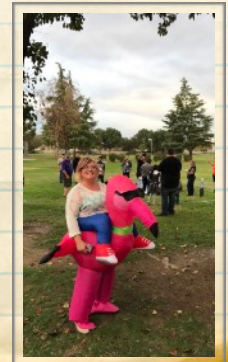


## Fall Fun



On October 27, KBYH foster families gathered at Silver Creek Park for our annual Halloween Carnival. Thanks to the cooking of volunteer Michelle Childress, families enjoyed an amazing deep pit BBQ meal. And as always, our faithful and dedicated AT&T Telecom Pioneers provided the ever-popular cake walk. Thanks to all the families who made the effort to be there, rain and all!



# Congrats

Congratulations to Victor G. for earning his driver's license!



## Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

**December 7, 6-8PM:** "Planning and Adjusting for Change" with Bibi Carrasco

**2017 training opportunities are TBD.**

## Ongoing Trainings

Mark Dominguez will be offering the following trainings on an ongoing basis 6-8PM: "(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.

# Are you ready for RFA?

If you are a KBYH foster parent, the answer to the above question is yes, because we are working hard to make sure our agency is ready for new foster care regulations and standards that go into effect 1/1/17. RFA stands for "Resource Family Approval" and refers to new requirements that apply to all foster families in the state of California. Beginning 1/1/17, foster families will no longer be called foster families. What will they be called, you ask? Resource Families. All foster caregivers, whether they are a relative, with the county, or with an FFA like ours, will be called Resource Families. Look for upcoming information and trainings from KBYH that will be provided to ensure you are familiar with what these changes entail.



# Save the Date

KBYH's annual Christmas Party will be on December 4, 4:30-6:30 at Rollerama West



## Child Birthdays

- December 17: Jeffrey C.
- December 19: Isaiah C.
- December 19: Christopher C.
- December 20: Hope T.
- December 22: David O.



## Foster Parent Birthdays

- December 1: Tara Smith
- December 3: Stephanie Martinez
- December 4: Frank Cortez
- December 6: Carmen Gonzales
- December 10: Don Schmidt
- December 16: Tracy Dozhier
- December 24: Sara Henry

## KBYH Staff Birthdays

- December 15: Anton Freeman
- December 27: Bibi Carrasco
- December 30: Kathy Irwin
- December 31: Ronnie Wofford

## KBYH Staff Anniversaries

- Juan Vasquez: 1 Year
- Karina Garcia: 2 Years
- Reggie Phillips: 10 Years
- Ruth Jackson: 11 Years

## Foster Family of the Month: The Brians/Mercier family

Jen and Daren have been foster parents with KBYH for over three years. As young adults, they began their fostering adventures as relative foster parents. Through KBYH, they later adopted two little boys 2.5 years ago. Although the boys had medical and emotional challenges, they patiently cared and advocated for them. They have consistently been positive to birth parents. Jen and Daren educate themselves about the care of the children who are placed in their home. Recently, another child has been placed in their home who has been thriving emotionally and educationally. Jen and Daren have been willing to seek out services to best suit each individual child. They have received many compliments from DHS workers, Wrap Team staff and other resource professionals. We are proud of you and thank you for all the care you give to these children.

## Adoption Spotlight: The Perry's

KBYH would like to congratulate our newest Forever Family, the Perry's! Roger and Cindy Perry, as well as Chloe, Maggie, and Dailyn, adopted Courtney officially to their family on October 21, 2016. Courtney turned 18 in September, so the Perry's did a Non-Minor Dependent (Adult) Adoption, which was the second of such adoptions to ever happen in Kern County! The Perry family was featured during the Board of Supervisor's meeting when the Supervisors proclaimed November as National Adoption Month. We are very proud to have been a part of this adoption! Congratulations,



## DHS Worker Spotlight: Esther Solis

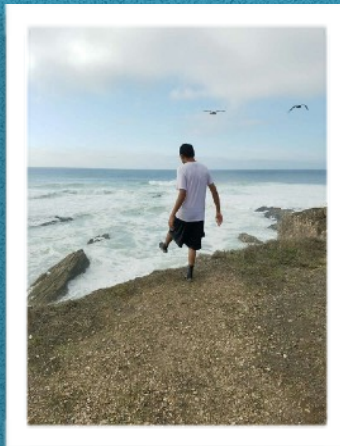
Esther was born and raised in Bakersfield, California. She attended local elementary and junior high schools as well as Bakersfield High School (Go Drillers!). Esther later received her undergraduate degree in Sociology from Cal State Bakersfield University. In 2008, Esther was hired as a Family Service Social Worker and in 2009, she was promoted to Human Service Aide Referral Coordinator. One of Esther's numerous responsibilities in this position is to coordinate the daily operations of the Children's Visitation Center. Esther Solis is an outstanding Kern County Department of Human Service's Employee. She is a highly competent and professional social worker. Esther provides excellent customer service and is a motivated self starter with excellent organizational skills. She has the ability to address complex situations with creative problem solving skills and she is highly adaptable to changing circumstances. It is truly a pleasure to work with her. Thank you, Esther, for all you do.



# Fall Festivities

Kern Bridges' Group Homes started their fall activities with an enthusiastic bang! The boys traveled to Los Angeles to experience the Moca Art Museums. While at the museum, the boys were able to view

painting, pictures, and sculpture arts. Next, everyone was taken by shuttle to view the other Moca location in Little Tokyo. The boys really enjoyed Little Tokyo because they had sound video and electrical arts throughout the tour. Also during October, the boys went to Vista Lago Adventure Park in Arroyo Grande. During this adventure, the boys were challenged to new heights on the ropes course and zip lines. A majority of the boys were able to complete all of the challenges of the course. Afterwards they went to the beach where they ate BBQ, and played water games to close out their day.



## SAFETY

# SAFETY

Last month a foster child, a teenager, was struck by a vehicle resulting in injuries. The child had traveled to a nearby Fast Mart to purchase a snack at night, against his caretaker's advice. While returning home on his scooter on a road which was not well lighted, he was struck in the back by a moving vehicle. The child was taken to the hospital, treated for moderate injuries and released. Risks become greater when one is unprotected, lighting is limited, improper clothing or attire is worn, and attention is not paid to one's safety.

Please:

1. Avoid traveling at night.
2. Avoid areas at night which are not well lit.
3. Wear lightly colored or reflective clothing/attire at night
4. Use flashlights or safety lighting at night
5. Be always alert and be aware of surroundings
6. Be Safe!!!

## Christmas Parade!!!



Christmas parade trophies from prior years

This year KBYH will once again be entering a float in the Bakersfield Christmas parade. If you are interested in helping with the float, we are looking for helpers on the morning/afternoon of the parade. Also, if you or someone you know would want to sponsor our float (with their name or business name on the float), let us know. Or, if you just want to say hi, be sure to get our attention as we pass by. This year's parade will be on December 1 and we have every intention of taking home the grand prize this year!

