

A HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS



The theme for this year's Bakersfield Christmas parade was "A Hometown Christmas". KBYH used that theme to put together a float that included the Bakersfield sign, Kevin Harvick inspired rollercoaster, and a Christmas tree that had Bakersfield street signs as ornaments. We can't thank Larry and Michelle Childress and Rob Sanders (West Coast Boring) enough for all their volunteer time and money that went into this project, especially the fully functional rollercoaster!!! You can see footage of the KBYH at http://youtu.be/jF2s_7t4_as

Thank You!!

Thank you to the Golden Empire Telephone Pioneers for once again putting together our annual FFA Christmas party that included gifts from Santa, dinner, and amazing cupcakes at Rollerama.



Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

December 9, 6:00-8:00PM: "Planning & Adjusting for Change" with Bibi Carrasco

January 19, 6:00-8:00PM: "Avoiding the Misuse of Power" with Bibi Carrasco

February 13, 9:00AM-1:00PM: "Children's Record Maintenance" with Joe Ortega

Ongoing Trainings

Mark Dominguez will be offering the following trainings on an ongoing basis (participants must RSVP by the Monday of the week of 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.

KBYH Staff Spotlight

JESSICA MOSLEY

Jessica has worked for Kern Bridges Youth Homes for 12 years. She began working for our Almklov group home as a Child Care Worker in 2003. She moved her way up the company ladder transitioning into our FFA as an aid, assisting our foster care social workers. She received her Bachelors degree in 2008 and began working as a social worker. She received her Masters in Social Work in 2012 and has been an Adoption Social Worker ever since. She has two daughters and is currently fostering two children.

Congrats!!

Nathien C.: Best Equipment Manager for Football

Anthony A.: Distinguished student award from Art Teacher

Thank you to AT&T and the local Golden Empire Telephone Pioneers for all their ongoing support, including a recent donation of \$5,000! This will go towards supporting our annual FFA events, especially our annual summer camp. Thanks isn't enough, but

THANK YOU!!!



Pictured is the Pioneer's Jay McCabe, Steve Finch, Vicki McCabe, Chris Hubbard, and Peggy Lund with KBYH's Executive VP Jim VanderZwan

Child Birthdays

- December 9: Miguel M.
- December 19: Tristen F.
- December 20: Hope T.
- December 23: Nathaniel G.
- December 25: Nita L.
- December 31: Serenity L.



Foster Parent Birthdays

- December 4: Frank Cortez
- December 10: Donald Schmidt
- December 24: Sara Henry

KBYH Staff Birthdays

- December 6: Tykesha B.
- December 27: Bibi Carrasco
- December 30: Kathy Irwin
- December 31: Ronnie Wofford

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

- Karina Garcia: 1 year
- Reggie Phillips: 9 years
- Ruth Jackson: 10 years

Foster Child of the Month: Miriam S.

We are proud to present Miriam S. as child of the month for December. Miriam is a well-mannered, polite, quiet and friendly young lady who is continuing her higher education at California State University, Bakersfield, where she is a freshman. Her foster parents and foster sister, a high school teacher, are very proud of her. Miriam is an outstanding person with no vices. She has assimilated well into the family and has gained the respect of the younger children in the home. Miriam has become an excellent role model for them.

Foster Family of the Month: Chelsea and Darin Hoover

Kern Bridges Youth Homes takes great pleasure recognizing Chelsea and Darin Hoover as December's Foster Parents of the Month. It is quite fitting that we recognize this family during this month of giving, because this family clearly has given of themselves to care for children. The Hoover's are "Rookies" as foster parents, but they have operated much like seasoned foster parents. This couple has accepted needy children without hesitation and they have fulfilled a myriad of demands to meet the needs of children placed in their care. The Hoovers have been successful as proven by comments received by the County Social Workers and biological parents of the children placed in their care.

Kern County DHS Spotlight

This month we are proud to present Mary Little as Kern Bridges Youth Homes selection of Social Worker of the Month for December. Mrs. Little has served several clients which have been placed in KBYH homes. The majority of the cases are complicated, delicate and require frequent coordination. She has responded promptly to our requests for assistance which has caused us to efficiently manage our cases. Mrs. Little is experienced, highly competent and is always available to assist and contribute to the case management of her clients. She is also a personable and customer service oriented Social Worker who has gained the respect of the social workers of this agency. We thank you Mrs. Little for being there for us, always.



Field Of Dreams

KBYH sent two of their Casa de Ninos boys to play in a National Football Tournament in Florida. According to the boys, it was the highlight of their life and inspired them to want to play college football someday. Also, the Casa boys and their teammates explored the Florida Coast for nearly a week. They had the opportunity to do some bonding and shopping. This experience created many memorable moments that they will cherish forever. Topping it all off, their team took second place in the tournament and brought a trophy back to California.

"The biggest temptation of life is to convert dreams into reality. But the biggest defeat of life comes when we surrender our dreams to reality." - Ritu Ghateurey



It's that time of year again! Kern Bridges Wishmas Trees have been delivered throughout Kern County. This program continues to grow year after year with the help of the community and businesses and is designed to focus on our foster children that reside in the group homes who do not have family to provide for them. We are very grateful for the support of these gifts every year. Please consider visiting one of the businesses listed below and look for the KBYH tree!



Beautologie
Chevron Valley Credit Union
Golden Valley High School
Pappy's Coffee Shop
Young Wooldridge
J&M's Café
Daniels Phillip Vhan Bock
Oxy
Bakersfield Signs
Prime Cut
JD Food Supply

Borton & Petrini
First Solutions
Lorene's Coffee Shop
TooFat Sandwiches
Premier Equipment
County Council
Stinsons
Premier Medical Associates
Serenity Salon & Spa
Tina Maestas
Coleman Medical Group

Village Grill
Kwik Signs
Mauricio's (both)
Walter Mortensen Ins.
Pros. Inc.
Essentials Spa
Halliburton
Wilson Paves & Associates
Tholco Real Estate Group
Legacy Dance Factory
Wilson Paves and Ass. Ins.

SAFETY

Accidents are the leading cause of death for children. Most of these deaths could easily be prevented, so it is important to keep your child's safety in mind at all times. From the proper use of a car seat to putting baby gates on stairs, parents should prepare their homes to keep their kids as safe as possible. Remember that the more chances you take, the more likely your child is to be injured or killed by an accident.

Baby Proofing

Although some people consider baby proofing and childproofing to be the same thing, you can think of baby proofing as all of the things that you do even before you bring home your new baby. These would include things like:

- Setting the temperature of your hot water heater to 120 degrees to prevent scalding burns.
- Installing smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Making your home smoke-free so that your baby isn't exposed to secondhand smoke.
- Reviewing your home's risk for causing lead poisoning, especially if it was built before 1978.
- Making sure that used or hand-me-down equipment, such as a used crib, hasn't been recalled for safety reasons.
- Choosing a safe crib that is put together correctly and that hasn't been involved in a crib recall.
- Learning to use baby products correctly and according to age appropriate recommendations.
- Learning the number to poison control (1-800-222-1222) and posting it by the phone in case of an emergency.
- Learning CPR.

Childproofing

If baby proofing involves all of the safety measures that you take before you bring home your baby, then childproofing includes all that you want to do before your baby becomes mobile. Childproofing measures includes things like:

- Installing baby gates at the top and bottom of all stairs in the house.
- Installing window gates, hearth gates, and other gates in rooms that you don't want your child to have easy access to.
- Putting door knob covers on doors that you don't want your child to open, including the bathroom, rooms that aren't childproofed, and doors that would allow your child to leave the house.
- Placing latches and locks on cabinets and drawers.
- Installing a stove guard in front of the stove to keep your child's hands off the burners.
- Securing appliances, including the refrigerator, dishwasher, and oven, with an appliance locking strap.
- Installing covers on electrical outlets.
- Cutting window blind cords, or using safety tassels and inner cord stops to help prevent your child from strangling in window blind cord loops.
- Securing furniture and large appliances to the wall, so that your kids can't tip them over.
- Checking the floor regularly for small items and toys that younger children can choke on. This includes marbles, balls, uninflated or broken balloons, small magnets, and small toy pieces.
- Keeping all of the top household poisons out of your child's reach and in a childproofed cabinet.
- Storing guns properly, which can include storing the gun unloaded in a locked cabinet or drawer, with the bullets locked separately.
- Childproofing your pool so that it is enclosed by a permanent fence (which is better than a removable pool fence) with a self-closing and self-latching gate that is difficult for younger children to open. Also make sure that your child can't easily get out of your house to the pool area. That way, you have "layers of protection" if one safety layer breaks down; such as if someone leaves the gate to the pool open, your child still can't get out to the pool.
- Creating a family home fire escape plan.

Taken from Child Safety – Child Home Safety in about.com