

## THE ULTIMATE HOLLYWOOD EXPERIENCE



Last month, the boys from both group homes had the opportunity to visit Universal Studios of Hollywood. Universal of Hollywood is a film studio and theme park all in one. It is considered as one of the oldest and most famous Hollywood film studios still in use. The boys found a full day of action-packed entertainment. The theme park has thrilling rides and shows, a functioning movie studio, and L.A.'s best shops, restaurants and cinemas at City Walk. This adventurous outing was a unique experience that entertained everyone. According to one of our boys, "Universal is an amazing theme park. The Simpson's, Despicable Me and every other ride was incredible and well done. It was such an amazing family day out"! The boys also went behind the scenes on the world famous studio tour to explore where and how Hollywood movies are made. Movies such as Fast Furious, King Kong 360, Transformers, and the hit ABC show Desperate Housewives were all created at Universal Studio Hollywood.

## Save the Dates!

\*Look for KBYH at the Home & Garden Show: October 16-18

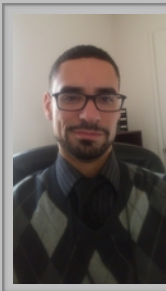
\*Annual FFA Carnival: October 22

\*KBYH Open House: November 4, 11:30-1:00



## KBYH Staff Spotlight

### MICHAEL A. RAMOS



Michael was born in Fitchburg, Mass. to a military family in 1983. He is the oldest of seven brothers. Michael graduated from Littleton High School in MA (2001) and received a partial basketball scholarship to Webber State University in Utah, where he attended for a year and a half. Michael then transferred to the Inter-American University in Puerto Rico where he also pursued a professional basketball career. While in Puerto Rico, he continued school at Inter-American University while playing for the Vega Bajah professional team. In 2005, Michael returned back to Massachusetts where he landed a job working with a mentor program. He also worked for Elliot Community Human Services in MA. In 2012, Michael moved to California to be with his daughter and began working for Kern County Probation. Then he moved on and became a Program Supervisor with Kern County Sheriffs Department through WestCare. Michael missed working with youth, so he began doing research and found KBYH. Michael was hired by KBYH in June 2015, where he has quickly moved up the chain of command. He already serves as Almklov's Unit Coordinator. Michael has been such a great addition to our Residential Treatment Team. He has shown a high level of insight, ingenuity and originality.

## Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

October 14, 6:00-8:00PM:

“Attachment” with Jessica and Carrie

November 14, 9:00-11:00AM:

“Managing Aggressive Behavior” with Mark Dominguez

December 9, 6:00-8:00PM: “Planning & Adjusting for Change” with Bibi Carrasco

## 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.

## Congrats!!

**Jesse V:** made the high school football team

**Isak R:** made high school football team

**Analexis B:** great grades on progress report

**Marlin V:** became a link mentor for new freshman and is Avid President

**Cheyenne C:** earned outstanding grades: 4.0 and perfect attendance at Kaplan College

**Miriam S:** attending CSUB and working a part-time

**Cheyenne G.:** made the honor role this quarter

## KBYH Board of Director's Spotlight

Kevin M. Danley is a Bakersfield native and graduate from West High School in 1989, CSUB with a B.S. in Geology in 1994 and J.D. University of California, Davis in 2003. He was an attorney for Noriega & Bradshaw, LLP from 2003 to 2006 and is now a Teacher/Administrator for the Kern High School District. He is the Assistant Principal at Bakersfield Adult School, "F" Street Campus. Kevin is married to Anna and has two boys: Marcus 8 and Alex 6. KBYH welcomes Kevin and his diverse experience to our board of directors!

### Child Birthdays

October 3: Sean A.

October 5: Marcos R.

October 8: Brandon B.

October 9: Miriam S.

October 12: Jeremiah L.

October 12: Brooke R.

October 14: Anthony M.

October 18: Taushanna W.

October 30: Bradley C.

October 30: Van'Dreya G.



### Foster Parent Birthdays

October 8: Glen Maestas

October 13: Shirley Ventura

October 17: David Mongold

October 23: Melissa Warren

October 30: Daren Brians

### KBYH Staff Birthdays

October 15: Michael Ramirez

October 15: Marlon Wilkerson

October 16: Jose Soto

October 18: Antonio Balderas

### KBYH Staff Anniversaries

Ana Landeros: 9 years

Jim VanderZwan: 14 years

## Foster Child of the Month: Macelyn L.

Kern Bridges Youth Homes is proud to present Macelyn L. as Foster Child of the Month for October. Macelyn lives with her infant brother in the Carrillo Certified Home. Macelyn is a pretty little girl who always sports a big smile and always seems to be happy. She attends Kindergarten, which she enjoys, and has made many new friends. Frequently energetic and bubbly, she enjoys participating in activities by herself or with others. Macelyn is a bright student with a warm and pleasant personality. We wish the very best the future has to offer. Congratulations Macelyn for your selection as Child of the Month.

## Foster Family of the Month: Suorsa Family

We would like to recognize Michael and Christian Soursa as Foster Parents of the Month. Since becoming foster parents with Kern Bridges, the Soursa family has gone above and beyond for all kids placed in their home. The Soursa family has a unique gift that brings out the good in all kids in the home. Their secret is simple; just love all unconditionally. The Soursa family's motto is "Regardless of the behavior, just keep loving and guiding the children". No words can express how grateful we are to have you as our foster family. Thank you for opening up your home and making a difference in a child's life. Congratulations on being this month's Foster Family of the Month.

## Kern County DHS Spotlight

We proudly recognize Norma Smith in the Foster Care Unit. The bottom line is, we would not be able to adequately care for the medical, dental and other necessary services without Mrs. Smith's help. For the majority of the time, our calls to Mrs. Smith have been for requests for Benefits Identification Cards (BICs) or Temporary Benefits Identification Cards (TBICs) which were needed yesterday. This month we wish to say "Thank You" for all of the help you have given to us. We are grateful for your assistance. All of the children placed in our care have benefitted directly from your efforts.





# **SAFETY**

***The Kern County Network for Children declared October 2015  
“Safe Sleeping for Infants” Month.***

From *Kern Cares*, a publication of the Kern County Network for Children:  
Become a Kern Cares Infant Safe Sleep Partner. In Kern County, 11 infants die each year as a result of unsafe sleep environments. These deaths are 100% preventable. Currently, Kern County ranks 7th statewide in infant mortality rate with the top three causes being prematurity, congenital anomalies, and unexpected infant deaths that occur during sleep. The death of any infant is tragic, but it’s especially tragic when it is entirely preventable.

One of the most important things a baby needs is a safe place to sleep. A baby’s risk of dying from suffocation and accidents increases 40 times when sleeping in an adult bed with parents or anyone else, rather than an empty crib (between 2009 and 2013, an average of 11 Kern County infants have died annually in their sleep with most linked to an unsafe sleep environment).

During the month of October, Kern Cares is inviting the community to be a Kern Cares Infant Safe Sleep Partner and commit to helping parents know the importance of safe sleep practices in protecting their babies from suffocation, accidents and SIDS during sleep.

