

## Christmas Parade 2016



On a cool December 1st evening, KBYH's Christmas parade float did its best to "oooh" and "ahhhh" the thousands that gathered to see this year's Bakersfield Christmas Parade entries. With a float that included a roller coaster, snow machine, lights, music, more lights, handmade figures from the Land of Misfit Toys movie, fog machine, and a board member passing out candy canes, it did just that. A special THANK YOU to Michelle Childress for her countless hours of work as well as Susie Strange, Larry Childress, and Rob Sanders (for use of this truck and trailer from his company, West Coast Boring). You can see footage of the float on KBYH's Facebook page.



Rob Sanders being interviewed by 23 News

## Congrats

- Haley C.-Earned her driver's permit
- Cheyenne C.-earned her driver's permit
- Cristian R.-3.2 GPA
- Jason M.-made the basketball team
- David O.-Improved grades in History and Science
- Israel O.-Completed cross country season
- Nathanial-Straight A's, started basketball



## Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

**December 7, 6-8PM:** "Planning and Adjusting for Change" with Bibi Carrasco

**January 17, 6-8PM:** "Positive Discipline and the Importance of Self-Esteem" with Ruth Jackson

**February 11, 9-11AM:** "Administration of Psychotropic Medications; Emancipation and Independent Living" with Joe Ortega

## Ongoing Trainings

Mark Dominguez will be offering the following trainings on an ongoing basis 6-8PM: "(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.

## Xavier

This young man, Xavier, and his father stopped in at KBYH to donate gifts for our foster children. Xavier told his dad that he wanted to help foster kids and started saving cans and bottles to recycle. He was able to earn about \$300 to buy these gifts out of the kindness of his own heart to help other kids in the hopes that they could have a better Christmas. Thank you, Xavier, for being an example of what this season is all about!!!



**National Adoption Day**



Mayor Harvey Hall addresses the media on National Adoption Day. On November 18, over 30 adoptions were finalized.

**Child Birthdays**

January 29: Isak R.



**Foster Parent Birthdays**

- January 11: Rose Hernandez
- January 15: Patrick Kennedy
- January 22: Jose Martinez
- January 22: Charles Thompson
- January 28: Sabrina Jennings

**KBYH Staff Birthdays**

- January 9: Lillian Adkins
- January 16: Donte Williams
- January 26: Diana Gil
- January 28: Trina Smith

**KBYH Staff Anniversaries**

Rick Ramirez: 3 Years



Children out of home not only lack the support of family, but usually they do not get to celebrate the holidays like the rest of us. Therefore, the KBYH Group Homes make all holidays very special and traditional.



During this year's Thanksgiving, our staff decorated the group homes and provided a large, traditional meal. We want them to know that they are loved and that there are people who care about them. KBYH wants these deserving children to feel normal and to have a holiday like their peers.

During the Thanksgiving break, our boys traveled to the Monterey Bay Aquarium to experience various sea life exhibits and shows and to Santa Barbara for a day hike. They also spent time at the Ventura beach. While at the beach, the boys enjoyed using their Penny Boards on the beach sidewalks. Others



enjoyed exploring the pier. Also, staff and the boys were able to see various rainbows throughout the day.



## Foster Child of the Month: Matthew L.

This month we proudly present Matthew L. as Child of the Month. Matthew is a handsome, friendly and cheerful little boy. He currently attends Head Start and does well. He always states that he enjoys going to school. Matthew enjoys being part of the Cercado & Cortes family. He especially is close to his "mom". Matthew enjoys playing games alone or in the company of his siblings. During the summer he spends much time swimming at home. He is expected to travel to Seattle, Washington with his family for the Christmas Holidays. We are sure he will have fun. Congratulations Matthew for being selected as Child of the Month.

## Foster Family of the Month: The Rivera's

The Riveras have been foster parents with KBYH for over five years now. They have adopted one son who has flourished and blended in well with the family. DHS workers have specifically requested this family for placement due to the fine care of the children and possible adoption. They have fostered nine children. Several of them have had medical or behavioral challenges. The children have been exposed to many family trips and adventures. The Riveras have professional careers which allow them to work from their home most of the day. Both of them work together as parents to share the responsibilities and joys of caring for the children. The extended family has been supportive and attentive to the children who have been placed in their home. The Riveras have been polite and supportive of the birth families as they have faithfully taken the children to the supervised and unsupervised visits with the birth parents. Thank you for being part of KBYH and being an enrichment to the children placed in your home.

## DHS Worker Spotlight

KBYH would like to recognize three special employees at the Kinship Center. Anne Twist, Jennifer Robbins, and Claudia Martinez. These lovely ladies have been an asset to our adoptions program. They have gone above and beyond to ensure their quality of service is thorough and done in a timely manner. They will be relocating to the new RFA unit soon and will certainly be missed! Good luck on your new endeavor.



It's that time of year again! KBYH 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 who reside in the group homes who do not have family to provide for them. We are very grateful for the support of individuals who take time and purchase these gifts every year. Please consider visiting one of the businesses listed below and look for the KBYH tree!



- |                                 |                           |                       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Beautologie                     | Borton & Petrini          | Village Grill         |
| Chevron Valley Credit Union     | First Solutions           | Kwik Signs            |
| Golden Valley High School       | Lorene's Coffee Shop      | Mauricio's (both)     |
| Pappy's Coffee Shop             | TooFat Sandwiches         | Walter Mortensen Ins. |
| Young Wooldridge                | Premier Equipment         | Pros. Inc.            |
| J&M's Café                      | County Council            | Essentials Spa        |
| Daniells Phillip Vaughan & Bock | Stinsons                  | Halliburton           |
| Premier Medical Associates      | Wilson Paves & Associates | PG&E                  |
| Bakersfield Signs               | Serenity Salon & Spa      | Kern Radiology        |
| Prime Cut                       | Tina Maestas              | Legacy Dance Factory  |
| JD Food Supply                  | Komin Medical Group       | AG Wise               |



## SAFETY

The Holidays are here again. It's time to bring out the decorations and celebrate. With the fun and fanfare comes safety. Please take great care when decorating or traveling. Some things to think about:

1. Make sure decorations are in good repair and do not construct makeshift articles.
2. Don't overload your circuits.
3. Use approved electrical cords or junction boxes.
4. Artificial trees are usually safe. Natural trees are not. Remember that natural trees tend to dry and become like "tinder". These go up in flames easily and quickly.
5. Check smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.
6. Avoid placing electrical cords in foot paths or wet areas.
7. When traveling take plenty of warm clothing. Prepare for areas where snow is common. Food, water, clothing blankets, first aid kits are highly recommended.
8. **DON'T DRINK. NO DRUGS. THINK SAFETY.**
9. Hope to see you well after New Years.

