



**KERN BRIDGES
YOUTH HOMES**

Where Children Thrive

NEWSLETTER

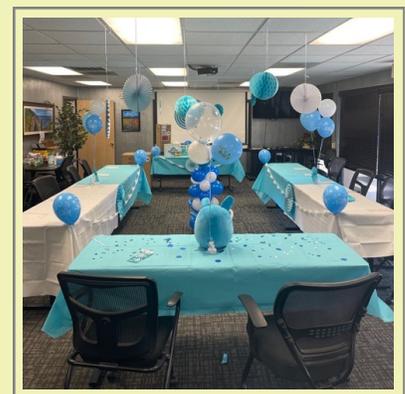
MARCH 2021

kernbridges.com

It's A Boy!

Having a baby-shower can be a really positive experience for anyone, especially first-time parents. It's one of those happy customs in life where family and friends shower the pregnant mom with gifts for herself and the new baby. The staff working in our STRTP's put on this extravaganza for one of our older boys who's expecting his first child soon. This was a great opportunity to gather people together to help play a part in the baby's life. Despite being placed in one of our STRTPs, we wanted to give our resident a memorable event that will last a lifetime. This event presented an opportunity for him and his girlfriend to get gifts and be showed with the love of family and friends. It was a lovely atmosphere where some of his peers, our staff, and his girlfriend's family all gathered for treats, games and laughs. They received numerous gifts including a baby car seat, stroller, pampers, and baby milk, just to name a few items.

Special thanks to KBYH staff Karen Kenny, Keisha Davis, and Elvia Alvarez for putting this beautiful event together. Thank you for all your hard work and commitment. Your contributions to Kern Bridges have been invaluable to our agency.



“Your self-sacrificing devotion to your purpose in life and your unwavering faith will carry you through times of difficulty” MLK.

Many years ago, KBYH planted a tree in honor of our founder, Dan Marble. After some landscaping changes, we have updated the tree and plaque, and Dan's legacy lives on here at KBYH. Thank you, Dan, for your vision and commitment to our community. We appreciate being a part of the agency you started almost 35 years ago.



ISFC "Minute"

KBYH Resource Parents have been trained and are highly encouraged to parent our foster youth using Trauma-Informed Care (TIC). TIC understands the impact of trauma on our youth. It allows us to recognize the signs and symptoms of the trauma and teaches us to respond in a manner that supports the child without re-traumatizing the youth. It teaches us to look at the "why" of the youth's behavior instead of the "what," which allows us to treat the trauma instead of disciplining the behavior. For more information on Trauma-Informed Care, please contact Carrie at 661-396-2352 or carrie@kernbridges.com for upcoming trainings.

Upcoming Trainings

APRIL 10, 9:00 - 11:00am

"Prudent Parent Standard,
Child Development"
with
Catherine S.
RSVP to
csanterre@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 open to any Kern County approved ISFC Resource Family and include child care (over 2 years old) and dinner.

RSVP to Carrie Wombacher
carrie@kernbridges.com

"Crisis Calls and Risk Management"
April 27, 2021
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Community Partners

KBYH's Spotlight of the Month: Deputy Gladis Munoz

This month we take great pleasure in presenting Deputy Gladis Munoz from Kern County Probation as our spotlight of the month. Deputy Munoz functions much like County DHS Social Workers, except that she represents the Kern County Probation Department. Deputy Munoz oversees one probation child who is placed with one of our Resource Families.

Deputy Munoz has spent nearly 15 years as a probation officer. Eight of those years were spent in Juvenile Hall. Prior to her career in the Probation Department, Deputy Munoz worked helping troubled girls in a school setting. She found that many children needed the right guidance and she decided to dedicate herself to helping this at-risk group. She is currently pursuing college in Social Work. Deputy Munoz stated that she wants to help kids in a variety of settings.

On the door at the main entryway to the Probation Department on Stockdale Highway there is an inscription on the door that says "Commitment to a safe community". Deputy Munoz, you are committed to creating a safe community, and we applaud you for your service.



APRIL



Child Birthdays

- Jay C. 5 18 years
- Darrian L. 6 7 years
- Xavier W. 15 3 years
- Emily N. 28 17 years

Resource Parent Birthdays

- Hugo Hernandez 2
- Everardo Viramontes 4
- Michael Drummer 16
- Ronald Allison 28

KBYH Staff Birthdays

- Rick Ramirez 3
- Martha Pantoja-Gonzales 14
- Nestor Serna 16
- Karen Kenney 17

Happy Birthday!!!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

- James Boston 8 years

SAFETY: Car Seats

Know the stages

Make sure children are properly buckled up in a car seat, booster seat, or seat belt, whichever is appropriate for their age, height and weight.

Birth up to Age 2: Rear-facing car seat.

For the best possible protection, infants and children should be buckled in a rear-facing car seat, in the back seat, until age 2 or when they reach the upper weight or height limits of their particular seat. Check the seat's owner's manual and/or labels on the seat for weight and height limits.

Age 2 up to at least Age 5: Forward-facing car seat.

When children outgrow their rear-facing seats they should be buckled in a forward-facing car seat, in the back seat, until at least age 5 or when they reach the upper weight or height limit of their particular seat. Check the seat's owner's manual and/or labels on the seat for weight and height limits.

Age 5 up until seat belts fit properly: Booster seat.

Once children outgrow their forward-facing seat, (by reaching the upper height or weight limit of their seat), they should be buckled in a belt positioning booster seat until seat belts fit properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs (not the stomach) and the shoulder belt lays across the chest (not the neck). Remember to keep children properly buckled in the back seat for the best possible protection.

Once Seat Belts Fit Properly without a Booster Seat: Seat Belt

Children no longer need to use a booster seat once seat belts fit them properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs (not the stomach) and the shoulder belt lays across the chest (not the neck). For the best possible protection keep children properly buckled in the back seat.

Install and Use Car & Booster Seats Properly

Install and use car seats and booster seats according to the seat's owner's manual or get help installing them from a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician.

Seat Children in the Back Seat

Buckle all children aged 12 and under in the back seat.

Don't Seat Children in Front of an Airbag

Airbags can kill young children riding in the front seat. Never place a rear-facing car seat in front of an air bag.

Seat Children in the Middle of the Back Seat

Buckle children in the middle of the back seat when possible, because it is the safest spot in the vehicle.¹⁴

Use Proper Restraints Every Trip

Buckle children in car seats, booster seats, or seat belts on every trip, no matter how short.

Parents and Caregivers: Always Wear a Seat Belt

Set a good example by always using a seat belt themselves.

Using the correct car seat or booster seat can be a lifesaver: make sure your child is always buckled in an age- and size-appropriate car seat or booster seat.

Age by Years*	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12+
REAR-FACING CAR SEAT	Birth until age 2-4				FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT				BOOSTER SEAT		SEAT BELT	
<p>Buckle children in a rear-facing car seat until they reach the maximum weight or height limit of their car seat. Keep children rear-facing as long as possible.</p>				<p>After outgrowing rear-facing car seat until at least age 5</p> <p>When children outgrow their rear-facing car seat, they should be buckled in a forward-facing car seat until they reach the maximum weight or height limit of their car seat.</p>				<p>After outgrowing forward-facing seat and until seat belts fit properly</p> <p>Once children outgrow their forward-facing seat, they should be buckled in a booster seat until seat belts fit properly. Proper seat belt fit usually occurs when children are 4 feet 9 inches tall and age 9-12.</p>		<p>Once seat belts fit properly without a booster seat</p> <p>Children no longer need to use a booster seat once seat belts fit them properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs (not the stomach) and the shoulder belt lays across the chest (not the neck).</p>		

Keep children ages 12 and under properly buckled in the back seat. Never place a rear-facing car seat in front of an active air bag.

*Recommended age ranges for each seat type vary to account for differences in child growth and height/weight limits of car seats and booster seats. Use the car seat or booster seat owner's manual to check installation and the seat height and weight limits, and proper seat use.

Child safety seat recommendations: American Academy of Pediatrics. Graphic design: adapted from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/cps



Resource Family Spotlight

This month we honor the Mathews-Vega family. Edward and Jerry are ISFC Resource Parents who currently have three ISFC youth and two biological children in their home. Edward works full-time and Jerry is an energetic stay at home dad, who has some pretty awesome cooking skills.

The Mathew-Vega home is warm and inviting. They are an adventurous family who love to travel and spend time outdoors. They are very family-oriented and have a large extended family who have embraced their role as Resource Parents. They have welcomed the youth placed in their home with open arms. Jerry and Edward have proven to be an invaluable addition to the Kern Bridges family and a positive influence in Emely, Jeremiah and Devan's lives. Thank you, Mathews-Vega family. We appreciate you.