

## Summer's Here!



Here at KBYH, our group homes kicked off the summer early with a 3 day camping trip that included white water rafting and rock climbing. Adolescent boys find the challenges of the great outdoors both invigorating and exciting. Our residents were able to decompress from all that goes with city life. Being in nature, away from cars, smog, and the lights of town provides a tranquil opportunity to reconnect with themselves and lends itself to building positive relationships with the staff and other residents. We are planning our next trip for June which will be camping at Bass Lake and hiking Vernal Falls in Yosemite.

# Congrats

**Honor Roll:**

Fina C.  
Nathaniel C.

**Perfect Attendance:** Nathien C.

**Citizenship:** Fina C.

**Class Artist:** Efrain C.

**Most Improved:** Nathien C.



## KBYH Board Spotlight: Vic Swall

I was born and raised in Bakersfield and graduated from BHS in 1991. I served in the U.S. Navy from 1992-2000. I was stationed on the USS Sacramento out of Bremerton, WA. 1992-1997 and Kaneohe Marine Corp Base 1997-2000. I returned to Bakersfield in 2000 where I went to B.C. and the University of La Verne while partnering in my father's business, MS Painting, until 2006. In 2006 I was hired as the Director of Security and Guest Services at Rabobank Arena, Theater, and Convention Center. In 2013 I left the Arena when I had the fortunate opportunity to be hired by the City of Bakersfield and attend the Bakersfield Police Department Academy. In June 2013 I graduated the Academy and was sworn in as Police Officer. I am married to my wonderful wife Helen Swall of 22 years, and we have two amazing sons, Benjamin and Bryce, both of which currently attend BHS. Helen and I have been involved with the sport of roller derby for the last 8 years with both the Bakersfield Diamond Divas and the Diamond City Minors, Helen as a player and I as a coach. Our passion for the sport and skating is what lead to us partnering with my parents, Mike and Marie Swall, in purchasing Skateland in December 2014. I was very excited about the opportunity to sit on the Board of Directors for KBYH. I have coached youth sports for almost 20 years and I felt it was a good opportunity to continue giving back to the community, as well as have a positive impact on the youth in our community from a another positive perspective.

## Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

**July 13, 6-8PM:** "Communication" with Lillian Adkins

**August 18, 6-8PM:** "Managing Aggressive Behavior" with Mark Dominguez

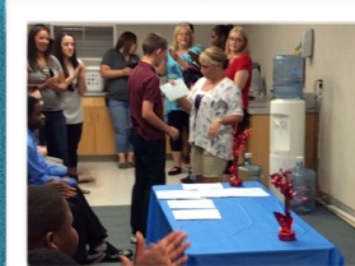
**September 10, 9-11AM:** "Positive Discipline/Self-Esteem" with Ruth Jackson

## 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.



**Aurora 8th  
Grade  
Graduation.  
Congrats  
Cameron!**

**Congratulations to all our grads!!**

**Kindergarten:**

Mylee W.  
Macelyn L.

**High School**

Joshua R.  
Zachary L.  
Marlin V.  
Bradley C.

**Completed 1st Year at CSUB:**

Miriam S.



**Child Birthdays**

July 2: Noha C.  
July 4: Nathan C.  
July 4: Jeffrey W.  
July 11: Elianah A.  
July 21: Israel O.  
July 28: Isabel M.



**Foster Parent Birthdays**

July 4: Arturo Espinoza  
July 4: Linda Hibbard  
July 9: Michael Suorsa  
July 11: Mohealy Palencia  
July 13: Tina Maestas  
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**

Michael Ramirez: 1 Year  
Carrie Wombacher: 6 Years  
Trina Smith: 8 Years  
Ronnie Wofford: 11 Years  
Joe Ortega: 16 Years

**LILLIAN ADKINS, LCSW**



As many of you know, Lillian is planning to retire early next year. As such, she was honored at our recent Foster Parent and Volunteer appreciation dinner. The following is an excerpt from the tribute that was given by foster and adoptive parent Alexis Edwards: "Lillian Adkins and I have been working together since 2012 when my husband and I were starry eyed new foster parents with a desire to adopt a single, little girl. We met Lillian during our very first case when we were placed with two girls. Shortly after we were placed, we learned that the case was being extended six months, the girls had some challenges to overcome and we were new to everything. We navigated services, therapists, and a LOT of behaviors with Lillian by our side. She was always available to give us guidance and reassure us that we were making progress, even when it seemed like we weren't. Lillian went out of her way to accompany us to meet a little boy way out at Edward's Air Force base, on a holiday no less, to make sure that he was a good fit for our family. For those who are familiar with Lillian, no, she didn't drive. Then, Lillian talked us through our first big loss when, after a year, we said goodbye to our two girls which was really, really hard. Lillian then saw us through our adoption of our son in 2013. We were sure we still had the desire to adopt a girl, but we were still grieving our first long case. Lillian made sure we were emotionally prepared to continue. She even met with our older son to see how he was doing and help us be sure that continuing to foster would be the right thing for us as a family. When we saw other placements leave and were ready to quit, Lillian told us to keep going. She always encouraged my crazy love of networking and was just as excited as I was when I met a new DHS social worker who might remember me when it came time to place a new child. This year we adopted our daughter. It took a while but, like Lillian had promised, she is so, so worth the wait. Because we wanted to honor Lillian as part of our journey we named our daughter Jane Lillian. That is how much Lillian has meant to our family.

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## Foster Child of the Month: Joshua R.

Joshua was placed in the Caudillo home on 5-29-15 from a group home. Prior to being placed in the Caudillo CH, Joshua attended 2 different high schools and 3 different Community Schools. This year, Joshua graduated from Stockdale High School and will attend Cuesta College in the Fall. We are all proud of his transformation. Keep up the good work Joshua and we know that you will continue to make good choices in the future.

## Foster Family of the Month: Moe and Tara Smith

Moe and Tara are a foster family with KBYH who recently became certified in order to take placement of a special young man in their life who they knew would be needing a home, and on Memorial Day, Cristian went to live with the Smith family. They had arranged a "Coming Home" BBQ to mark the occasion that included many of Cristian's friends and the Smith's extended family. They already have him involved in baseball and Moe is trying to live out his younger years by attempting to show Cristian his skateboarding skills. We appreciate the Smith family recognizing the need and taking the many steps necessary to answer the call.

## Social Worker Spotlight: Matilda Briones

Matilda was born and raised in Bakersfield by her migrant farm working parents. She was the eighth of nine children. Matilda has one son, one granddaughter, one grandson plus one grandson on the way. She has been married for seven years. Matilda was employed with DHS for seventeen years: 2 years in eligibility, 5 years CPS, 10 years in Employment and Financial Service, and returned to CPS in November of last year. Before starting at DHS, Matilda worked in fast food for years plus as a young person worked as a farm laborer. She attained her AA degree through B.C. with a major in Liberal Studies. She received her BS at CSUB in Business Administration with a concentration in HR and a CCADAC Certificate from Extended University CSUB. She was accepted into the MSW program at CSUB! Her life, education and work experience has enabled her to have the skills needed when dealing with her clients and foster parents. She is persevering and detail minded. Matilda is able to take away from her busy schedule to communicate to a troubled child or encourage an overwhelmed foster parent. She listens to a birth parent giving them every chance to improve their parenting skills. Thank you Matilda for being part of our team and for all you do.



# SAFETY

## Lillian Adkins Continued

Lillian is so much more than a social worker to her families. She is a mentor, a friend, a motivator and an incredibly funny, warm hearted person. Other foster parents had the following to say: Shawnda Banks said "She is always there when I need to talk, to cry, or to hold my hand and keep me sane (for the most part) on this crazy foster care journey. She is honest, straightforward and has so much empathy and compassion. That is truly unique for a social worker. I have not met anyone with her spunk, love and smiles as I have gone through this journey. We have cried many tears together." Jennifer Brians said "Without the support of Lillian we would have never been perfectly matched with our little family. She went above and beyond to make sure we had everything we needed. She is everything these kids and adoptive parents need to get through stuff in their case." I feel like it's not just a job for her and every case she has she can tell you, without looking at notes, what the kids names are, who they are placed with, their school, birth family history, she can even give a bit about their personality." You might notice a common theme from Lillian's foster families. "Goes above and beyond," and "always there." Lillian doesn't do these things because she has to do them, but truly because she wants to. She is just that kind of person. When she retires, I can say that the families she has worked with will miss her greatly. They won't stop calling her, but they'll miss her. Lillian, you will forever be one of the greatest influences of my life and I want you to know you are appreciated, admired and loved by those of us you have served. Thank you.

# SAFETY

## Sports Safety 101: Are AEDs Available during Practices and Games?

An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is used to rescue a person suffering from cardiac arrest. It's an important tool to have on hand during practices and games if a child is not responsive, not breathing and does not have a pulse.

Below are some quick tips to help you locate an AED to ensure the proper equipment is available when your child is participating in sports.

Talk to your child's coach.

- Is he/she CPR and AED certified?
- If not, who is certified and present during practices and games?
- Where is the nearest AED available during home and away events?

Consider these action steps to help ensure an AED is available in your community.

- Contact field organizers/owners for information about the availability of AEDs.
- Encourage sports organizations to do research in advance of the season to schedule games and practices at locations that have an AED available.
- Work with your local Parks and Recreation department to learn their process for supplying AEDs.
- Contact foundations that donate or assist communities in getting access to AEDs.
- Raise funds (or request an increase in sports registration costs) to help your local youth sports organization purchase an AED. Most AEDs cost around \$2,200- \$4,000.

**From: Safe Kids Worldwide Website June 6, 2016**