

# FOREVER FAMILY



Joshua and Sara Henry have been foster parents with Kern Bridges Youth Homes since February 2013. They have always had the desire to have a big family and wanted to adopt children. They looked into the Heart Gallery and had an interest in a child named Louis. After a meet and greet, they fell in love with him. They received placement of Louis on August 9, 2013. Through both difficult and loving times, Joshua and Sara stayed committed to the adoption of Louis, which was finalized on January 23, 2015.

**Congratulations to the Henry family!**

KBYH will once again be hosting a booth at the Home and Garden show, February 20-22. If you're attending the show, come by and say hi!



## Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

March 23, 9AM-11AM: "Managing Aggressive Behavior" with Mark D.

April 11, 9AM-11 AM: "Trauma-Based Therapy" with Lillian A.

May 13, 6PM-8PM: "Positive Discipline/Self-Esteem" with Ruth J.

## Ongoing Trainings

Mark Dominguez will be offering the following trainings on an ongoing basis:

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. Participants must RSVP by the Monday of the week of training.

CPR/1st Aid initial course (for those who have never had the training before): First Saturday of February, May, August, and November, 10:00am-5:00pm. Participants must RSVP by the Monday of the week of training.

## KBYH Staff Spotlight

### **John Bacon, MA Psych., MSW, LCSW**

John has been working with abused, neglected, and delinquent youth in group homes, foster care and adoptions for 35 years. In addition to the fact that he is an

LCSW, John is a certified Red Cross

Instructor for CPR & First Aid, a certified instructor in the University of Oklahoma's Managing Aggressive Behavior training program, a Juvenile Facilities PREA Auditor for the United States DOJ, a Certified Group Home Administrator, and certified in Trauma Informed Care through the University of Buffalo. John is a former United States Marine, worked with the Young Marine program for 20 years, and sat on the Young Marines National Board of Directors. John taught Tiger Woods how to golf, just kidding, but John is an avid golfer. John spent the first twenty years of his career at Childhelp USA and has been at KBYH for fifteen years.



## CONGRATS!!

Angel's teacher has complimented him on his excellent behavior. He has been given happy faces for the whole month of January. He has also been line leader for five days. We are so proud of his success in becoming a smart and well-mannered boy!

Fina made significant improvement in grades.

Marlin V.: Honor Role

Haley C.: Honor Role

Cheyenne C.: Preparing for college



### Child Birthdays

February 23: Rhiannon W.

February 28: Jaylene C.



### Foster Parent Birthdays

February 2: David Espinoza

February 6: Belen Lopez

February 9: Patrina Williams

February 15: Hilda Gaytan

February 15: Victor Hernandez

February 24: Mario Caudillo

February 25: Joshua Henry

### KBYH Staff Birthdays

February 6: Judy Pilchard

February 12: Tamika Worthy

### KBYH Staff Anniversaries

John Bacon: 15 years



## Foster Child of the Month: Anthony M.

This month we would like to recognize Anthony M. as child of the month. Anthony was placed in the Gaytan/Cisneros CH on 6-25-14. He had a very hard time adjusting to foster care. When school started in August, 2014, Anthony did not want to go to Kindergarten. After further investigation, he was not afforded the opportunity to attend Headstart pre-school or pre-kindergarten and did not know the basics. After the first few weeks in school, his teacher, Ms. Rodriguez, notified foster mother regarding Anthony's deficits. Foster mother asked for additional homework every week and she sat with Anthony every night to complete the additional homework. By the end of the first semester, Anthony received an award for the most improved student and is working at grade level. Keep up the good work Anthony!!

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



## DHS Social Worker of the Month: Margie Santiago-Check

We take great pleasure recognizing Margie Santiago-Check as KBYH's Social Worker of Month. Mrs. Santiago-Check has always been available to care for the issues or needs of the foster children under our care. She is thoroughly familiar with her cases and she promptly responds to many of our requests for assistance. Mrs. Santiago-Check has always been professional, caring and cheerful. On many sticky issues, she has given results rather than excuses. She is a dedicated Social Worker who is always at the service of the foster child and us. There have been many times during which Mrs. Santiago-Check has been involved with her children after normal working hours, and she has been there taking care of business. Mrs. Santiago-Check is highly respected by those of us at KBYH and appreciate all her efforts. Thanks Margie!!



## KBYH BOD SPOTLIGHT: DIANA CAMPBELL-RICE

As you may or may not know, KBYH is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors that is comprised of a broad spectrum of professionals who give their time and expertise to help with the mission of Kern Bridges. Today we would like to spotlight Diana Campbell-Rice, who has served on the board since August 2012. Diana's career background includes a 40-year history in successful marketing and public relations, journalism and non-profit management, as well as liaison work in the entertainment and film arenas.

Diana has co-owned and operated Rice Agency, a full-service advertising and public relations firm with her husband, Thad, since 1978. She also founded DCRdesign, a nonprofit consulting company and Infiniti Crow Studio, a creative art company, in 2009. DCRdesign features grant writing, strategic planning, leadership and marketing/media training, social media marketing, press releases and organizational development.

Infiniti Crow Studio features her art in original art/prints and note card collections, as well as five jewelry lines, Industrial Bling, Comfort, Retro Bling, DCR Organic Crow and Tiny Crow. Her distinctive style can be found in a wide variety of designs. Diana's work has been featured in California galleries in San Diego, Los Angeles, and the California Central Coast, as well as Colorado, Alaska and Bakersfield. She also has a line of baby announcements, Baby O' Baby, offered nationally. Diana has a national and international client base.

With a strong commitment to community, Diana has served as a volunteer on a variety of local board of directors. KBYH wishes to thank Diana for her time and service. She has made a positive impact in the short 2+ years she has served on our board.





# SAFETY

Please take the time to conduct safety checks of your home and transportation this month.

- Check smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, first aid kits and safety equipment such as flashlights, extra batteries, water, emergency food supplies, rope, radios, etc.
- Check unsafe conditions in the home such as gas leaks, broken windows, loose electrical cords, broken electrical power outlets, etc.
- Inspect automobiles for mechanical functioning. Check engine, rubber belts, battery electrolyte levels, brake fluid, coolant levels, lights, and brakes.
- Check tire pressures and inspect condition of spare tire. Ensure jack is available and familiarize yourself with its use.
- Prepare an emergency kit to be taken on trips and outings.

