

Finally Final



The month of November brought an early Christmas gift for the Mayes Family. On November 17, in connection with National Adoption Day, Ms. Mayes adopted a daughter, Reanna Eileen Mayes, and a son, Kennith Halen Mayes. After nearly 3 years of patiently waiting, sister and brother became a part of their new permanent family. The Mayes will be leaving Kern Bridges Youth Homes to pursue their future family goals. We wish the Mayes the very best life has to offer. You will be missed.



KBYH would like to extend a very special thank you to John's Incredible Pizza for partnering with us on National Adoption Day.



Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

January 16, 6:00-8:00PM: "Core Practice Model" with Ruth Jackson. RSVP to 661-396-2355

February 10, 9:00-11:00AM: "Assisting with Self-Administration of Psychotropic Medications; Emancipation and Independent Living" with Joe Ortega. RSVP to 661-396-2321

March 5, 6:00-8:00PM: "Managing Aggressive Behavior" with Mark Dominguez. RSVP to 661-865-2352

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 to 661-865-2352.

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.

FFA Christmas Party

On December 3, KBYH's FFA families descended on Rollerama West for our annual Christmas party. Special thanks goes to the AT&T Golden Empire Telephone Pioneers for providing the pizza, gifts, and of course, SANTA!!! Our children and families are deeply grateful for all you do.





Giving Back

During the Thanksgiving break, KBYH group home children created some holiday magic by making blankets and donating them to the Kern County Homeless Center, Rescue Mission, and Jamison Center. Each blanket was unique and specifically designed by each boy living in our group homes. KBYH believes all children deserve some holiday magic. And helping our boys create a little magic for the less fortunate is a huge gift for everyone involved. We want to teach our boys how to be thoughtful and grateful children, and donating blankets to charities and non-profits is one way to encourage that. Developing this way of thinking in our boys, and exposing them to new perspectives is a very important part of our treatment program.



In addition to donating blankets last month, our boys also explored several adventurous places. These places included Griffith Observatory, Lake Lopez Ropes Course, City of Torrance batting cages, Bakersfield Comic Con, and paintballing in Castaic, California. The boys really enjoyed all the outings, however, the paintball outing was the overwhelming favorite.

Child Birthdays

January 29: Isak R.



Foster Parent Birthdays

January 11: Rose Hernandez
 January 15: Patrick Kennedy
 January 17: Joseph Humes
 January 28: Sabrina Jennings

KBYH Staff Birthdays

January 16: Donte Williams
 January 23: Stephen Zuniga
 January 26: Diana Gil
 January 28: Trina Smith

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

Nestor Sanchez: 1 Year
 Jennifer Robbins: 1 Year
 Rick Ramirez: 4 Years

Foster Child of the Month: Nathien C.

This month we are happy to recognize Nathien C. as child of the month! Nathien started Middle School this school year and has done great things so far. Nathien loves to be involved in various activities and joined the Color Guard team and band. Nathien was able to participate in the Veteran's Parade on November 11 with the Color Guard Team. Nathien recently began playing the trumpet and is very enthusiastic about learning the instrument. Nathien has also become a Safe School Ambassador at school where he acts as a peer mentor to other students and encourages anti-bullying. Nathien's grades have been excellent and he earned a 3.0 for the first quarter! Nathien's Resource Parent, Petrina W., is very proud of all the accomplishments he has made so far this year and so are we. Way to go Nathien!!

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!

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| Beautologie | Borton & Petrini | Village Grill |
| Chevron Valley Credit Union | First Solutions | Kwik Signs |
| Golden Valley High School | Lorene's Coffee Shop | Mauricio's |
| Pappy's Coffee Shop | TooFat Sandwiches | Walter Mortensen Ins. |
| Young Wooldridge | Premier Equipment | Pros. Inc. |
| J&M's Café | County Council | Wasco Church of God |
| Daniells Phillip Vaughan & Bock | Stinsons | Halliburton |
| Premier Medical Associates | Wilson Paves & Associates | PG&E |
| Bakersfield Signs | The Bridge Church | AG Wise |
| Prime Cut | Tina Maestas | Penche Dance Academy |
| JD Food Supply | Komin Medical Group | Alpha and Omega Wellness Center |

Safety Notes

Taken from a website article posted by Danielle Fowler, November 28, 2017:

Every parent understands the importance of a car seat when traveling with children. But what many may not know is that their child's winter coat could put lives in danger.

A video by car safety experts [Good Egg](#) has highlighted the potential risks involved with wrapping your kids up before fastening their seat belts.

In the clip, a mother demonstrates how a puffer jacket can lead parents to think that the seat belt is securely fastened. But when the coat is taken off it becomes clear that there is a dangerous gap between the child and the harness.

In a blog post the company warned: "Leaving your child's coat on in the car is a problem because it creates a gap between your child and their safety harness. In a collision, the harness isn't as close to your child's body as it needs to be to allow it to properly restrain them."

But how can parents keep their children safe in the winter months?

The car safety experts advise covering kids in a blanket to keep them warm and removing coats to ensure the harness is 'tight enough that you can just get two fingers between your child and the straps'.

