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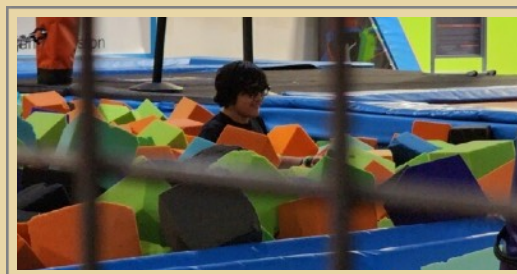
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FEBRUARY 2023

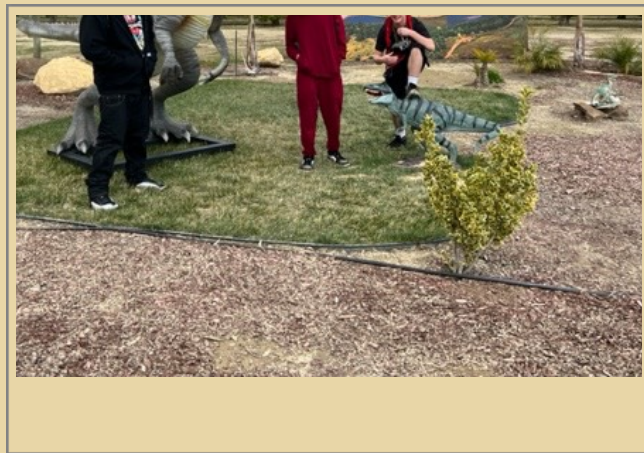
[kernbridges.com](http://kernbridges.com)

## Children are Born Explorers

When it comes to activity and adventure, nothing holds back KBYH STRTP's. From self-esteem adventure trips to therapeutic team building activities, our STRTPs embraces them all. To kick off the beginning of this year, our boys went on several high-profile outings. These outing included Flight-Fit-N- Fun, Gladiator Paintball Park, Venice Beach, Joe Gibbs Racing Event at the LA Coliseum, and the Lavender Garden Dinosaur Park. The boys described the coastal scenery as breathtaking and the Lavender Garden had thousands of lavender flowers and fake animal moldings throughout the park. These activities give our boys educational experiences away from the STRTP environment. Learning in assorted ways can appeal to various learning styles. This in turn, affords each boy the ability to learn something from the outing, whether they are a visual, auditory, or kinetic learner



“Your self-sacrificing devotion to your purpose in life and your unwavering faith will carry you through times of difficulty” MLK.



## Lavender Garden Dinosaur Park & Joe Gibbs Racing Event





## Meet Chelsea and Brayden!

Chelsea and Brayden visited at the Westra Visitation Station for four months, and from the moment we met them we knew they were special. Chelsea had a drug



addiction that led to Brayden being removed from her care at his birth. It was then she knew that her life had change. She got sober, took her parenting classes, and followed her case plan. Chelsea knew that Brayden was the light at the end of the tunnel.

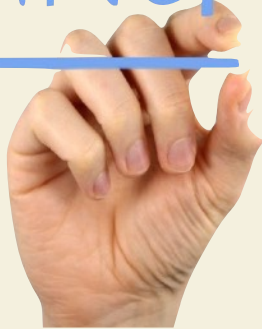
Chelsea attended every visit with a smile and so did Brayden. They made Westra light up with hope and smiles. Exactly fourteen months later, on February 8, 2023, Brayden was officially reunified with Chelsea. We are all very happy to see Brayden go home, but we will truly miss seeing them each week.

Chelsea said “The best part about the whole process was visitation at Kern Bridges. The ladies at the Westra location made everything possible for me because I felt so comfortable there. I felt like as I got to know my son and they got to know us. Instead of feeling like I had to go to an awkward place to visit my child, I felt like Kern Bridges was a second family to me.”

KBYH appreciates that Chelsea was willing to share her story and we encourage other families to continue working the hard work towards reunification so that one day they too can share their success story.



TRAINING



## Upcoming Trainings

April 8, 9:00-11:00AM

### **“Prudent Parent Standard/Child Development”**

with Catherine Santerre.

RSVP to [cseanterre@kernbridges.com](mailto:cseanterre@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.

RSVP to [marina@kernbridges.com](mailto:marina@kernbridges.com)

### **“Self-Care and Secondary Trauma”**

March 21, 2023

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm



## ISFC Spotlight

Kern Bridges would like to acknowledge all of our ISFC families. These families have committed to working with foster youth who have unique challenges and require additional support for placement stabilization. ISFC families require Resource Parents to complete extra training and provide constant communication with the ISFC team. Many of the families have had multiple ISFC placements. We appreciate and value the dedication that each family has to our youth. Thank you to all Kern Bridges ISFC families for all that you do.



## Youth Spotlight: Noah

This month we would like to recognize Noah as the child of the month. Noah was placed in the Doverspike home along with his 2 brothers on July 12, 2019. Noah is bright, friendly, polite, and playful. Noah stated that he likes living in the home and calls his resource parents “Mom and Dad.” Noah continues to excel in school as evidenced by making the honor for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Noah also received Citizenship and Reading Awards. Noah received all “A’s” on his music report card for playing the Cello.

Keep up the good work Noah!





# Happy Birthday



## Child Birthdays

2/1 Jasmine 16 years  
2/7 Aaron 15 years

## Resource Parent Birthdays

2/9 Petrina Williams  
2/14 Horacio Rivera  
2/24 Mario Caudillo

## KBYH Staff Birthdays

2/5 Misty Thomas-Roberts  
2/10 Yadira Garica  
2/16 Alfredo Hernandez  
2/22 Marina Hernandez  
2/22 Mary Arriaga  
2/26 Karissa Aguinaga  
2/26 Serrena Rincon

## KBYH Staff Anniversaries

2/1 John Bacon 23 years  
2/8 Clint Gamboa 2 years  
2/24 Always Mustin 4 years



# Happy Anniversary!



## **Congratulations to Bianca Ruiz**

Bianca has been an adoptions Social Worker at KBYH since 2017 and recently accepted the position of KBYH's STRTP Director of Mental Health Services. Also, Bianca recently completed the process of becoming licensed and is now an LCSW. Congrats Bianca on your accomplishments and thank you for being willing to take on this new adventure.

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## **Welcome Decondia Ferguson**

Kern Bridges would like to welcome the newest member of the ISFC team, Decondia "Michelle" Ferguson. Michelle has vast experience working with children of various backgrounds and at risk- populations in Kern County. Currently, she is working as a KBYH ISFC Rehabilitation Specialist for our 2 East Kern youth. She has adapted well within our ISFC program and we are excited for this new addition to our team. Welcome aboard Michelle!

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## **Changing of the Guard**

We are pleased to announce that our Director of Finance, Michael O'Doherty, will be assuming the KBYH Safety Officer duties from Joe G. Ortega. Thank you to Joe for faithfully managing this position for many years.



# Child Safety



The job of protecting kids most often falls to parents and caregivers, and it is up to them to familiarize themselves with safety risks in and around their homes and communities. Once you know the risks, you can take steps to plan for safety.

## Teen Driving

[A teen's biggest safety threat is sitting in the driveway.](#) Half of all teens will be in a car crash before graduating from high school. Teen drivers who continue to practice with their parents increase their chances of avoiding a crash.

## Child Passenger Safety

Car crashes are the [leading cause of death](#) for kids and young adults from ages 1-24. Properly securing kids in car seats, booster seats and seat belts can protect them in the event of a crash. NSC offers tools and tips on [keeping your children safe on the road](#).

## Water Safety

Many are aware of the importance of safety around pools and at the beach. Parents also need to supervise their children near bathtubs. Most drowning or near-drowning incidents happen when a child falls into a pool or is left alone in the bathtub. Distractions make for tragedies, and [the younger the child, the greater the risk](#).

## Childproofing

[Learn the highest risk areas](#) for unintentional injury and death in and around your home. Take steps to "childproof" your home and be sure to extend your efforts beyond toddlers. Develop a home safety plan, and practice different ways to get out of your home. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

## Lead Poisoning

Millions of kids are exposed to high levels of lead every day. Children under the age of 6 are especially vulnerable because their growing bodies absorb more lead than adults and their brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead. Learn what you can do to [prevent lead poisoning](#).

Courtesy of: National Safety Council ([www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/child-safety/child-safety-home](http://www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/child-safety/child-safety-home))