

**KERN BRIDGES
YOUTH HOMES**

Where Children Thrive

NEWSLETTER

TELEPHONE
661-396-2301

FACSIMILE
661-396-2349

KERN BRIDGES YOUTH HOMES

October 2018

kernbridges.com

Camp Forever



KBYH, in collaboration with KCDHS and the Children's Home Society of California, held its 4th annual Camp Forever on August 24-26 at Canyon Creek Retreat Center. This year, 27 adoptive families spent the weekend connecting with each other through various activities. Camp Forever's primary mission is to help adoptive families connect and establish support systems. It was a successful weekend and especially rewarding to witness old friendships from prior years rekindled and new friendships formed. Camp Forever would not have been possible without the help and support of Children's Home Society and the KCDHS. Be on the lookout for next year's CF19 coming in August, 2019!!!

Save the Date

KBYH's annual Halloween carnival will be held on Thursday, October 25. Please note: This year's event will be held AT THE KBYH's OFFICE at 1321 Stine Rd. More details will be made available prior to the event.

Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

October 10, 6:00-8:00PM: "Effects of Drug and Alcohol Abuse on Children and Non-minor Dependents" with Mike Ramirez. RSVP to 978-6538

December 5, 6:00-8:00PM: "Cultural Competency & Best Practices with LGBTQ Youth" with Jennifer Robbins. RSVP to 396-2322

Ongoing Trainings

Mark Dominguez will be offering the following trainings on an ongoing basis (participants must RSVP by the Thursday prior to the training to 661-865-2352):

CPR/1st Aid Recertification (for anyone who has previously had CPR/1st Aid training): First **Monday** 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.





KBYH recently received this Thank You note from the biological parents of a recently discharged Group Home resident.

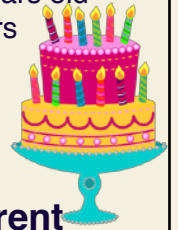
I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Kern Bridges Youth Home for all the care and effort they have extended to my son [redacted]. I am most appreciative of all the visits which have been made possible by KBYH. In specific a visit which took place in February which took place at Burnett's Keep was the first time since September 2017, my family was able to share a meal together. It was quite memorable and a most heartfelt expression of gratitude is extended from not just me but my entire family. Thank you staff of KBYH. Keep up the great awesome work! God Bless you ALL!!

Thank You
Respectfully,
[redacted]

9/2019

Child Birthdays

- Andrea P: 11 years old
- Jah-Sani T: 6 years old
- Noah B: 14 years



Resource Parent Birthdays

- Roger Perry: November 2
- Lindsey Call: November 3
- Garbis Marroquin: November 4
- Jose Montoya: November 5
- Rashon Cardwell: November 5
- Imelda Escorpiso: November 12
- Ninfa Montoya: November 13
- Kim Phuong Le: November 15
- Cindy Perry: November 16
- Monica Alfaro: November 19
- Teresa Viramontes: November 30

KBYH Staff Birthdays

- Robert Carter: November 1
- Jennifer Robbins: November 1
- Elvia Alvarez: November 11
- Bobby Brown: November 16

KBYH Staff

Anniversaries

- Antonio Balderas: 11 years
- Karen Kenney: 2 years



Foster Youth of the Month: Alex R. Bowers

Alex is a sweet, kind, loyal young man. He loves animals, video games, and building things. Alex loves to tinker. He can fix, build, or construct anything, and has great patience in problem solving. He makes it seem effortless. Alex has a great sense of humor and is affectionate. He enjoys the outdoors, especially going to Hurricane Harbor, paint-balling, and fishing. His kindred spirit adds sunshine to any day. He is truly a unique individual! Currently Alex is looking to transitioning from residential care into a Resource Family and we know that he will do great.



Resource Family of the Month: Cardwell Family

Kern Bridges Youth Homes would like to welcome our newest Resource Family, the Cardwell Family! Mrs. Cardwell was an intern at our group homes and decided to become approved to take placement of our group home boys! Mr. and Mrs. Cardwell have two younger biological children and are ready to open their home to our older youth. We are excited to have the Cardwell family on board and are looking forward to see the impact they make on our older foster youth.

Community Partner Spotlight: Theresa Mosely

This month KBYH would like to recognize Theresa Mosely, Youth Partner with the Aspiranet Wraparound Program. Because the Wraparound program offers home based services, Theresa meets with youth primarily in the home to provide support services such as assistance with school, independent living, coping skills and many other valuable services. The Wraparound program provides services to youth in foster care, probation, juvenile hall and adopted youth. Theresa said the main focus of her job is to stabilize families so that they no longer need their services, however, KBYH has one youth who wants to stay with the Wraparound program indefinitely because of her close bond with Theresa. Theresa does an amazing job engaging youth and being part of Child Family Team (CFT meetings) that are held regularly for Wraparound clients. Thank you, Theresa, for your dedication and hard work with children, youth and families!

Safety Notes

7 Safety Rules for Kids at Home Alone

When is your child old enough to stay home alone after school? It totally depends. Only you can properly assess your child's maturity, judgment, and comfort level. Your city or state may have laws governing the age at which kids can legally be left alone (often it's 11 and up), so be sure to check into that before you make a decision.

Ask your child how he feels about staying home alone. If he seems worried or afraid, he may not be ready. But if he's keen to try, this experience can foster his sense of independence. If you determine that he is responsible enough to care for himself alone after school, brief him on these rules:

1. Inspect your home thoroughly for any safety risks. Make sure that all of the smoke detectors are functioning properly. Even if you believe it to be common sense, review the sound of the alarm — and what to do if it goes off — with your child. She should get out of the house immediately and then call 911 from a neighbor's house. Review the emergency exits by drawing a map that outlines the best pathways to safety from each room in the house. Post relevant phone numbers (911, a close neighbor, your cell and work numbers) prominently.
2. Make it a rule that your child calls a parent (or other adult that you designate), or leaves you a message, as soon as he gets home. This can be the first step in a daily routine that includes homework, a snack, and some downtime.
3. Your child shouldn't answer the phone for just anyone, so set up guidelines. If you have a land line with caller ID, tell her not to answer the phone if she doesn't recognize the name or number. If you don't have caller ID, tell him that she should let every call go to voice mail. If your child is old enough to have her own cell phone, use the same guidelines.
4. Your child should not leave the house unattended unless he's cleared it with you first or there is an emergency such as a fire. Make sure that he is aware of the risks of leaving home.
5. Have her take the same route to and from school every day. If your child walks, review each street that she uses. If she takes a school bus, make sure that she takes it every day, even if she is offered a ride from a friend. Knowing her route allows you to predict how long it will take her to arrive home, and to trace her steps if there is ever a problem.
6. Although he needs some downtime to rest and rejuvenate, your child will be less likely to get into trouble if he's occupied with homework, music practice, and chores.
7. Keep a first aid kit handy and review it with your child. Help her distinguish between a true emergency and a minor one that she can handle herself.

From: www.scholastic.com