



NEWSLETTER

July 2015

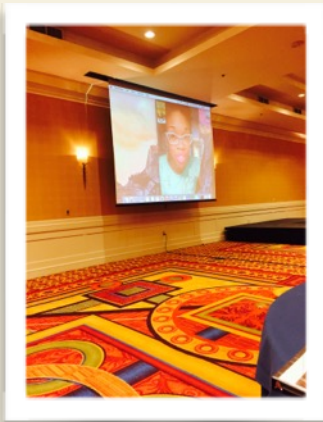
kernbridges.com

TELEPHONE
661-396-2301

FACSIMILE
661-396-2349

KERN BRIDGES YOUTH HOMES

CLOSURE



On June 16, over 100 people, including adoption social workers, adoptive families, adoptee's, county social workers, counselors, and FFA social workers, gathered at the Bakersfield Marriott for a screening of the documentary "Closure." The film's subject, Angela, a young adult who documented her journey to find her birth family, was scheduled to be present. Due to flight complications she was unable to make it in person, however, she was just as personal and present via FaceTime. Our deepest thanks to Angela for her very open and honest response to a wide variety of audience questions and reactions. You can view the documentary for free at www.closuredocumentary.com

Summer Camp

KBYH's annual foster youth summer camp is coming up, August 2-5. If your youth is interested, be sure to contact a KBYH Social Worker.



Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

July 15, 6:00-8:00PM:
"Communication" with Lillian Adkins

August 20, 6:00-8:00PM:
"Managing Aggressive Behavior" with Mark Dominguez

September 12, 9:00-11:00AM:
"Positive Discipline/Self-Esteem" with Ruth Jackson

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.

KBYH Staff Spotlight

Trina Smith

Trina has been with KBYH since 2008. She started off as a Facility Manager in the group home, then became a Lead Facility Manager, and more recently has promoted to Weekend Residential Supervisor. She was also recently voted Employee of the Year. Trina earned her AS degree in Human Services with a minor in Psych in July 2009 and her BS degree in Criminal Justice Administration in March 2013. She is expecting to graduate with her MA degree in Criminal Justice Homeland Security in 2016. She has a 16 year old daughter who has also already shown a commitment to caring for children.



Adoption, part III

On June 26, 2015, the Henry family adopted their son, Thomas Clayton Henry. Thomas is the Henry's third child to be adopted. We are truly happy for the Henry family. Congrats!!!!



DID YOU KNOW...

KBYH staff are involved in a wide variety of professional activities including:

- 1) Participating in the following committees: National Adoption Day, Sibling Event, CSEC, FFA Consortium, Group Home Coalition, QPI and RDS
- 2) John Bacon is a certified PREA auditor
- 3) Jim VanderZwan is a federal CFSR Reviewer
- 4) Kathy Irwin is a Notary
- 5) John Bacon, Mark Dominguez and Bibi Carrasco are certified MAB trainers
- 6) Jim VanderZwan and Jessica Mosley are certified PRIDE trainers
- 7) Mark Dominguez, Bibi Carrasco, and John Bacon are certified CPR/1st Aid instructors
- 8) KBYH is one of the only agencies in the state authorized to teach the Group Home Administrator's class
- 9) KBYH is **NATIONALLY** accredited by C.O.A.
- 10) Camp Forever chair, Kern County's first Adoption Family Camp

Child Birthdays

July 2: Noha C.
 July 4: Nathien C.
 July 28: Isabel M.

Foster Parent Birthdays

July 4: Arturo Espinoza
 July 4: Linda Hibbard
 July 9: Michael Suorsa
 July 11: Mohesly Palencia
 July 13: Tina Maestas
 July 14: Rodolfo Cisneros
 July 15: Wendy Mayes
 July 16: Carmen Cercado
 July 16: Maribel Rivera
 July 23: Gloria Thompson
 July 26: Robert Gonzales
 July 27: Sylvia Martinez

KBYH Staff Birthdays

July 4: Ruth Jackson
 July 23: Fernando Ortega

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

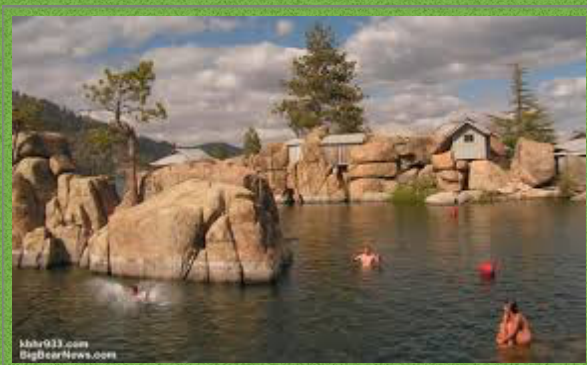
Carrie Wombacher: 5 years
 Trina Smith: 7 years
 Ronnie Wofford: 10 years
 Mindy Elbaum: 14 years
 Joe Ortega: 15 years

Group Home Summer Fun



Last month both of our group homes joined together and went on a three-day camping trip to Southern California's favorite mountain getaway-----Big Bear!!! Big Bear is considered to be a very unique and historic campground that attracts thousands and thousands of people each and every year. It is an affordable family destination offering a

great variety of activities year-round. According to all of the boys and our childcare staff that attended this trip, you cannot beat the ambience surrounding the entire campground. The boys had the opportunity to stay in luxurious cabins and play lots of basketball against our staff during the trip. This summer break and escape to Big Bear Lake gave our boys all the pleasure the great outdoors has to offer. It was definitely rejuvenating and a good time to enjoy a beautiful mountain setting full of adventures.





Foster Child of the Month: Anthony G.

This month we would like to recognize Anthony G. as child of the month. Anthony was placed in the Salas home on 7-8-14. This is Anthony's second time in foster care in his 3 and half years on this earth and initially had a hard time adjusting. After the first few weeks in the Salas home, Anthony started to feel like part of the family. He now has a bright affect and affectionately calls his foster parents "Mom and Dad." Anthony told his foster mother that he wanted to go to pre-school and after being on the waiting list for 2 months, he was finally enrolled in Early Headstart. Foster mother stated that Anthony is excited to go to school every day. She states that he gets up early to get ready to go to school. His teacher states that Anthony is developmentally on target. The Salas home is in the process of adopting Anthony and hope to give him a forever home by November 2015.

Foster Family of the Month: Maria Carrillo

We take pleasure in recognizing Maria Carrillo as July's Foster Parent of the Month. Over a year ago Mrs. Carrillo and her husband joined KBYH. Since becoming foster parents, the Carrillo's proved themselves as a dedicated, loyal and caring family who were committed to the foster care profession. Together, they cared for two sets of children for almost a year until last month when tragedy impacted the home. Mr. Carrillo passed away leaving Mrs. Carrillo to operate the home herself. With the help of her daughter Griselda, Mrs. Carrillo decided to continue with foster care. Mrs. Carrillo has done a wonderful job caring for the needs of the children placed under her care as evidenced by significant improvements in the children. Mrs. Carrillo is unafraid of undertaking challenges. When asked to accept difficult children she smiles and usually says, "I'll try." Thank you for opening your home and making a big difference in the lives of foster children. Congratulations on your selection as this month's Foster Family of the Month.

DHS Social Worker of the Month: Jennifer Robbins

Kern Bridges Youth Homes would like to recognize Jennifer Robbins. Jennifer has worked for the Kern County Department of Human Services for 12 years. She has worked in Family Services, ILP, Permanent Placement, and most recently in Adoptions. She graduated from BC, CSU Fresno, and received her MSW from CSU Bakersfield in 2007. Jennifer stated that adoptions has been a rewarding experience in assisting children find permanency. She is also looking forward to participating in "Camp Forever", Kern County's first adoption family camp. Jennifer has been an asset to our adoptions work. She works in a timely manner and has responded quickly with any information we need. Jennifer has a great rapport with her families and we are happy to work with her. Thank you Jennifer for all your hard work and dedication.



Vicki

Vicki, a counselor at Child Guidance, has been a great help to several foster children at KBYH. She is forever patient with the children, teaching them consequences, values, and boundaries. She has been involved with the "Dinosaur Class" at Child Guidance, which teaches the children social skills. She also provides individual, group and family counseling. She has been a firm advocate and support to the children at school by going to the school, providing training to the teachers regarding behavior modification at the school, and initiating 504 plans for children who have needs which interfere with learning. In addition to all these services, she goes to foster parents' homes to provide training, counseling and support. Thank you for all the help. You have been a warm and knowledgeable asset to our families and children.



In Memoriam Ruthie Lee Weathers

Born
August 14, 1952
Died
May 22, 2015

Mrs. Weathers was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, friend, and KBYH family member. Her departure was untimely and had an impact upon all who knew her.

Mrs. Weathers was born in Arkansas. She moved with her family to El Centro, California. She was one of three sisters. In October 12, 1985 she married William Larry Weathers, a Navy veteran. Together they established residency in Bakersfield. During August 2001, Mrs. and Mr. Weathers underwent training to become a Certified Home with Kern Bridges Youth Homes. They completed their training and became certified. During April 2010 the Weathers completed a home study for the purpose of adopting a girl and boy. Their petition was approved and the Weathers adopted a daughter and son. The couple continued as foster parents and in August 2011 they received a baby boy intended for adoption. Around the end of 2013, the Weathers adopted their 3rd child and decided not to continue foster care. Shortly after their second son was adopted, tragedy struck the family when Mr. Weathers passed away. Mrs. Weathers continued to care for her family as a single mother until she passed away just after Mothers Day.

Mrs. Weathers was a kind and helpful woman. She devoted much time to her church, always giving of herself and praising her Lord. She was respected and well-liked by her children, foster children, relatives and friends. As a foster mother, Mrs. Weathers readily accepted challenges with a smile, and she always cared for her family. She enjoyed life and above all, loved her husband and companion. Ruthie had a contagious smile and always had a kind word to say to those around her. Even though Ruthie has passed away, her memory will remain with those who loved and knew her. Many of the stories written in her lifetime will surely be shared with her grandchildren.

Mrs. Weathers is survived by her children, many relatives and friends. Mrs. Weathers joined her husband, Larry, at a place of Honor at the Bakersfield National Cemetery near Arvin, California.



SAFETY

Heat-Related Illnesses - Prevention

The following tips may help prevent a heat-related illness. Be aware of the symptoms of heat-related illnesses and the warning signs of dehydration.

- Practice heat safety measures when you are physically active in hot weather. This is especially important for outdoor workers and military personnel. Avoid strenuous activity in hot, humid weather or during the hottest part of the day (between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.). Use caution during your physical activity in the heat if you have health risks.
 - Drink plenty of water before, during, and after you are active. This is very important when it's hot out and when you do intense exercise. Fluids such as rehydration drinks, juices, or water help replace lost fluids, especially if you sweat a lot.
 - o Drink on schedule. Two hours before exercising, drink 24 fl oz (750 mL) of fluid. Drink 16 fl oz (500 mL) of fluid 15 minutes before exercising. Continue drinking 8 fl oz (250 mL) of fluid every 15 minutes while exercising.
 - o Drink rehydration drinks, which are absorbed as quickly as water but also replace sugar, sodium, and other nutrients. Eat fruits and vegetables to replace nutrients.
 - o Check your urine. Urine should be clear to pale yellow, and there should be a large amount if you are drinking adequately. You should urinate every 2 to 4 hours during an activity when you are staying properly hydrated. If your urine output decreases, drink more fluids.
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