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KERN BRIDGES YOUTH HOMES



“Camp Forever” is a weekend family camp for adoptive families. This is KBYH’s third year offering this event. 26 families participated in this year’s event that included ropes course, go-karts, archery, swimming, fishing, camp games, great food, and lot of memories. Thank you to our sponsors, the Kern County Department of Human Services and the Children’s Home Society of California, for helping to subsidize this event. Most importantly, thank you to the families who helped make this a fun and memorable event.





KBYH's own Joe Ortega taking part in Camp Forever activities



Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

October 13, 6:00-8:00PM: "Effects of Drug and Alcohol Abuse on Children and Non-Minor Dependents" with Mike Ramirez

December 6, 6:00-8:00PM: "Cultural Competency and Best Practices with LGBTQ Youth" with Jennifer Robbins

Group Homes

KBYH Group Homes closed out their 2017 summer with an enthusiastic bang! One of many events that took place last month was an outing to the Rose Bowl to see the UCLA vs University of Hawaii football game. For many of our boys, this was their first college football game and they were ecstatic. Even though UCLA dominated the game in dramatic fashion, the boys really loved the atmosphere. Everyone purchased souvenirs and went to Roscoe's Chicken & Waffles for dinner after the game. Next, the boys traveled to Redondo Beach to go fishing and took a cruise around the Redondo Bay. The following weekend, the boys went surfing and body boarding at Venture Beach. After an exhausting day of catching waves, the staff and the boys had a family BBQ on the beach before retuning back home. Lastly, the boys went to

Lake Lopez to compete in the Ropes Challenge Course. The boys were pumped for this challenge even though none of them had any ropes course experience.



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.

Save the Date

KBYH's annual Halloween carnival will be held at Silver Creek park on Thursday, October 26 at 5:30pm.



Child Birthdays

November 2: David R.
 November 6: Carolyn R.
 November 10: Jamie P.
 November 25: Haley C.



Foster Parent Birthdays

November 2: Roger Perry
 November 3: Lindsey Call
 November 4: Garbis Marroquin
 November 5: Jose Montoya
 November 7: Jesus Salas
 November 13: Ninfa Montoya
 November 16: Cindy Perry
 November 19: Monica Alfaro
 November 20: John Rivera
 November 30: Teresa Viramontes

KBYH Staff Birthdays

November 1: Robert Carter
 November 1: Jennifer Robbins
 November 3: Juan Vasquez
 November 11: Elvia Alvarez
 November 25: Shawn Wilcox

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

Karen Kenney: 1 year
 Tony Balderas: 10 Years
 Mike Nieto: 15 Years

CFTM's

Recently, as part of a pilot project through the Kern County Department of Human Services, Kern Bridges has been coordinating and facilitating CFTM's (Child Family Team Meetings). CFTM's are previously known as TDM's (Team Decision Meetings), and are part of the new RFA requirements. They should occur within 60 days of placement and depending on the youth, they can occur every 3-6 months thereafter. KBYH's Resource Family Specialist, Marina Hernandez, has facilitated six meetings so far, and reports positive feedback from our community partners.

Foster Child of the Month: Matthew C.

The Adoption Stork landed in the home of Carmen Cercado and Alberto Cortes on September 22, 2017, delivering Matthew Cortes. The Cercado and Cortes family adopted Matthew with much joy and lives with his sister Ariana and foster brothers Zeremiah and Zechariah. Congratulations Mrs. Cercado and Mr. Cortes on your new forever addition to the family and thanks to all of the special people who helped make this event happen.



Resource Family of the Month: Eric and Kathleen Viramontes

Congratulations to Eric Viramontes and Kathleen Petty who were married on September 30, 2017! KBYH wishes you all the best in your life together.



KBYH Social Worker Spotlight: Bianca Ruiz

I completed the MSW Program at CSUB in 2013. After graduation, I worked for a local FFA before becoming a first responder for the Kern County Department of Human Services. During my employment with the Department of Human Services, I served in the Domestic Violence Unit and the Crisis Unit of Emergency Response Department. I later transferred to the Family Services Department. I am thankful for the experience and skills my employment with the Department of Human Services allowed me to acquire. I am happy for the opportunity to now serve Kern Bridges Youth Homes as an Adoption Social Worker and look forward to helping families obtain permanency.

KBYH welcomes Bianca (back-she was an MSW intern several years ago) to the team and we look forward to all the ways she will enhance our services.



A Kern Bridges staff reported a safety related event. The individual stated that he experienced an electrical problem with a dryer at his home. After removing the power plug from the electrical junction box, he noticed that part of the box was melted and showed signs of electrical burns. Fortunately the junction box was made of fire retardant plastic.



We advise that Resource Family homes inspect electrical appliances, especially high demand appliances such as electrical dryers, to ensure that areas around electrical junction boxes are dry and lint free. One may consider installing a smoke detector in the laundry spaces as well.

