



NEWSLETTER

June 2015

kernbridges.com

TELEPHONE
661-396-2301

FACSIMILE
661-396-2349

KERN BRIDGES YOUTH HOMES

IN MEMORIAM

Benito Carrillo Torres

Born
March 1, 1957

Died
May 4, 2015

Mr. Carrillo was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, friend, and Kern Bridges Youth Homes family member. His departure was untimely and had an impact upon all of us.

Mr. Carrillo was born in Durango, Mexico. He was one of 8 children. Mr. Carrillo came to the United States in 1976. He married in 1979 and was naturalized in 2000. He and his wife settled in Frazier Park where they chose to offer themselves and their home to foster care. In early 2014 the Carrillo's became a Certified Home and immediately received their first assignment. The couple operated an outstanding foster home together.

Mr. Carrillo was a fine man, a gentleman. He provided for the family working with Siemen's and also working part-time in Gorman, CA. He was respected and well-liked by his children and foster children. As a foster father, Mr. Carrillo readily accepted challenges with a smile and he always cared for his family. He enjoyed life and, above all, loved his wife and companion. He had a contagious smile and always had a kind word to say to those around him.

His family remembers all of the wonderful things that he did as they grew older too. He was always there for those he loved and knew, for all of his relatives and friends, regardless of what directions they took or what happened in their lives.

Many of the stories written in his lifetime will surely be shared with his grandchildren and extended family. Mr. Carrillo is survived by his wonderful wife, Maria; daughter, Griselda; sons, Raul and Benito; brothers, Antonio and Pedro; and many relatives and friends.

Mr. Carrillo will be missed.

Save the Date

KBYH's annual summer camping trip will be August 2-5. Stay tuned for more details.



Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

June 6, 9:00AM-1:00PM: "Case Management/Accessing Children's Services" with Joe Ortega

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

August 20, 6:00-8:00PM: "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.

KBYH Staff Spotlight

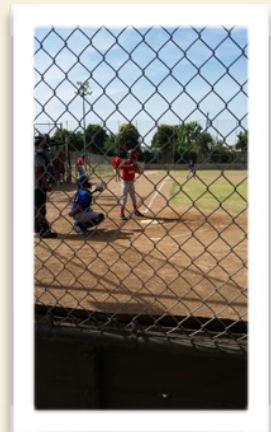
Bibi Carrasco

Bibi Carrasco is a KBYH FFA Social Worker who provides all his families and their children with his undivided attention. He is also the father of 5 children (Carson 4, Avery 6, Macey 9, Ethan 12, Haley 14) and husband to his beautiful wife Karen. Bibi has been with KBYH for 16 years and in the Social Services field for 18 years. He has coached football in the Kern High School District for the past 19 years and is currently a Position Coach for the Centennial High School varsity football team.



CONGRATS

Haley: Honor Role
 Analexis: Honor Role
 Nathien: Perfect Attendance
 Finna: Perfect Attendance, Student of the Month, Excellent Citizenship, Outstanding Achievement
 Angelica: Honor Role, Perfect Attendance



Christian at bat, for the first time in his life!

GRADUATES

Angel graduated from Pre-K. He learned the basic academics presented but also learned all of the alphabet and the phonics for each letter. He loves to learn and is looking forward to attending Kindergarten.

Haley graduated from Junior High with astounding grades and attitude. Her birth family was allowed to attend her graduation which was a plus for increasing the rapport between the families. Have a great time in high school! We are proud of you.

Cheyenne had a late start for earning her high school credits before she was placed in the Cortez home. She earned all her credits, graduated, and has registered for Bakersfield College. Have a great future!

Miriam S. graduated from Golden Valley High School

Isak Robles graduated from 8th Grade, Freedom Middle School

Kayla Monarrez graduated from 8th grade, El Tejon School

My name is Rose Marie M. I graduated from Centennial High School and am employed at



Wendy's. I have the best momma ever, that being Tina! My interests are singing, caring and being around animals. I plan on going to Bakersfield College to become a veterinarian technician and hopefully work my way up to becoming a marine biologist.

Child Birthdays

June 3: Saylean O.
 June 7: Cheyenne C.
 June 8: Zachary L.
 June 22: Alex V.
 June 25: Bryson D.
 June 26: Jamari N.



Foster Parent Birthdays

June 4: Timi Mongold
 June 6: Joseph Cisneros
 June 21: Maria Carrillo
 June 27: Diana Cisneros

KBYH Staff Birthdays

June 9: James Boston
 June 21: Mindy Elbaum
 June 28: John Bacon

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

Tamika Worthy: 1 year
 Mark Dominguez: 6 years
 Donte Williams: 9 years
 Vernetta Carter: 9 years
 Robert Carter: 15 years

Congratulations Class of 2015

*Two of KBYH group home youth graduated from high school last month. Congrats to both of you!!!!

*KBYH would like to take this opportunity to thank the two school districts that our youth graduated from last month: McFarland High School and Kern High School Districts. Thank you for really working with our youth through troubled times and we ask for your continued support with our program moving forward.



*KBYH believes graduation is important because it is a rite of passage to so many people. When a person graduates, it signifies the move from a previous form of existence to a more mature being. Many youth come to the realization that graduation can be life changing; two phases of life that helps tie different parts of a life together. A graduation is not just an end; it is a new beginning and the start of a new chapter in a person's life, whether it is another school year, or the entry into the workforce.

From Homeless to Graduate



KBYH would like to acknowledge Mr. Alajandro "Alex" R. for graduating the 12th grade. KBYH children all have a unique story to tell about the journey that brought them to graduation day. Alex has been living at our Casa de Ninos facility since August 2012. He has benefited from AB-12, which extended his group home placement past the age of 18. Alex has overcome challenges to get to where he is today. He grew up in an unstable family environment and lived on the streets at an early age. Then in 2012, Alex came to Casa de Ninos where he was given stability and a place that he could call home. Over the past few years, Alex has had his ups and downs, but he never gave up on his goals and dreams. Alex has already signed up to attend Bakersfield College this up-coming school year. He is now on the waiting list for an apartment through the THC-Plus program here in Kern County. Alex's life long goal is to become a Mechanical Engineer.

Congratulation Alex, we are proud of you!

*This note and photo were approved by Alex



Foster Child of the Month: Marcos

Marcos will be a Junior next year. He enjoys many sports such as football, soccer, and basketball, however, his favorite sport is soccer. Marcos is very sociable. He has a job working in the catering business which involves hard physical work but it also involves great social skills. Marcos is great with children. He is patient with them and gets them to laugh and play. He is looking toward the future by working, improving his grades and determining his career goals. We're proud of you and all you've accomplished!

Foster Parents of the Year: Thompson and Henry families

Congratulations to these very deserving co-foster families of the year. Please be sure to read their recognitions on page 5. At our annual foster parent dinner, we also recognized the Brians/Mercier and Rivera families for their outstanding work with children who have had extensive medical needs, the Maestas family for excellence in dealing with a very complex/high profile case, and the Bowers family for being our Rookies of the Year for their excellent care of a child who has had a heart transplant.

Public Health Nurse Spotlight: Monique Moreland

Monique is a foster care public health nurse who KBYH would like to thank for her amazing work, incredible dedication, and competent care. Monique has recently been instrumental in ensuring appropriate care for a KBYH foster child who has had a heart transplant. Monique immediately took the lead to help coordinate the care she needed, took extensive time to assist the KBYH foster family who has placement of her, and addressed all of the health-related concerns. Monique has always been known to be a conscientious advocate for the health needs of foster youth and when we needed her most, she was there to walk us through it. Thank you Monique for all you do.

2015 Foster Parents of the Year: Thompson and Henry

Charles and Gloria Thompson are outstanding foster parents who are highly deserving of this special recognition as co-foster parents of the year. Since they were certified in 2010, they have gained the respect from this agency's social workers and social workers from the Department of Human Services as evidenced by the Thompson's receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from the Department of Human Services on May 7, 2015 in recognition of their dedication and providing a safe and loving home to the children in their care and for their commitment to their development. Since becoming foster parents, they have had 25 regular placements and 9 ER placements, ranging in age from 2 months to 17 years old. The Thompson's are involved in every facet of the child's life when they are placed in their home. All children are treated like they are a part of the family and are encouraged to participate in weekly family meetings and movie night on Fridays. The Thompson's have met the needs of every child placed in their home. They have attended many school conferences, school activities, attended court, asked to speak in court by the child's attorney, attended IEP's, TDM's, counseling assessments, speech therapy, specialized health appointments and 2 surgeries at Children's Hospital in Madera, just to name a few. The Thompson's are able to work in partnership with the biological families and provide them with support during the reunification process. The Thompson's speak to the biological parents with respect and treats them with dignity. They let the biological parents know that they are only taking care of their children until they complete their case plan and reunify with their children, so they do not feel threatened. The Thompson's provide the children with patience and guidance in order to help the children feel at ease before and after their visits with their biological parents. The biological parents thank them for taking good care of their children and putting their minds at ease while their children are in foster care. On November 18, 2011 the Thompson's changed Joseph's life forever by adopting him and making him a permanent part of their family. Joseph will proudly tell you that his name is Joseph Thompson. The Thompson's are now in the process of adopting 2 special needs children. These 2 children are hoping to have a forever home by Nov. 2015. Thank you, Thompson family, for all you do and CONGRATULATIONS!



Mrs. Thompson receiving her recognition at the DHS foster parent

Josh and Sara Henry are amazing foster parents who have had a long road to finally adopting children.

They took on a child from Heart Gallery who they adopted in January of this year. Another child they adopted in March was a media sensation. They handled the media and all the heartbreak of the circumstances exceptionally well. They are adopting another child in June. Although they did want to adopt an infant, they actually adopted children who were three and older.



During their ordeals, they were able to gain the trust and respect of birth family members and social workers. They communicated well with the social workers, providing updates regarding the progress and needs of the children. The Henry's were advocates for the children regarding their health, safety, educational and emotional needs. They were well known and respected by the children's teachers. The Henry's participated actively with the Child Guidance services and guidelines for stabilizing and nurturing the children.

Josh and Sara take turns spending one on one time with the children. They have traveled as a family to Disneyland, the Beach and to many extended family activities. They have enrolled the children in sports and Josh is even the coach for soccer. They have not been afraid to ask for help from the social workers, friends, and family who support them. Sara became a foster parent mentor for

KBYH and they attend the monthly adoption support group consistently, giving and taking advice and support. They loved, loved, loved their children giving them many verbal and written positive affirmations. Thank you Josh and Sara for your dedication and continued desire to learn to be amazing parents!

SAFETY

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School is out. Some are or will be attending summer school, but most are expected to vacation and recreate. Please review these safety procedures:

- Inventory first aid kits
- Review your First Aid and CPR training
- Examine emergency equipment, radios, rope, water, flashlights, food, etc.
- Wear appropriate safety equipment during all activities which require use of such equipment.
- Use sunscreen when out in the sun.
- Dress properly for the occasion.
- Avoid use of alcoholic beverages when engaged in water or other sports.
- DRIVE SAFELY

THINK SAFETY and HAVE A WONDERFUL BUT SAFE SUMMER

CLOSURE

A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT ADOPTION

KERN BRIDGES YOUTH HOMES CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A SPECIAL SCREENING

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2015
BAKERSFIELD MARRIOTT AT THE CONVENTION CENTER
5:00-9:00PM
\$10.00/PERSON

REGISTER AT WWW.KERNBRIDGES.COM



THE EVENING INCLUDES THE FILM SCREENING, DINNER, AND A Q&A WITH ANGELA TUCKER (SUBJECT OF CLOSURE) AFTER THE FILM

THIS EVENT IS BEING PROVIDED THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF THE CALIFORNIA CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY