

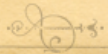
KBYH ADOPTION NEWS:

“A Gift Made for Us”

It was a match made in heaven when the adoption of Jaxton and Landen was finalized on 11-3-21. Their journey had started on 6-14-19 after the Doverspike family had met 2 boys through a family friend that needed to be placed together in a home. The Doverspike's, who had previously been KBYH Foster and Adoptive Parents, began the process of becoming Resource Parents once again. Jaxton and Landen were placed in their home on 7-12-19. It was a long 2 years, but the happy moment finally arrived on that special day.



Congratulations to the Doverspike family. We wish you the very best the future has to offer.



Upcoming Trainings

January 13, 6:00-8:00pm

“Core Practice Model”
with Ruth Jackson

February 5, 9:00 - 11:00 am

“Assisting with Self-Administration of
Psych. Medication, Emancipation and
Independent Living”
with Joe Ortega

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 Carrie Wombacher
carrie@kernbridges.com

“Welcome a New Child into your Home ”

January 25, 2022

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Wishmas Trees 2021

We were blessed with a tremendous “Wishmas Tree” experience this Christmas. Kern county’s generosity from a large number of businesses from all around town once again stepped up and made it special for many of Kern County’s foster children.

Then the explosion occurred. With 3-Way Chevrolet, Monte Wilson and Danielle Murphy leading the way, they adopted KBYH and coordinated with James Galindo and Joey DeAnne Zachary of Channel 17 to really boost us over the top. Over 600 gifts covering wishes of all kinds were received. So many, we needed rescuing on the wrapping side of things.

Just like in the movies, a group of wonderful and willing good guys and girls from Frontier High School and Golden Valley High School arrived just in time one cold and chilly morning at our front door to help wrap the mountain of gifts

What a great day it was!!! Thank you to everyone who made this a very memorable Christmas for so many of the foster youth in our community.



January

Anniversaries

KBYH Resoure Parents

- Mary Ybarra 1 year

KBYH Staff

- Rick Ramirez 8 years
- Jennifer Robbins 5 years
- Karissa Aguinaga 2 years

Birthdays

Child Birthdays

- Devin S. 1/10 12 years

Resource Parent Birthdays

- Maria Allison 1/3



Birthdays

KBYH Staff

- Lizvette Alvarez 4
- Donte Williams 16
- Diana Gil 26
- Trina Smith 28

Happy Anniversary

Community Spotlight



The Children's Home Society of California has a long history of supporting the work of KBYH's adoption program, dating back to 2013. Their ongoing support has made numerous initiatives and projects possible, most notably our annual adoption family camp: Camp Forever. This year, CHS has again made a substantial donation, ensuring that Camp Forever will be around again this summer. If you have adopted a foster youth through Kern County and the child(ren) is still a minor (and over the age of 5), you most likely qualify to attend. Watch your mailbox around July 2022, or contact KBYH to inquire.

Youth in Action

Frontier High School again adopted KBYH this Christmas season. Their staff provided numerous gifts to help make foster children Christmas wishes come true and FHS alum Courtney VanderZwan returned to help us manage all those gifts. Also, a big thank you to the Spanish Honor Society from Frontier High School for coming out to help wrap presents this year.



Child Safety

Parents and caregivers, it is up to you to familiarize themselves with safety risks in and around your home and community. 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.](#)



Risks of Button Batteries

Young children have a tendency to put things in their mouths. Every parent knows this, but parents don't always recognize the hidden dangers lurking inside seemingly harmless items, such as remote control devices and keyless remote door openers for vehicles. [Button batteries](#) if swallowed can cause serious injury or death.



Staying Safe at School

As summer draws to a close and children start heading back to school, family life can get pretty hectic. It's important to remember – and share with your children – some key tips that will help [keep them safe and healthy throughout the school year.](#)

Playground Safety

Playgrounds are a place for fun and a place for skinned knees. Nearly 80% of playground injuries are caused by falls. Parents can take the hurt out of the equation by familiarizing themselves with safety risks and [watching for potential hazards.](#)

Concussions

Every three minutes, a child in the U.S. is treated for a sports-related concussion. Learn how to [identify concussion symptoms and steps to keep kids safer](#) on the playing field.



Children and Medicines

Dangerous poisons are lurking in your medicine cabinet. Prescription and over-the-counter [medications can be deadly, especially for children.](#) Store medicine up and away from small children. Talk with older kids about the danger of using medications in unintended ways.

Staying Safe Outdoors

NSC offers a wide range of tips to help you and your family [stay safe outdoors.](#) Whether the weather is warm or cold, you don't want to put an end to the fun because of an injury.

Window Safety

More than 3,000 children are injured seriously enough in falls out of windows to require medical attention every year. One child dies every month from window cord strangulation. Learn about risks children face around windows, and also how windows are [vital to survival](#) as emergency escape routes.



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



Youth Spotlight

Kern Bridges Child of the Month: Angelica B.

This month we are happy to spotlight Angelica as our youth of the month! Angelica loves all things K Pop, is a straight A student, and is involved in a few clubs on campus at her high school. Angelica enjoys spending time with her ISFC Rehab Specialist, Calixto Gamboa, who recently treated her to a manicure to reward her for her GPA.

Angelica has signed up for a Bakersfield College class that she will attend concurrently this spring with her high school curriculum. Angelica's Resource Parents, Teresa and Everado, are proud and supportive of Angelica as she works towards her goals of high school graduation and college. Great job Angelica and keep up the great work!!

Supervised Visitation Center Spotlight

The Supervised Visitation Program is happy to share that another family has been reunified! John and his son Josiah have been visiting here at our program since May of 2021. Josiah was just 3 weeks old at the time their visits began. From day one it was evident that John was determined to regain custody of his son. John shared with us that he was not proud of his past, but losing his son is what it took for him to turn his life around. John acquired a job and a home while remaining diligent in following the steps necessary to bring his son home. After 7 months of perseverance, John was able to bring Josiah home just in time for Christmas. It was an honor to watch John and Josiah's relationship form throughout their time here at the SVP. Thank you to John Bacon for his donation of a Christmas tree to the Supervised Visitation Program. Because of this we were able to gift the tree to John and Josiah for them to enjoy during their first Christmas together.

Magical Time of the Year

There are plenty of reasons why they say winter is the most magical time of the year for children. From Secret Santa to delicious food and bringing in a new year, what's not to love? Kern Bridges holiday season is a time of love, laughter, joy, and giving. Our greatest joy during this time of the year is seeing the children living in our STRTPs smile from ear to ear when they receive unique, charitable Christmas gifts. The kindness and generosity during this Christmas were much appreciated. All those who helped with our Wishmas Tree Donations, gift collections, and 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 and your support won't be forgotten.

Also, we would like to thank the one and only 2019 Miss California Junior Teen, JoVi Mongold. JoVi and her parents gave each boy at Kern Bridges a personal Christmas stocking filled with gift cards, cookies, candy, and books. In addition, JoVi gave a dynamite motivational speech for the boys. They were all touched and inspired. JoVi's donation came through her nonprofit, "B4others (Be Blessed By Blessing Others). KBYH would like to take this time to recognize JoVi and her parents 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.

