



KERN BRIDGES
YOUTH HOMES

NEWSLETTER

September 2015

kernbridges.com

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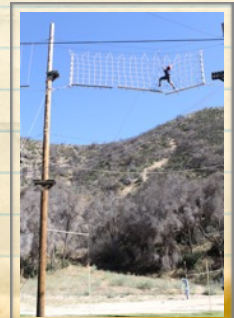
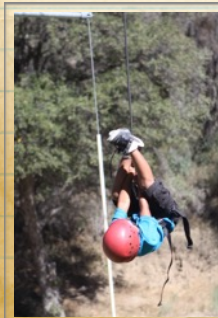
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KERN BRIDGES YOUTH HOMES

CAMP FOREVER



Camp Forever was a weekend retreat for families who have adopted through the Kern County foster care system. Eighteen families participated in Go-Karts, Archery, Ropes Courses, Fishing, Fantastic Meals, Obstacle Courses, Arts & Crafts, Sports Activities, Swimming, Amazing Races, Parent Training, Talent Night, and Campfire Activities. Thank you to the Canyon Creek Retreat Center and their amazing staff and to our partners, the Children's Home Society of California and Kern County DHS.



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



Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

September 12, 9:00-11:00AM:
"Positive Discipline/Self-Esteem" with Ruth Jackson

October 14, 6:00-8:00PM:
"Attachment" with Jessica and Carrie

November 14, 9:00-11:00AM:
"Managing Aggressive Behavior" with Mark Dominguez

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):

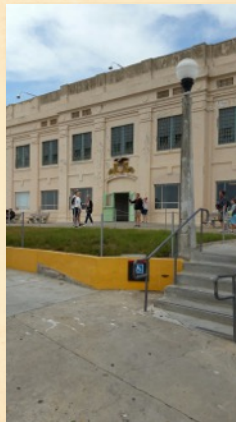
CPR/1st Aid Recertification (for anyone who has previously had CPR/1st Aid training): First Thursday of every month from 10:00am-Noon and from 6:00-8:00pm.

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.

KBYH Staff Spotlight

Michael Ramirez

Michael was born in Bakersfield and is the oldest of three children. He graduated from South High School and was self-employed, but in his late 40's decided to go back to school. He received his Bachelor's degree from UoP and his Master's in Social Work from CSUB (and was an MSW intern at KBYH for one year). Michael has three children and 6 grandchildren. His hobbies include traveling, photography, and his grandchildren. Michael has recently joined the KBYH family as a part-time FFA Social Worker.



The kids from KBYH took a trip on Amtrak leaving Bakersfield at 4:50 am and arriving in San Francisco at 11:30 am. The boys were excited to take a trip and see the infamous Alcatraz Prison.

Alcatraz Island offers a close-up look at the site of the first lighthouse and US built fort on the West Coast. Rich in history, there is also a natural side to The Rock—gardens, tide pools, bird colonies, and bay views beyond compare.

The boys had such a great time. This was a 1 day turn-around trip on the Amtrak. We returned to Bakersfield the same day arriving back in town just before midnight. This was a great opportunity to show our kids how to use the mass transit system to get around California and a way of skill building for something they can use for the rest of their life.



"Kern Bridges is all about building lifelong positive memories"

Child Birthdays

- September 4: Courtney S.
- September 7: Cloe G.
- September 14: Matthew L.
- September 20: Zechariah L.
- September 25: Anjelica M.
- September 30: Junaita M.



Foster Parent Birthdays

- September 18: Hortencia Salas
- September 24: Mike Hicks

KBYH Staff Birthdays

- September 15: Ana Landeros
- September 16: Vernetta Carter
- September 23: Clark Weathers

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

- Keisha Davis: 13 years
- Kathy Irwin: 18 years

Foster Child of the Month: Joseph G.

This month's Child of the Month resides in the Hoover Certified Home. We take great pleasure presenting Joseph G. Child of the Month for September. Joseph is a cheerful and friendly 3 year old boy who lives in the home with his younger brother and foster sister. Joseph is a well-mannered, polite and happy little boy who is happy in his placement with the Hoover's. He enjoys playing with his siblings and foster parents, and likes to go out on trips. He is constantly exploring his surroundings and curious about new things around him. Joseph is anxious to attend preschool and is a kind-hearted little boy who interacts well with those who visit him and the family.

Foster Family of the Month: Sophia Gaston

See tribute below.

Kern County DHS Spotlight



KBYH would like to thank Jennifer Robbins, Gaby Lazos-Johnson, Lee Felix, Yolanda Covian, Maria Bermudez, and Richard D'Antonio for all their time and efforts to help make Camp Forever a fun and memorable event for adoptive families. We appreciate their participation, sense of adventure, and great attitudes to make the event a success.



In Memoriam

Sophia Gaston

Born July 15, 1964

Died August 20, 2015

Sophia Gaston was a wonderful daughter, mother and a KBYH family member. Her departure had an impact on all who knew her. Sophia was the eldest of two daughters. She attended local schools, McKinley Elementary School and Emerson Junior High School. Sophia graduated from Bakersfield High School in 1981. Sophia was very active in school sports and excelled in Baseball. During her working years, she was employed in retail sales with several major department stores in Bakersfield. She was also a student at Federico's Beauty College.

Sophia loved children and she extended that love when she was a foster parent from 2000-2011. Sophia was a mother to many children, accepting anyone who needed her help in their life. As a foster mother, Sophia readily accepted children with challenges. She gave each child a very loving, structured and stable environment. It was evident that each child received the unconditional love, nurturing and parenting they needed to become happy, well adjusted children. Sophia adopted Jonathan Gaston in 2004 and she adopted James and Benjamin Gaston in 2011.

The last few years, Sophia's health was a focal point in her life. She conquered many health issues along with many hospitalizations. Sophia remained strong in her faith, a courageous fighter who never complained about the many physical challenges that she faced from beginning to end. Sophia is survived by her children, many relatives and friends.



SAFETY

Consider Proper Air Circulation When Transporting Your Baby:

During hot weather, temperatures in parked vehicles can nearly double within a matter of 15 minutes. **Never leave your baby alone in a vehicle, even for a minute, even if the windows are open.** Furthermore, be cautious of keeping your child seated in a [car seat carrier](#) or held in a front carrier made of thick material. The limited air circulation and heavy padding can cause excessive heat and poor ventilation.

Watch Out for Insects, Spiders, and Other Creepy Crawlies:

The best way to prevent bug bites is to keep your baby out of these critters' popular hangout spots. Bees love clover, flowers, and the like. Mosquitoes hunker down in standing water, and deer ticks consider brushy areas an inviting home. For added protection, you might want to consider draping insect netting over your stroller or carrier, and applying an [insect repellent](#) with low concentrations of DEET to your baby's clothes if he is older than 2 months. Avoid placing the repellent on his hands to prevent ingestion.

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Sixth Annual Sibling Event

There was a record number 300 adults and children who attended this year's sibling event at the Canyon Hills Church. There was food, raffles, and a wide variety of booths and activities. New booths were added this year for older children and a balloon bearing clown was quite amusing. Children over 5 years old were given a backpack and school supplies. Children under 5 were given books and stuffed animals. Thank you to DHS and all of its partners for putting together another successful and memorable event.

