

VICTOR



Victor and Rose Hernandez were one of KBYH's founding foster parents. They were certified in 1995 and over the years have fostered over 40 youth and have adopted 4. Victor was a strong foundation for these youth, both while they were placed in the home and often post-placement. Victor will be deeply missed by many and KBYH will always remember the profound impact he had on our staff, youth, and families.

Victor Hernandez was born February 15, 1952 to Leonard and Herminia Hernandez. He grew up in Huntington Park with his 2 brothers and 4 sisters: Leonard, Sam, Rachel, Caroline, Rosie, Sylvia. He spent many days exploring the neighborhood with his favorite cousins, Bobby and Ricky. Victor grew up determined to make money and be able to provide for himself. Victor's last job was with a recycling business where he was plant manager. Victor has many children, Victor Jr Hernandez and Vince Hernandez with his first wife, Penny Irene Abos. He also has a daughter, Shantel Hernandez. Victor made a final promise to his forever love in 1981 to Rosaura Hernandez and had 3 more children: Jennifer, Christina and Mark Hernandez. Victor worked for many years in the recycling business in Los Angeles until an accident forced him to begin Dialysis treatments for the rest of his life. Every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Victor attended dialysis. Victor stayed in the Los Angeles area until he moved away to Bakersfield in 1990. There he transferred his job and continued his dialysis treatments. Over time, he and his wife took care of several foster children for the next 19 years. He adopted his final four children, Anthony, Marie, Angel, & Christopher and they all became a Hernandez too. Victor became an active member of the Harvest Free Will Baptist Church, where his entire family would continue to attend. In 2012, he dedicated his life to God. Victor died at the age of 63 surrounded by those he loved.



The Alfaro family during their recent trip to Disneyland.



KBYH Staff Spotlight

PRACTICING WHAT WE PREACH

Did you know that several of KBYH's staff have taken foster placements and/or adopted? Joe Ortega and his wife started fostering in 1997 and have had over 50 foster placements and adopted 5 children. John Bacon has taken placement of a teen youth whom he hopes to adopt in 2016. Jessica Mosley has recently taken placement of a sibling set of 3 children who were previously placed separately. KBYH also has two foster families, the Ayala's and the Hibbards, who were Kern County Department of Human Services CPS workers who have become foster/adoptive parents.

Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

January 19, 6:00-8:00PM: "Avoiding the Misuse of Power" with Bibi Carrasco

February 13, 9:00AM-1:00PM: "Children's Record Maintenance" with Joe Ortega

March 21, 9:00-11:00AM: "Managing Aggressive Behavior" with Mark Dominguez

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):

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.



Thank you to the folks at AC Electric who helped wrap piles and piles of presents.

A big Thank You to Youth for Christ of Kern County for delivering 18 stockings for all of the KBYH Group Home residents.



Sandra Millard with John Bacon

Child Birthdays

- January 6: Caelee W.
- January 10: Marlin V.
- January 26: Mylee W.
- 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
- January 31: Jim Ventura

KBYH Staff Birthdays

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

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

Rick Ramirez: 2 years

A Christmas To Remember

Holidays can be a time of love, laughter, joy, and giving. Holidays also give a good, legitimate reason to celebrate with those we love and care about. What a wonderful holiday season it was for KBYH children. The kindness and generosity during this Christmas



were much appreciated. All those who helped with our Wishmas Tree Donations, gift collections, and those who volunteered their time with wrapping, really made this Christmas memorable, sensational, and one-of-a-kind. A famous peace activist once said, "Wisdom is knowing what to do next; virtue is doing it." All of you are obviously both wise and virtuous. Please accept our sincere thanks for volunteering your time and efforts this Christmas. Your generosity benefited countless others. Your support won't be forgotten.



Foster Child of the Month: Catalina

Catalina was a vibrant, energetic, and purely happy child. She was so enjoyed and loved by not just our family, but our friends as well. Christopher's favorite memory about Catalina was her beautiful smile and her baby conversations that were always so enjoyable. Brandon's favorite memory of her was when she rolled over for the first time. Kayla's favorite memory of her was when Catalina would play toys and games with her. Especially peek-a-boo. Elijah's favorite memory of her was when she opened her presents at Christmas time, loving the wrapping paper instead of the present. Catalina is strongly missed and will be in our hearts forever.

-Submitted by the Banks family. Catalina was placed with a relative on 1/2/16.

Foster Family of the Month: Jose & Monica Alfaro

The Alfaros have been amazing new foster parents. They have given respite for three active little boys who seemed to enjoy themselves at this home. Now they have four active little girls five and under who had five supervised visits a week. In addition, the Alfaros have their own two sons who have sports and social activities. Their sons have been able to share the attention of their parents with the other children plus give the children special attention of their own. The Alfaros take the children to many family events and recently took them to Disneyland. Both Jose and Monica Alfaro have been very respectful and encouraging to the birth parents. Thank you Jose and Monica for all your help.

Kern County DHS Spotlight: Alicia L.

Alicia Lemster has worked for the KCDHS for sixteen years. She began as an Eligibility Worker in AFDC/Food Stamps/Medi-Cal, then moved to the Foster Care Unit in 2003.

While working in Foster Care, she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and then her MSW in 2012. She enjoys working with children and families. Alicia has good rapport with her co-workers and will not hesitate to go above and beyond to assist her colleagues. We appreciate all Alicia's hard work and dedication. Thank you for all you do!



SAFETY

Top 9 Tips for Successful Kid Bathroom Public Outings: When Going Solo is a Must

The kid bathroom issue inevitably comes sooner than when most parents are ready. Moms eventually must let their sons use the boys' restroom and dads must allow their daughters to go into the girls' bathroom. Of course, the same notion holds true for anyone who provides child care for children. After all, at a certain age, it becomes inappropriate for opposite-sex members to go into a public restroom. A solo kid bathroom trip can be a stress-free success with proper planning and preparation.

1. Is Your Child Ready For a Kid Bathroom Solo Outing?

First things first. Is your kid fully potty-trained and independent in bathroom skills? Does your kid possess basic skills in locking/unlocking stalls, unsnapping/snapping and zipping skills, wiping, flushing of toilets, and hand-washing skills? After all, there is nothing more frustrating than for a child to yell for mom in the boys' bathroom: "Mom! Can you come in here? I have a problem!"

2. Are Signs Saying It's Time for Gender-Proper Kid Bathroom Choices?

Do you have to drag your son in to the ladies room because he recognized the woman picture sign on the outside? Do other men look at dad funny if he is rushing in a toddler daughter into a stall? While some establishments do have family bathrooms, most do not, and kids sometimes just have to go at the most inopportune times. And, at a certain age, kids may flat-out refuse to accompany an opposite sex parent into a bathroom for privacy reasons.

3. Is Your Child Big Enough To Reach Things Independently?

Another kid bathroom check is to see if he is big enough to reach things for himself. Can your daughter turn on (and OFF) the faucet and get a paper towel? Is your son tall enough for proper urinal use?

4. No Kid Bathroom Playing Allowed: Make Sure Etiquette Is Understood

Kids must know that they cannot dawdle or goof off. It is unacceptable to not flush the toilet (or flush it 10 times for fun). They can't unroll the toilet paper, leave the sink running, or play with the soap dispenser. In other words, kids must know the rules of what they must do and what they absolutely can't. After all, you cannot run in after them and clean up their mess.

5. Safety Rules Rule During Kid Bathroom Outings in Public

Every parent fears something inappropriate occurring in a public bathroom. While incidents are rare, parents and providers alike should have frequent age-appropriate discussions with their kids or kids in their care before going on public outings. They should discuss safety rules about not talking with or staring at strangers, going with a stranger for any reason, and about inappropriate touching or actions in any way. Remind them that going to the bathroom is a necessity; but the public restroom is not a place to make friends or do anything at all but going to the bathroom. Children should always opt to go into a private stall for privacy.

See if You're Eligible for VA Loan. Requirements Listed. Find Out Now.

6. Meeting Place Is a Must for Kid Public Bathroom Safety

Discuss an appropriate meeting place. Men's and women's bathrooms are not always side by side, and parents with kids of both genders who desperately need to go potty are sometimes put in a bind. Be sure to reinforce safety as well as consequences if a child is not where he is supposed to be. (Anyone who has experienced that temporary terror is well-acquainted with the importance of a meeting place.)

7. Kid Bathroom Outing: Is Your Child Independent and Confident Enough To Go Solo?

An important question parents/providers must ask themselves is whether a child is emotionally mature enough and self-confident to go into a public bathroom without a parent. Is a child independent enough or is she still clingy without a parent? Most of the time, public bathroom outings are appropriate around the age of 5 or 6, but a child's personal maturity and abilities should be the deciding factor.

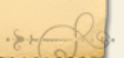
8. Success Is Measured One Step At A Time

Kid bathroom outings should begin in a controlled, comfortable setting (for parent and child both). A good place to begin is at a fast-food kid-friendly restaurant like McDonald's with a parent standing right outside the door. Later, a child can work up to a larger bathroom setting like a movie theatre or restaurant. Parents should use these outings to reinforce positive behavior and check with a child's comfort level after each outing. Before long, kid bathroom outings will become easy.

9. What To Do If The Unthinkable Does Occur

While it's horrible to even think about, parents and providers must prepare kids for what to do if something unthinkable does occur. Adults must balance a child's need to have information with actions that they absolutely must take if something inappropriate happens. An honest conversation must occur in a way that does not frighten a child from going to a public bathroom, all the while being sure he/she is prepared.

SAFETY



Thank you to the following businesses who participated in our Wishmas Tree toy drive. As always, the response was incredible and as a result, all of the children received everything they had on their wish list. Also, thank you to Jessica Mosley for heading up this effort for KBYH.

Beautologie

Chevron Valley Credit Union

Golden Valley High School

Pappy's Coffee Shop

Young Wooldridge

J&M's Café

Daniells Phillip Vaughan & Bock

Premier Medical Associates

Bakersfield Signs

Prime Cut

JD Food Supply

Borton & Petrini

First Solutions

Lorene's Coffee Shop

TooFat Sandwiches

Premier Equipment

County Council

Stinsons

Wilson Paves & Associates

Serenity Salon & Spa

Tina Maestas

Coleman Medical Group

Village Grill

Kwik Signs

Mauricio's (both)

Walter Mortensen Ins.

Pros. Inc.

Essentials Spa

Halliburton

Wilson Paves and Ass. Ins.

Tholco Real Estate Group

Legacy Dance Factory

KBYH would also like to thank the following:

*The Kern County Christmas Cottage for all the wonderful gifts they collected on behalf of foster youth throughout the county

*KBYH Board members who donated to our Christmas fund

*Dan Marble, KBYH Founder, who continues to faithfully support KBYH and who contributed towards this year's Christmas fund

