

CLASS OF 2017



Several of KBYH group home youth graduated from their perspective schools this month. Congrats to all!!!

KBYH would like to take this opportunity to thank all the schools that our group home youth graduated from: Frontier High School, McFarland High School, San Joaquin High School, and Norris Middle School. Thank you for really working with our youth and we ask for your continued support with our program moving forward.

KBYH believes a 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. As this maturity progresses, many people come to the revelation that a graduation can be life changing; the simple marker or two phases helps to tie different parts of a life together with a common remembrance. 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.

CONGRATS!

Marcos R.: Graduated High School

Cheyenne C.: Passed the state Phlebotomy test

Graduated 8th Grade:

Nathaniel D., Jay C., Cristian R., David O.

Honor Roll:

Nathaniel D., Kayla M.



Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

July 12, 6:00-8:00PM: “Trauma Informed Care” with Carrie Wombacher

August 17, 6:00-8:00PM: “Managing Aggressive Behavior” with Mark Dominguez

September 9, 9:00-11:00AM: “Administration of Psychotropic Medications, Emancipation and Independent Living” with Joe Ortega

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.

Community Support



Over 30 tents and 30 sleeping bags were recently donated by the Golden Bear Chapter of the AT&T Telecom Pioneers for KBYH camping trips. Our thanks goes out to the local chapter who made this possible. A special thanks to Steve Finch who made the delivery of these donated items, and for his over

30 YEARS of volunteer service!



Child Birthdays

- July 4: Nathan C.
- July 6: Thorn A.
- July 9: Willow O.
- July 10: Miguel S.
- July 19: Cole C.
- July 21: Israel O.



Intern Spotlight

My name is Alicia Barbosa and I am a new intern at Kern Bridges. I am currently in my first year of the social work master's program through Walden University on-line. Prior to the master's program, I completed an A.A in Correctional Administration, an A.S. in Human Services, and a in B.A. Criminal Justice. I have previously worked with juveniles in juvenile hall, men in group homes, parolees in treatment programs, recovering addicts, and youth in a community organization. Originally, I wanted to be a parole agent, but after watching my cousins go through the foster to adopt process with my goddaughters, my focus changed and I knew I wanted to be a foster/adopt social worker.

I have been married for 9 years, with my husband for 17 and we have two rambunctious boys, ages 7 and 3. I enjoy baking, cooking, Disneyland trips, car shows, and the beach. Once I finish my Masters degree, I hope to find a foster/adopt social worker position with a private organization.

Foster Parent Birthdays

- July 11: Mohesly Palencia
- July 15: Wendy Mayes
- July 16: Carmen Cercado
- July 16: Maribel Rivera
- July 23: Gloria Thompson
- July 27: Sylvia Martinez

KBYH Staff Birthdays

- July 4: Ruth Jackson
- July 23: Miguel Alvarez
- July 23: Fernando Ortega

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

- Mike Ramirez: 2 Years
- Carrie Wombacher: 7 Years
- Trina Smith: 9 Years
- Ronnie Wofford: 12 Years
- Joe Ortega: 17 Years

Foster Child of the Month: Audrey C.

This month we would like to recognize Audrey C. as child of the month. Audrey was placed in the Padron/Reyna home on 9-15-16 along with her 2 siblings. Audrey initially had a hard time adjusting to foster care. She was the parentified child and had difficulty being a “normal” 5 year old. Audrey was not in school when she was placed, and had never been in pre-school. However, with extra assistance after school and additional instruction in the home, we are pleased that Audrey was promoted to the First grade. Audrey states that she likes school and will attend summer school to continue her progress. After the first few weeks in the Padron/Reyna home, Audrey now feels like part of the family. She has a bright affect and affectionately calls her resource parents “Mom and Dad”.

Foster Family of the Month: Teresa & Everado Viramontes

We are proud to introduce Teresa and Everado Viramonte's as our Resource Family of the month. They have been Resource Parents for 15 months. They were introduced to Kern Bridges through Teresa's daughter who is also a KBYH Resource Parent. The Viramontes Resource Family are the caretakers of 4 boys. They provide each boy with love and nurturing and the children feel like they are family. They call Teresa “Grandma” and Everado “Grandpa.” The boys have stated that they feel like they belong in the home. The Viramontes are very family orientated. Over Memorial Day, the Viramontes', along with the boys, their adult children and their families, went to Pismo Beach, camping out on the beach for 4 days. They have planned family trips to Magic Mountain and have purchase season passes for the boys. They also are going to Lake Success and back to Pismo Beach. We would like to say congratulations to the Viramontes for their hard and rewarding work with Kern Bridges Youth Homes.

Social Worker Spotlight: Marina R. Hernandez

KBYH is thrilled to welcome Marina Hernandez to the Kern Bridge's family. Marina has a Bachelor's degree in Human Services w/emphasis on Family and Child Welfare from the University of Phoenix, and is currently in the MSW program at CSUB. She will be the 2017/2018 Social Work Club President. Marina has spent the last 10 years with Aspiranet in various roles and has 20+ years in the Social Service field. She has also done volunteer work with ACS Relay for Life and with the Alzheimer's Association.

Marina will be a Resource Family Specialist whose role will be to recruit new resource families, facilitate CFT meetings, and provide program support to the FFA program. We are grateful to have Marina as part of the team and welcome her enthusiasm and experience!

SAFETY

School is out and most have begun a summer program. Congratulations to those who have successfully completed their school year. Our reports indicate that the children in our Resource Homes have completed a safe 1st Quarter with no major injuries. The following are some points to help plan your summer activities.

1. Review your emergency evacuation plans. Ensure all know how to exit the facility in case of an emergency. Check smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure they are functioning as designed. Check fire extinguishers and first aid kits. Keep sufficient flashlights in case of power outages. Check water and food supplies. Keep stock of blankets.
2. When traveling, take fire extinguishers, water, food, blankets, first aid supplies, flashlights, maps or navigation devices and blankets in case of emergencies.
3. When engaged in water activities place emphasis on safety. Use preservers. Use buddy system. Do not take chances when engaging in water sports.
4. When barbecuing, be extra cautious when small children are around. Make a habit of keeping fire extinguishers and first aid kits around the barbecue unit.
5. Sun screen use is important even in overcast weather. Ultraviolet rays penetrate cloud cover and cause sunburns.
6. Be extra cautious of unknown plants. Poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac are common culprits.
7. With 4th of July celebration, it is always a good idea to plan well for safety. Have a fire extinguisher and water hose available for fires. A responsible person should manage the fireworks. Use water to extinguish expended fireworks before leaving the fireworks area.
8. At night, ensure one follows the traffic rules and use safety vests and flashlights as needed.

Please have an enjoyable, but safe, summer!