

Foster Parents of the Year!



At the KBYH Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner on May 11, 2017 held at Hodel's, Stephanie and Tony Martinez were honored as Foster Parents of the Year. They shared the honor with Mr. and Mrs. Perry. The Martinez's are a proud and dedicated family who clearly have demonstrated their devotion to the child care profession through their actions. Shortly after their certification, they accepted a child with special needs without hesitation. Not only did they care for the child's delicate condition, but they made frequent trips to Valley Children's Hospital. Caring for this particular child was highly demanding, however, this family always came through. The Martinez's also cared for a sibling set of three. While caring for these children, Mrs. Martinez required hospitalization for about a week. The family arranged for the care of the children asking no assistance from this agency. They showed that they cared for these children as if they were their own.

Since becoming foster parents with KBYH, Roger and Cindy Perry have gone above and beyond for each child placed in their home. The Perry family has taken kids that many would not take a chance on, including children transitioning out of group homes. Also, they are one of the only family's to have completed an adult foster adoption in Kern County. The Perry's believe that every child deserves a chance, to just keep loving them and guiding them.

Kern Bridges is not only grateful, but honored to partner with such a hard working families. Congratulations to the Martinez and Perry families on this well deserved recognition.



KBYH would like to take this opportunity to thank the West Bakersfield 4-H Club for donating Easter Baskets this year. All of our group home boys were very ecstatic and liked the many items decorated inside of them. Please accept our sincere thanks for volunteering your time and efforts this Easter. Your generosity benefited countless others and your support won't be forgotten.

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

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.

In April 2017, some of the group home boys toured the California Central Coast. They had the opportunity to visit a Naval ship and play at the beach.



Child Birthdays

June 7: Cheyanne C.
June 9: Araceli G.



Foster Parent Birthdays

June 4: Timi Mongold
June 10: Donald Beavers
June 16: Kathy Petty
June 19: Haleigh Boss
June 20: Jennifer Sosa
June 21: Maria Carrillo

KBYH Staff Birthdays

June 8: Lawrence Aspeitia
June 9: James Boston
June 28: John Bacon

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

Mark Dominguez: 8 Years
Donte Williams: 11 Years
Vernetta Carter: 11 Years
Robert Carter: 17 Years

Foster Child of the Month: Halen W.

This month's Child of the Month resides in the Mayes Certified Home. We take great pleasure presenting Halen W. as Child of the Month for May. Halen is the brother of Rhiannon, April's Child of the Month. Halen is a well-mannered, polite, happy and playful little boy who loves his caretaker and her extended family. Halen is currently attending the Dino School where he is learning social skills. He is doing very well in this school. Halen is curious about his surroundings and he is always asking questions. He is quite articulate and converses in an intelligent and mature manner. Halen enjoys doing things with his caretaker who is soon expected to become his permanent mother. When not with his mother, Halen spends time with his aunt, with whom he greatly enjoys seeing. We wish Halen the very best the future has to offer him. Congratulations Halen on your selection as Child of the Month.

Foster Family of the Month: The Perry and Martinez families (as featured above).

Social Worker Spotlight: The DHS RFA Unit

KBYH would like to recognize the work of the Kern County Department of Human Service's Resource Family Approval unit. We know first hand the many challenges that go along with implementing the new RFA policies and procedures. As such, we tip our hat to the many DHS social workers who are working tirelessly to keep up with the demands of a new process. We appreciate the efforts you have made to include KBYH in this process.





SAFETY

Poisoning Prevention

Every day, over 300 children in the United States ages 0 to 19 are treated in an emergency department, and two children die, as a result of being poisoned. It's not just chemicals in your home marked with clear warning labels that can be dangerous to children. Everyday items in your home, such as household cleaners and medicines, can be poisonous to children as well. Medication dosing mistakes and unsupervised ingestions are common ways that children are poisoned. Active, curious children will often investigate—and sometimes try to eat or drink—anything that they can get into. Thankfully, there are ways you can help poison-proof your home and protect the children you love.

Key Prevention Tips

Lock them up and away.

Keep medicines and toxic products, such cleaning solutions and detergent pods, in their original packaging where children can't see or get them.

Know the number.

Put the nationwide poison control center phone number, 1-800-222-1222, on or near every telephone in your home and program it into your cell phone. Call the poison control center if you think a child has been poisoned but they are awake and alert; they can be reached 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call 911 if you have a poison emergency and your child has collapsed or is not breathing.

Read the label.

Follow label directions carefully and read all warnings when giving medicines to children.

Don't keep it if you don't need it.

Safely dispose of unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs and over the counter drugs, vitamins, and supplements. To dispose of medicines, mix them with coffee grounds or kitty litter and throw them away. You can also turn them in at a local take-back program or during National Drug Take-Back events.

Courtesy of: *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

