As such, Resource Families are discouraged from adding a foster youth to their family cell phone plan as this can make it difficult for the youth's phone number to be portable.
- 8) Resource Families may restrict use of the cell phones per reasonable house rules, which should be explained and in writing prior to provision of the cell phone.
- 9) Non-minor dependents have the personal right of acquiring, possessing, and using their own personal cell phone with limited restrictions that should be detailed in the shared living agreement.

10) Foster youth that leave the resource home should maintain possession of the cell phone and provision should be made by the Resource Family for one month's service to continue post-discharge. After which, Resource Families do not have an obligation to maintain the cell phone plan.

11) If at any time better cell phone options become available for foster youth, KBYH will reconsider this policy and the requirements therein.

Discount cell phones and plans, as of July 2019:

T Mobile

\$30-60 per line

For 4 lines with AutoPay \$120/mo. plus taxes & fees.

Phones for as little as \$150.00 (\$6.25/mo. for 24 months)

Boost Mobile

\$50/mo. per line

No contract

Phones starting at \$40

Virgin Mobile

\$35/mo. per line

Phones starting at \$40. Iphone 6S for \$199

No contract

Straight Talk (available at Walmart)

Plans starting at \$35/mo with no contract

Phones starting at \$50

Cricket Wireless

Plans starting at \$25/mo.

No contract

Phones starting at \$40

*Providing Normalcy for California Foster Youth

Young people in foster care often lack access to many of the everyday experiences and activities available to their non-system involved peers. Research demonstrates that “normalcy” is essential for healthy social, emotional, and cognitive development of young people. “Normalcy” is also important in supporting youth in care to achieve permanency – lifelong connections with committed and caring adults. However, system imposed barriers often impede the ability of youth in care to have normal relationships with family and friends inside and outside of the system, participate in extracurricular, enrichment or social activities, or experience many of the milestones non-system involved peers take for granted. Liability, confidentiality and other system concerns condition county placing agencies to impose barriers that prevent youth in care from accessing and participating in team sports, overnight field trips, proms, driver’s education, family vacations, carpools, and other activities.

California was one of the first states to pass laws to promote “normalcy” for foster youth and remove unnecessary system barriers to experiencing typical childhood and adolescent activities. AB 899 (Liu 2001) established the Foster Youth Bill of Rights that enumerated twenty-one specific rights including the rights to contact family and friends inside and outside of the system and to participate in extracurricular, enrichment or social activities. Two years later, AB 408 (Steinberg 2003) clarified the right of foster youth to participate in age and developmentally appropriate enrichment and social activities and established the prudent parent standard for foster parents in making the parenting decisions related to participation in those activities. SB 358 (Scott 2005) added “reasonable” to the prudent parent standard, defined, and extended the standard to parenting decisions related to the use of short-term babysitters. Subsequent bills expanded and clarified these provisions to encourage the development of approaches including the use of the reasonable and prudent parent standard in day-to-day parenting decisions to ensure young people, whether supervised by child welfare or probation, in foster care are able to live as “normal” a life as possible.

However, resource parents must keep in mind the specific rights guaranteed to foster youth and restrictions imposed by court orders in making reasonable and prudent parenting decisions. The standard cannot be used to circumvent specific rights of foster youth or orders of the court. For example, a resource parent can make a decision that a youth cannot use a cell phone during certain hours (e.g. at the dinner table or after bedtime) but may not decide that a foster youth cannot possess a cell phone.

Cal. Code Regs. tit. 22, § 89379 (foster youth have the right to make and receive confidential phone calls and possess their own belongings including a cell phone).