

107!!!

On May 5th, KBYH held its annual Resource Parent and volunteer appreciation dinner, where we were able to recognize a very special milestone. Mario and Anita Caudillo became foster parents with Kern Bridges in 1990. As one of the founding families of KBYH, the Caudillo's have seen it all and have worked with a wide range of youth, including several ISFC youth in more recent years. This picture shows the Caudillo's holding a banner, where every color represents a child who has been placed in their home: 100! In fact, the Caudillo's have now had a total of 107 children placed in their home. Additionally, several members of the Caudillo's extended family also serve as Resource Parents. On behalf of KBYH and all of the youth who have had the opportunity to reside in your home, we want to say a huge thank you to the Mario and Anita for all you do!



They Get It

We also had the privilege recognizing Edward and Jerry Matthews-Vega as this year's Resource Parents of the Year. Edward and Jerry became resource parents with KBYH in 2019 and have provided excellent care to a number of foster youth, including Jeremiah, who they were able to adopt in April 2022. One of the highest compliments that can be paid to a resource family is when Social Workers and other staff indicate that a family "Gets It", meaning that they fully embrace a philosophy and trauma-informed perspective that is invaluable in working with these youth. And they truly do get it.

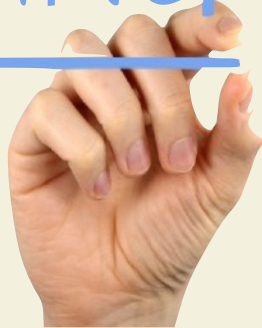
Congratulations to Edward and Jerry on this well-deserved recognition.

Skilled at Life

Having a hobby or activity that we enjoy brings us joy and enriches our lives. It gives us something fun to do during our leisure time and affords us the opportunity to learn new skills. We are very fortunate to have so many different options out there today. In fact, a majority of our STRTP Program is built on the principles of adventure and exposure. The boys living in our homes are challenged every day to get involved into extracurricular activities. We believe that the best way to cultivate a new hobby is to try something new. The world is full of wonderful, exciting activities that we can explore and adopt as our own. Of course, all of us are unique and, therefore, our interests and hobbies vary. But once we find a hobby that we truly enjoy and are passionate about, we become hooked. It becomes part of our lives and captivates us in a very personal way. In addition, extracurriculars are a natural fit for extending social and emotional work beyond our STRTP, helping to reestablish normalcy after the pandemic, foster social connections, and maximize all sorts of achievements. Studies show that our boys who participate in extracurricular activities have greater levels of academic achievement. Second, extracurricular participation supports our boy's character development by giving them skills required for personal success, such as leadership skills, time-management skills, and the ability to accept constructive criticism. Third, extracurricular participation raises our boy's self-esteem and resiliency. Additionally, participation in extracurricular activities cultivates social development. Lastly, participating in extracurricular activities provides opportunities for our boys to experience the importance of community involvement.



TRAINING



Upcoming Trainings

June 4, 9:00-11:00 am

“Crisis Intervention”
with Bianca R. RSVP to
bruiz@kernbridges.com

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 6:00-8:00pm and open to any Kern County approved ISFC Resource Family. RSVP to marina@kernbridges.com

“Medication Administration ”
June 28, 2022

“Trauma Informed Care and Attachment”
July 26, 2022

June



Child Birthdays

- Jonnie M. 6/15 12 years
- Leonardo V. 6/23 4 years
- Alissa M. 6/24 16 years
- Salome S. 6/30 5 years

Resource Parent Birthdays

- Carlos Caudillo 6/3
- Timi Mongold 6/4
- Loana Lugo-Juarez 6/9
- Haleigh Boss 6/19

KBYH Staff Birthdays

- James Boston 6/9
- Maria Heredia 6/13
- John Bacon 6/28



Resource Family Anniversaries

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Chris & Haleigh Boss | 6 yrs |
| Shana & Gale Doverspike | 3 yrs |

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

- | | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Robert Carter | 22 yrs |
| Vernetta Carter | 16 yrs |
| Donte Williams | 16 yrs |
| Mark Dominguez | 13 yrs |
| Cindy Perry | 2 yrs |

Avoiding Harms Way



Do not open the door for strangers

Instruct your kids to keep the doors locked and secure at all times, and only open the door for familiar faces. Let them know that if any stranger rings the doorbell, they should stay quiet and not open the door. This is especially important if your kids are old enough to be home alone. If you haven't already, consider installing some security cameras so that your family members can safely and easily see who's at the door.



Be familiar with the family emergency contact list

Every household should have an emergency contact list neatly written out or printed and stowed away somewhere central. This way, if a disaster strikes, family members can easily refer to it and contact others if needed. Let your children know where they can and this list and how to use it in the event that they need to. Main contact information should ideally be memorized (such as parents' phone numbers) but other family members' contacts like grandparents, aunts, and uncles in the immediate area can be noted on this emergency contact list. In addition to family contacts, also include the phone numbers of local paramedics, fire departments, police stations, family doctors, and close friends to be extra prepared. It is recommended to have emergency numbers easily accessible in various places throughout your home.



Know the family escape plan

Time is of the essence during an emergency, so it's essential to have a solid family escape plan in place. Spend a family night discussing home safety and the potential escape routes should a disaster take place. It's imperative that your children know what measures to take if they are faced with a fire, burglary, or any other disaster. When creating an escape plan, the key is to devise the quickest way to get out of the house, and make sure that everyone in the family is on the same page and understands their role in ensuring everyone's safety. In addition to putting together the escape plan, you'll also want to set in stone where family members should gather and meet outside to account for everyone's safety. If you are familiar with CPR, it would be a good idea to teach your children about it. First-aid is also another safety fundamental that kids would benefit from being familiar with early on. Show them the different elements they can and in a first-aid kit and how they are used.



-Courtesy of <https://www.safehome.org/resources/child-safety/>



Family Spotlight: Little T.

SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME TO PRESCHOOL

This month we would like to recognize Little T as child of the month. We are excited to report the fantastic progress of Little T in the last 3 years. Little T was placed in the Drummer home on 5/30/19. Prior to placement, Little T spent 5 days at Valley Children's Hospital for Seizures. The reason for placement was Shaken Baby Syndrome. Little T had numerous severe health issues that included subdural hematoma of the left side of the brain, retinal hemorrhages in his left eye, Epilepsy, Polymicrogyria, Cerebral Palsy and several other developmental delays. Little T's severe health issues required 4 trips to Valley Children's Hospital in the first month of placement and numerous follow-up appointments as well. The Drummer family has also taken Little T to numerous other specialized appointments. Little T could not have had better advocates than the Drummers who made sure that he received all available services. The long road to normalcy was finally achieved on 5/4/22 when Little T started preschool. Mrs. Drummer stated that her heart was filled with so much joy and love when she was holding his hand with his backpack waiting on the bus for his 1st day of Preschool. Also, the Drummer family is in the process of adopting Little T and his 2 siblings. A fantastic success story for Little T and the Drummer resource family.