

## Rosca de Reyes



On January 6th, the Almklov Group Home celebrated Rosca de Reyes. The holiday has a Catholic foundation, and is also called "The Celebration of Epiphany", as well as, "Three Kings Day". Rosca de Reyes is a Mexican tradition that takes place 12 days after Christmas each year during social reunions with family, friends or colleagues in offices or homes. This tradition of eating together and sharing a Rosca de Reyes bread with a hot chocolate to remember the Holy Kings, is made as a snack so that children are present and can participate in the tradition of getting together to enjoy and share a slice of Rosca de Reyes. It is important when you cut a slice that the figurine of the infant Jesus (plastic doll symbolizing Jesus newborn) is not showing. It is said that the person who finds the baby Jesus in their slice should host the party on Candlemas Day on February 2. On that day, the guests will expect to eat tamales and Mexican appetizers, so it is important to re-join the same group that was present when the Rosca was cut. The person who finds the plastic wise man or Magi King in their slice must pay the costs of the party. In reality, the expenses of the party is shared. It is considered good luck and that you are fortunate if you find the baby Jesus and/or the Wise Man. The tradition of holding the reunion to celebrate the Day of the Epiphany comes from the middle ages in Europe, mainly from Spain and France. This tradition came to Mexico at the time of the early years of the viceroys.

The cooking at Almklov was shared by staff and spearheaded by Karina Garcia. She cooked chicken taquitos stuffed with cream cheese, cheddar cheese, chicken and potato. Nicole Juarez cooked her famous Chicken Enchiladas and additional crispy taquitos. Jill Howard cooked Pozole Verde, which is packed with fresh cilantro, jalapeño and tomatillo's. The boys of Almklov who had participated in the celebration before added their own family's tradition to the Almklov feast. One youth brought a radio into the kitchen and tuned it to a Mexican radio station, as he shared stories of helping his grandmother cook the meal while listening to Mexican music. Another youth helped hide the baby Jesus in the bread, as was the custom in his house and awarded to the youngest male. Our own little twist was that whomever received a slice of bread with the baby Jesus won a gift certificate to McDonald's. It was a surprise that there was a hidden baby Jesus for each of them!

All in all, the day filled the house with warmth, delicious cooking food, laughter and tradition. We all will look forward to next year!



Thank you to the good folks at A-C Electric for their help at our annual Christmas gift wrapping day.

## Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

**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

**April 15, 9:00-11:00AM:** "Supporting Children and Non-Minor Dependents in School" with Bibi Carrasco. RSVP to 661-428-2915

## 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.

## Westchester Kiwanis Christmas Shopping Spree

On December 9, the Westchester Kiwanis held its 40th annual Christmas Shopping Spree for underprivileged children at the Walmart, Fashion Place in East Bakersfield. Due to the generosity of local businesses, individuals and Westchester Kiwanis members, they were able to serve 60 children this year. The morning began with pictures with Santa, then a full breakfast provided by McDonalds and Walmart. After breakfast, each child was assigned to a chaperone who had a \$150 gift card to purchase needed items of clothing and a toy for themselves from lists provided by their parents. KBYH would like to thank the Westchester Kiwanis for selecting 6 KBYH foster youth to participate in the year's event.



**Kiwaniis**  
CLUB OF WESTCHESTER, BAKERSFIELD

# Save the Date

Our annual Easter event will be held at Skateland on March 24 from 11:00-1:00.

## Child Birthdays

February 12: Leeland F.  
 February 13: Landen S.  
 February 14: Jason M.  
 February 25: Noah F.



## SB 233

Recently passed SB 233:

1. Clarifies that caregivers may access education records to ensure children in foster care receive the educational services they need to succeed in school.
2. Provides a technical statutory alignment with the Rules of Court, requiring Child Welfare case plans to include necessary educational contact information in the child's health and education summary.
3. Updates current education statutes related to education records access with Continuum of Care Reform efforts.

In other words, it is now easier for Resource Parents to access foster children's educational records that are often vital to the child's success. If you run into difficulties at a school site, SB 233 will help eliminate some of the barriers that have been previously encountered.

## Foster Parent Birthdays

February 8: John Gonzalez  
 February 9: Petrina Williams  
 February 14: Jose Alfaro  
 February 24: Mario Caudillo

## KBYH Staff Birthdays

February 6: Judy Pilchard  
 February 19: Karina Garcia  
 February 22: Marina Hernandez

## KBYH Staff Anniversaries

Shawn Wilcox: 3 Years  
 John Bacon: 18 Years

## Foster Child of the Month: David O.

This month we are happy to recognize David O. as child of the month! David attends North High School and has a 4.0 GPA. David is in the Ag. Program at North HS. The Ag. program provides a path to achievement in premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. David also is involved in Aero Space at North HS and has interest in flying planes. In October, David participated in a Aviation program and received a Young Eagles Certificate. We are all very proud of David!

## KBYH Staff Spotlight: Anton Freeman

Anton joined our staff almost two years ago as a part-time office assistant. In that year, he has proven to be reliable and has been quick to understand the needs of our office. Anton always has a positive attitude and works efficiently in the hours he is able to spend at KBYH. We appreciate all the ways Anton has made it easier for us to complete our job duties by always being readily available for whatever challenge is thrown his way. Thank you Anton for all you do!

## Social Worker Spotlight: Damona Norris-Kindred

Happy New Year to all of the special people at the Kern County Department of Human Services and the Los Angeles Department of Family and Children Services. As we begin the 2018 year, we wish to present Damona Norris-Kindred as January's Social Worker of the Month. Mrs. Norris-Kindred case manages several clients which have been placed with KBYH. Some of the cases are complicated, delicate and require frequent coordination. However, Mrs. Norris-Kindred has always been available to assist the children in a most competent and professional manner. She responded to our requests for help without hesitation and ensured that problems were resolved quickly and with favorable results. She has been a customer service oriented social worker with exceptional people skills who has maintained outstanding rapport with our social workers, resource families, biological parents and other professionals to ensure that the needs of the children placed with us are fully met. We thank you Mrs. Norris-Kindred for being there for us, and we look forward in working with you as we continue this new year.

## Safety Notes

In December we learned of a tragic event in which an innocent person, husband and father of several young children, was killed as a result of an intoxicated individual operating a vehicle. Whatever term is used, drunk driving, intoxicated driver, impaired driver, driving under the influence and etc., the results are the same. One should note that one may be impaired when taking prescription or “over the counter” medications. Bottom line, one should be alert and unimpaired when operating a nearly 1500 pound vehicle.

Although stiff penalties have been imposed on offenders, these measures have not kept people from driving after becoming intoxicated or impaired. For those who do not drive intoxicated or impaired, it serves us well to “watch for the other person”. Please drive defensively. Avoid driving at night and in heavy traffic if at all possible. Create a safety zone around the vehicle when driving. This may not prevent someone from hitting you but may minimize the possibility of serious injury.

Please drive carefully. Protect your safety and the safety of others.

Thank you to our Wishmas Tree sponsors for another amazing year. Every wish was filled thanks to the generosity of these businesses and their patrons.

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