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February 2022

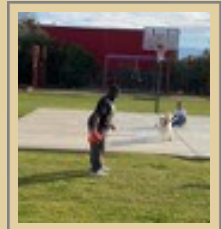
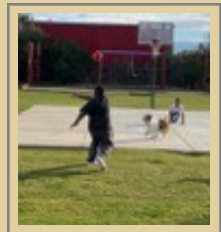
kernbridges.com

“Making Life an Adventure ”

The boys living in our STRTPs participated in numerous adventurous activities last month. One of many outings last month was a day tour to beautiful Southern California to visit the USS Battleship Iowa. Battleship Iowa served our country proudly in WWII, Korea, and the Cold War. Now the ship sets in Los Angeles as a landmark, and many consider it one of the region’s best outdoor museums for families and visitors of all ages.

Also, our boys traveled to Northern California to the Fresno Chaffee Zoo. The Zoo is known for its variety of attractions including dino dig, Africa adventure, sea lion cove and stingray bay. Our boys were able to feed the giraffes and interact with the monkeys through their cages and other various animals. The entire stroll through the zoo was an enjoyable quality time for our boys.

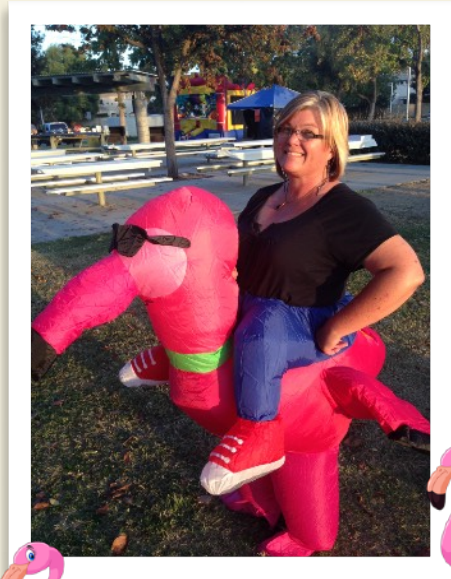
From a different leisure perspective, some of our boys enjoyed activities at home. The boys living at our Almklov House had the opportunity to play with therapy dogs in their own backyard. Studies has shown that therapy dogs help children with both physical and social benefits. Also, dogs teach children responsibility. In addition, some of our boys participated in Art Therapy at home. We provide voluntary Art Therapy sessions for all our boys. Our goal is to help our boys who struggle with low-esteem, anxiety, depression, and other learning disabilities. We want to improve their self-awareness along with social, cognitive, and emotional functioning.



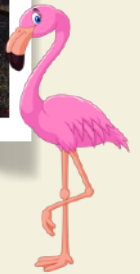


CONGRATULATIONS TO CARRIE WOMBACHER

She has moved on to greener pastures and 2/3/22 was her last day with KBYH. We have appreciated her 12 years of service and dedication to KBYH, its staff, families, and children. She will be missed and leaves big shoes (and inflatable flamingos) to fill. Thank you, Carrie, for all you have done, and best of luck with the next chapter in your life.



You'll Never be
Forgotten, but
You'll Always be Missed

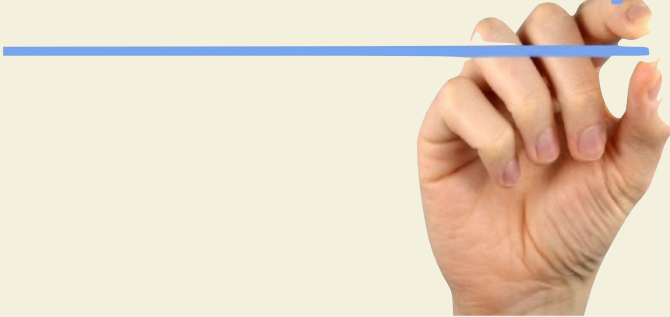


KBYH STRTP NEWS:

Congrats Gabe!

Kern Bridges would like to take a moment to recognize Gabriel, one of the youths living in our STRTPs. Gabriel ("Gabe") came to Kern Bridges a few years ago from Sacramento, California. Since that time, Gabe transitioned back to Sacramento for a period before returning to Kern Bridges in 2020. Now Gabe is 18 years old and will be graduating high school this summer. Last week, Gabe landed a job at Taco Bell. Our Kern Bridges family is so delighted to see our boys transition into successful adults. Studies show young adults who enter the workforce early are more likely to secure better, higher paying jobs later in life, which often has a positive impact on wealth creation and economic mobility.

TRAINING



(MAB)

Managing Aggressive Behavior is a trauma responsive crisis management training that focuses on prevention through building relationships, supporting individual empowerment, and developing new skills.

(IEP)

The Individualized Educational Plan is a plan or program developed to ensure that a child who has a disability identified under the law and is attending an elementary or secondary educational institution receives specialized instruction and related services

Upcoming Trainings

March 7, 6:00-8:00pm

“Managing Aggressive Behavior”
with Mark D. RSVP to mark@kernbridges.com

April 9, 9:00 - 11:00 am

“Prudent Parent Standard, Child
Development ”
with Catherine S.

RSVP to csantere@kernbridges.com

CPR/1st Aid

CPR and First Aid trainings are on an as needed basis at this time. Contact your KBYH Social Worker if you need to renew your certification.

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 Jennifer R. at jrobbins@kernbridges.com

“Self-Care and Secondary Trauma”

March 25, 2022
6:00 pm-8:00 pm

“Crisis Call and Risk Management”

April 26, 2022
6:00-8:00PM

February



KBYH Staff Anniversaries

- John Bacon 22 years
- Devinique Casteel 1 year
- Calixto Gamboa 1 year
- Always Austin 3 years

Resource Family & Child Birthdays

- King J. 2/1 3 years
- Aaron D. 2/7 14 years
- Royce S. 2/13 18 years

Parent Birthdays

- Petrina Williams 2/9
- Mario Caudillo 2/24

KBYH Staff Birthdays

- Yadira Garcia 10
- Alfredo Hernandez 16
- Marina Hernandez 22
- Mary Arriaga 22
- Karissa Aguinaga 24
- Serrena Rincon 26

Happy Anniversary

Community Spotlight:

This month Kern Bridges would like to acknowledge DHS Social Worker-Eric Santos

This month we are proud to present Eric Santos as Kern Bridges Youth Homes' selection of Social Worker of the month for February. Mr. Santos is a skilled social worker who has always been available to care for the issues or needs of the foster children he oversees. He is thoroughly familiar with his cases, and he has promptly responded to any requests for help. Mr. Santos has always been cheerful, professional and accessible when dealing with our social workers. On complicated or sticky issues Mr. Santos has given us results or solutions rather than excuses. He is a dedicated social worker who is always at the service of the foster child or social worker. Mr. Santos is highly respected and trusted, and we are grateful for his support. Congratulations Mr. Santos on this well-deserved recognition.

Youth in Action: Antonio

With Gratitude

There's a quote that comes to mind when thinking about CASA's mission for advocacy, "every kid is ONE caring adult away from being a success story." Josh Shipp had a challenging childhood having been a former foster youth himself. After bouncing from foster home to foster home he found himself with a small handful of caring adults who made a pivotal impact on his life. Josh's story is much like the story of hundreds of CASA children and youth. After experiencing constant loss and disappointment, children in foster care lose their faith and trust in the ever-changing adults in their life. However, the hope lies in that **ONE** caring adult who will inspire optimism, who demonstrates consistency, who invests in their well-being and motivates empowerment!



One of the Almklov youth, Antonio, and staff ran a 5k back in October to support CASA advocacy. We received this beautiful thank you from Josh Shipp.

Emergency Preparedness, Response, and COVID-19



Emergencies and disasters like hurricanes and wildfires won't stop for the COVID-19 pandemic. Be prepared to keep your family safe and healthy from all hazards during the pandemic.

- Take action. Collect emergency supplies and create “go kits” for your family. Stock up on personal needs, disinfectant wipes and spray, bar or liquid soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, and multiple, clean masks for everyone age 2 or older. Masks should have multiple layers and fit snugly against your face.
- Plan ahead. Know how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected emergency preparedness and response. And what you can do to keep yourself and others healthy and safe. Pay attention to local guidance for evacuations and shelters. Your shelter location may be different this year because of the pandemic.
- Create community. Find ways to support your neighbors while taking steps to protect yourself and others in your home and community from COVID-19. For example, you could offer to run essential errands for family members, friends, and neighbors who are older, have mobility issues, or are at increased risk for severe illness.

CDC will continue to provide information about COVID-19 as it becomes available.

Taken from: www.cdc.gov/prepyourhealth/index.htm



Courtesy of National Safety Council <https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/safety-topics/child-safety>



Resource Family Spotlight: Luirelys Mirena

We take great pleasure honoring Ms. Luirelys Mirena as this month's resource family of the month. Ms. Mirena is a Resource Parent who cares for her three children and two foster children. In addition to caring for her children, Ms. Mirena is undertaking an intense nursing training program. Ms. Mirena has proven to be a loyal and dependable Resource Parent who has cared for very difficult, demanding and challenging children. In addition to meeting the many needs of the foster children, she provides transportation every morning and evening for her oldest son to attend Graces High School. This commitment is a great challenge in itself, and Ms. Mirena finds the strength to support this task throughout the school year. Caring for all of the needs for her children is an incredible task for a single parent. Ms. Mirena is a strong and experienced mother and professional who has dedicated a significant part of her life caring for traumatized children who have needed a stable home and caring family.

Ms. Mirena has raised her minor children well. She encouraged her children to perform well in school and become good citizens. She taught her children good manners and how to behave at home, school and public. Ms. Mirena was always seen with a smile, even on stressful times. She tackles challenges without once complaining. She has been a valuable asset to this agency.

We thank you Ms. Mirena for your dedicated service to child care, and we hope you continue offering your services to meet the needs of needy children. We hope your contributions are rewarding and successful.