



NEWSLETTER

kernbridges.com

MAY 2023

TELEPHONE
661-396-2301

FACSIMILE
661-396-2349



Supervised Visitation Awareness Day

May 25th is Supervised Visitation Awareness Day. The purpose of the campaign is to use the symbol of the orange ribbon throughout the month of May to raise awareness about the need and impact of supervised visitation. The color orange is used throughout the month as it is a bright color which suggests that people watch out or take notice. For this reason, the orange ribbon has been adopted with the goal that individuals around the world see the orange ribbon and take notice of the thousands of children and families in need of this important service.

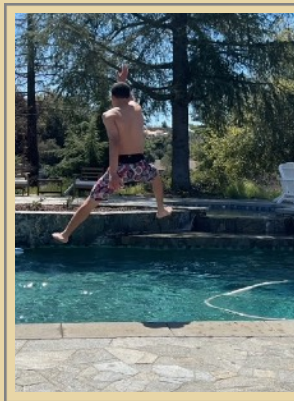
**WEAR ORANGE IN SUPPORT OF
SUPERVISED VISITATION
SERVICES**

Kern Bridges staff recently had the opportunity to participate in filling back packs for Kern County foster youth. We joined forces with community partners for this worthwhile effort. Thank you KCDHS, Anthem/Blue Cross and Comfort Cases for allowing Kern Bridges to be a part this wonderful event!



Spring Break!

The boys living in our STRTP's spent their entire Spring Break Camping at Lake Elsinore. Lake Elsinore is famous for the warm thermal winds that blow in from the neighboring Ortega Mountains. Those winds have turned Lake Elsinore into a major center for skydiving, hang-gliding and other aerial sports. Their historic downtown reflects a rich and colorful history dating back years. The city has grown from a small resort to a suburban city with a beautiful atmosphere and plenty of activities. KBYH rented a 12-bedroom Airbnb mansion-style home to fit all our boys and staff. Our boys went fishing, hiking, had ping-pong tournaments, and participated in water sporting activities. All our boys enjoyed the incredible Spring Break experience!



Upcoming Trainings

May 5, 2023. 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

“Prudent Parent Standard”

June 3, 2023. 9:00 am - 11:00 am

“Crisis Intervention”

RSVP to marina@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.
RSVP to marina@kernbridges.com

“CSEC and Runaways ”

May 16, 2023
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

TRAINING



The staff at Kern Bridges Youth Homes were honored to have hosted Dr. Angela Look as the presenter for a Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) training at KBYH in April. We are grateful for the time and effort Dr. Look invested to share her knowledge and experiences of CSEC victims. The efforts of her unit at the Kern County Department of Human Services and those of Kern County officials to help decrease the victimization of this population are appreciated.



The statistics and the real-life experiences she shared are invaluable and made the presentation relevant to the work performed at Kern Bridges Youth Homes. Her enthusiasm is contagious, and we hope to employ her suggestions in our everyday work. Thank you again for your contribution Dr. Look. We hope to see you again.

ISFC Resource Parent of the Year: Carlos Caudillo

Carlos Caudillo has been a Resource Parent for almost 4 years. He grew up in a home where his parents (Mario and Anita Caudillo, who have been resource parents for the last 32 years) were resource parents and he was raised with foster children in the home. He has a real passion for children in the foster care system. Carlos primarily has teenage boys placed in his home. He takes them on camping trips, to the beach, Condors games, NFL games, and WWF Matches. Carlos strongly encourages the boys in his home to participate in sports, clubs, and working out. He has a gym in his garage and the boys enjoy working out and competing with each other in a healthy manner. Carlos always proactively communicates and participates in all meetings for the boys in his home. He goes above and beyond in providing the boys with transportation at the last minute and manages issues in the home and reports to the social worker immediately. The boys in the home always have positive statements in regard to the support that Carlos provides for them.

Congratulations to Carlos for being selected as this year's ISFC foster parent of the year and thank you for all you do!



Happy Birthday



Child Birthdays

- 5/19 Jonathan O 20 years
- 5/25 Joseph R 18 years
- 5/25 Donaven C. 18 years

Resource Parent Birthdays

- 5/6 Frances Cortez
- 5/18 Jenifer Royer
- 5/19 Pablo Reyes
- 5/20 Edward Mathews-Vega
- 5/21 Luirelys Mirena
- 5/31 Gerardo Mathews-Vega

Resource Parent Anniversaries

- 5/17 David & Amy Noble 1 year
- 5/18 Rosalio & Susana Nuno 2 years

KBYH Staff Birthdays

- 5/1 Krizia Garcia
- 5/2 Keisha Davis
- 5/11 Joe Ortega
- 5/11 Saxton Zachery
- 5/12 Nicholas Sapp
- 5/14 Reginald Phillips
- 5/18 Amanda Wood
- 5/21 Sharon Harman-Fry
- 5/24 Ronny Copeland
- 5/30 Ryan Buck

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

- 5/8 Marina Hernandez 6 years
- 5/10 Yadira Garcia 2 years
- 5/10 Lori Lockard 2 years
- 5/10 Willie Smith 6 years
- 5/12 Serrena Rincon 2 years
- 5/21 Kylie Krause 2 years
- 5/23 Brittani Thompson 1 years
- 5/27 Amanda Wood 4 years



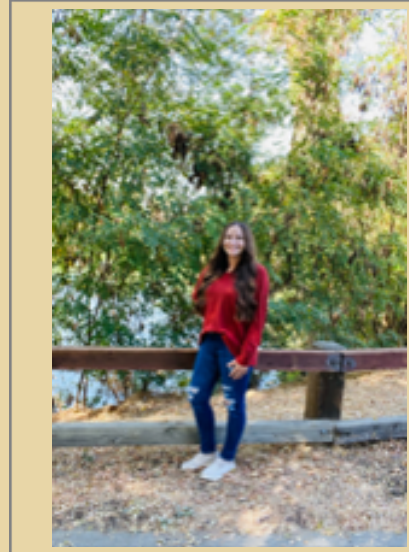
Happy Anniversary!



Welcome Amber

Hello everyone!

My name is Amber Jepsen, I am from a little town called McHenry in Illinois. I moved to Bakersfield about 3 years ago. My husband's family is out here so he wanted to be closer to them. We just bought a house in Bakersfield. I love how its 2 hours to the mountains and 2 hours to the ocean. The air quality is not the greatest I've noticed. Something no one knows about me is that I have a twin sister and she's my best friend. I also have an amazing but crazy little boy and he is 4 years old. He is my world. I love the outdoors like camping, hiking, and swimming (should I say lounging by the pool). I am so excited to start this new journey with this amazing company.



Amber has taken the position of KBYH's Donation Coordinator and has already demonstrated that she is a great addition to the team. Welcome Amber!!

Donation Room

FFA Resource Parents of the Year for 2023: Shana and Gale Doverspike

Shana and Gale Doverspike are outstanding resource parents who are highly deserving of this recognition. Their journey in Foster Care started in 2009 when they adopted a sibling set of three. They thought they were finished with foster care. In 2019 they met 2 young boys through a family friend that needed to be placed together. After further investigation of the temporary home, they found out that there was another brother. They were certified again on June 14, 2019 and the three boys were placed in their home on July 12, 2019 after one month of weekend visits. On November 3, 2021, the adoption was finalized for two of the boys (the third boy did not want to be adopted at that time because he was still hoping that his mother would finish her case plan).

The Doverspike's have performed all of their resource parent duties and responsibilities in an outstanding manner. They are very loving, dedicated resource parents who have provided a wonderful home for the children who have been placed in their care. They treat every child as if they were their own and incorporate the child in every facet of their lives. They involve the children in numerous activities and family outings. Doverspike's live on a four-acre farm and the boys have been able to experience an array of activities ranging from feeding the animals to planting and harvesting gardens. The boys even received ponies for Christmas in 2021.

The Doverspike's never give a fourteen-day notice and they have the patience of Job. They never give up on a child, even after the child make three false allegations. I am happy to report that this child is making outstanding progress in the home and at school. This child has been recognized for the following awards: Honor Roll for Academics for second and third quarter, Outstanding Citizenship and Reading Award, Award for being a Math Super Star, All A's on music report card for playing the Cello, and Honor Orchestra, just to name a few.

Congratulations to the Doverspikes for this recognition and thank you for all you do!