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KERN BRIDGES YOUTH HOMES

Jr. Miss Kern County Making a Difference



KBYH would like to thank Jr Miss Kern County, JoVi Mongold, for helping to make so many wishes come true this holiday season. Through her parent's business, the Alpha and Omega Wellness Center, JoVi collected toys, games, sports equipment, gift cards, and much more. She was also instrumental in collecting amazing overflowing stockings for each of the KBYH group home residents. Stocking sponsors included Dr. David Mongold, Shinning Stars Daycare, & Connelly's Consulting. JoVi continues to be an advocate for foster care and adoption, using her crown to spread awareness and make a difference in the Kern County community. She will continue her foster care and adoption advocacy while competing for Miss Teen California on March 24th in Los Angeles. You can follow her journey on Facebook & Instagram. Thank You JoVi & best of luck from your Kern Bridges Family!!

hope waiting birth family
forever blessed mother
love heart adoption smile
sacrifice dream child
always come gift
happiness true
heart

MKC
Scholarship Organization

child heart family
placement happiness
court case worker plan
heart Foster care



Foster Care Advocate



**Alpha Omega
Wellness Center**



Very Special Thanks!

The boys living in KBYH's Group Homes had a very special guest visit them over the Christmas break; the one and only 2018 Junior Ms. Kern County, Jovi Mongold. Jovi and her parents, along with a team of others, donated Christmas stockings and gifts for our boys this past Christmas. They gave each boy at Kern Bridges their own specialized sports team blanket along with a basketball, football, or soccer ball. In addition, Jovi gave a dynamite motivational speech for the boys. They were all touched, inspired and very gracious. KBYH would like to take this time to recognize Jovi and her entire team for such a wonderful gesture during the holidays. Thank you Jovi, you're such an extraordinary young lady filled with positive energy and very passionate about making a difference in your community.

-From the boys at the KBYH Group Homes



KBYH would like to thank AG Wise Enterprise, Inc. for their wonderful donation during Christmas. AG Wise and their team put together gifts for the boys living at the Almklov House. The gifts included lots of candy and clothing items that the boys really enjoyed over the holiday break. Thank you, you truly have made a difference.



With gratitude,



Dear Austin and Jessica Pennington and team,

KBYH would like to express their appreciation for your generosity and support of this past year's Christmas. By raising thousands of dollars and donating to our boys you demonstrated a personal commitment that was extremely helpful and allowed our boys to have one of the best Christmas holidays ever. Your assistance means so much to us, but even more to our boys. Furthermore, we want to thank you all for the encouraging words that touched the hearts of our boys and lifted their spirits.



Please accept our sincere thanks!



Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

February 9, 9:00-11:00AM: "Assisting with Self-Administration of Psych. Medications, Emancipations, & Independent Living" with Joe Ortega
RSVP to 396-2321

March 11, 6:00-8:00PM: "Managing Aggressive Behavior" with Mark Dominguez.

April 13, 9:00-11:00AM: "Supporting Children and Non-Minor Dependents in School" with Bibi Carrasco. RSVP to 396-2354

Ongoing Trainings

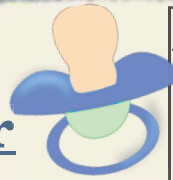
Mark Dominguez will be offering the following trainings on an ongoing basis (participants must RSVP by the Thursday prior to the training to 661-865-2352):

CPR/1st Aid Recertification (for anyone who has previously had CPR/1st Aid training): First Monday 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.



Kern Bridges Baby Fever



- Stephanie and Tony Martinez welcomed their daughter, Savannah, on December 5, 2018! Savannah weighed 6 lbs., 7 oz., and was 18" long. She was initially in the NICU with Jaundice but is home doing well now. Congrats to the Martinez family!
- On December 2, 2018, the Kate and Eric Viramontes family was blessed with a beautiful 7 lb 12 oz baby girl. The stork delivered Elizabeth Lynn Viramontes just in time for Christmas. Mom and dad, grandparents Teresa and Everardo Viramontes, and aunt and uncle Monica and Jose Alfaro, all shared in the special event.

Child Birthdays

January

- Karla Z: 1 year
- Alexa A: 2 years
- Sebastian H: 18 years
- Isak R: 18 years

February

- Landen S: 5 years



Resource Parent Birthdays

January

- Maria Allison: January 3
- Jesse Farewell: January 14

February

- John Gonzales: February 8
- Petrina Williams: February 9
- Aimee Robb: February 13
- Jose Alfaro: February 14
- Mario Caudillo: February 24
- Yaqueline Farewell: February 25

KBYH Staff Birthdays

January

- Donte Williams: January 16
- Stephen Zuniga: January 23
- Diana Gil: January 26
- Trina Smith: January 28

February

- Judy Pilchard: February 6
- Alfredo Hernandez: February 16
- Karina Garcia: February 19
- Marina Hernandez: February 22

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

January

- Rick Ramirez: 15 years
- Nestor Sanchez: 2 years
- Jennifer Robbins: 2 years
- Rachel Garcia: 1 year

February

- John Bacon: 19 years
- Anton Freeman: 3 years

If you haven't already, be sure to find KBYH on Facebook and be sure to "Like" us to get ongoing information and updates

facebook





Foster Youth of the Month: Mya W.

This month we are happy to recognize Mya as our youth of the month! Mya had been participating in the Wraparound Program with Aspiranet and Department of Human Services for nearly two years before she graduated from the program on January 16, 2019. The ultimate goal of the Wraparound Program is to give children the tools and support network to live and grow successfully with their foster families.

Mya has learned how to communicate effectively and express her emotions through this program and she is now able to integrate all the tools she learned into her relationships and daily life. Mya also attends Wonderful College Prep Academy in Delano where she is excelling and is excited about the prospect of college in her future. Mya's Resource Parents, Monica and Joe Alfaro, are proud of Mya as well and were also active supporters of Mya as she completed the Wraparound Program.

KBYH Foster Parents of the Month: Tracy & Christopher Dohzier

Although Tracy and Christopher were certified on 8-18-16, they have performed their Resource Parent responsibilities in a manner that rival some of our most experienced parents. They have taken care of foster children ranging from newborn to 12 years old. They are very loving, dedicated Resource Parents who have provided a wonderful home for the children who have been placed in their care. They treat every child as if they were their own and incorporate the child in every facet of their lives. They coach and train every child to behave appropriately at home and in public. They have gained the respect of this Agency's social workers. They have also received accolades from the Department of Human Services on how well they take care of each child placed in their home and often inquire if there any available spaces in their home. They are always there when we need them for respite or emergencies.

The Dozhier RH is truly an asset to Kern Bridges Youth Homes Inc., and is deserving of this recognition. In addition, they are in the process of giving a sibling set of three a forever home.

Backyard Safety

Here are some suggestions for keeping your yard safe for children:

- If you don't have a fenced yard, teach your child the boundaries within which she should play. Always have a responsible person supervise outdoor play.
- Check your yard for dangerous plants. Among preschoolers, plants are a leading cause of poisoning. If you are unsure about any of the plants in your yard, call your local Poison Help Line (1-800-222-1222) and request a list of poisonous plants common to your area. If you have any poisonous plants, either replace them or securely fence and lock that area of the yard away from your child.
- Teach your child never to pick and eat anything from a plant, no matter how good it looks, without your permission. This is particularly important if you let her help out in a vegetable garden where there's produce that could be eaten.
- If you use pesticides or herbicides on your lawn or garden, read the instructions carefully. Don't allow children to play on a treated lawn for at least forty-eight hours.
- Don't use a power mower to cut the lawn when young children are around. The mower may throw sticks or stones with enough force to injure them. Never have your child on a riding mower even when you are driving. It is safest to keep young children indoors while the lawn is being mowed.
- When you cook food outdoors, screen the grill so that your child cannot touch it, and explain that it is hot like the stove in the kitchen. Store propane grills so your child cannot reach the knobs. Be sure charcoal is cold before you dump it.
- Never allow your child to play unattended near traffic, and do not allow her to cross the street by herself, even if it is just to go to a waiting school bus.