

ADOPTION!!

Congratulations to the four KBYH families who finalized their adoptions in August. At left is the Suorsa, Ayala, and Thompson families (respectively) and the Schmidt family below. We value and appreciate the opportunity to partner with families and be a part of the journey towards this very happy ending. Congrats!!



Camp Forever

On the weekend of August 26, 21 families participated in the second annual Adoption Family Camp ("Camp Forever"). KBYH would like to thank Kern County DHS for their partnership in this event and we appreciated all the families who made this a fun and memorable event.



Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

September 10, 9-11AM: "Positive Discipline/Self-Esteem" with Ruth Jackson

October 12, 6-8PM: "Attachment" with Jessica and Carrie

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

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.

Save the Date

KBYH's annual Halloween Carnival will be on October 27 at Silvercreek Park.

Child Birthdays

- October 3: Sean A.
- October 5: Denzel D.
- October 5: Marcos R.
- October 9: Miriam S.
- October 12: Jeremiah L.
- October 17: Billie P.
- October 19: Kendra C.
- October 19: Khloe C.
- October 29: Alejandro R.
- October 30: Bradley C.



Foster Parent Birthdays

- October 5: Mike Long
- October 16: Moe Smith
- October 17: David Mongold
- October 24: Gabriel Sosa
- October 30: Daren Brians

KBYH Staff Birthdays

- October 15: Mike Ramirez
- October 15: Marlon Wilkerson
- October 16: Jose Soto
- October 18: Antonio Balderas
- October 31: Steve Kresha

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

- Ana Landeros: 10 Years
- Jim VanderZwan: 15 Years

KBYH staff and board members recently enjoyed an all-agency lunch and competition at The Firehouse restaurant.



Foster Child of the Month: Marlin V.

Marlin will start attending UC Davis on September 17th. She has worked hard to earn enrollment in this college. She took Honors, AP and GATE classes throughout high school. Marlin was active in soccer until her knee injury which required an operation. Throughout the pain, she seldom complained and kept up her grades. She was active in AVID, her school mentorship and academic decathlon. She even had time to earn money babysitting during her free time. Marlin took all her Catholic communion classes earning her baptism as a teenager due to her religious commitment. She gets along well with adults and children. Several of Robert and Martha's grandchildren adore her. Marlin has overcome many obstacles in her path and we wish her the best of luck in the future. Thank you for the years of blessings you have given us. And stay away from boys and keep up the grades!

Foster Family of the Month: Robert and Martha Gonzales

Robert and Martha Gonzales became foster parents with KBYH on December 18, 1990. They've had 26 foster children through out the years. They were able to keep children long term, through guardianship and AB-12. The birth parents were always treated with respect throughout the reunification process. Robert and Martha provided the children with amenities most birth children do not receive. They helped them with their education and finding jobs while instilling them with strict guidelines regarding responsible and appropriate behavior. Their past foster children have kept in contact with them through the years, bringing their children and spouses. Robert and Martha even became godparents for one adult foster child's baptism. They often gave financial assistance and emotional support after the children left the home. Many people have been blessed with your service. We will miss you. Happy retirement from foster care and thank you for everything!!

DHS Worker Spotlight: Anne Twist

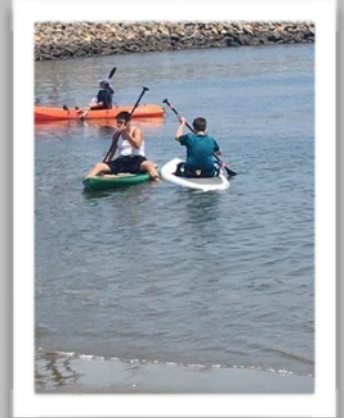
KBYH would like to thank Anne Twist for her excellent work! Anne has worked for the Department for a "long time", which equals approximately 27 years. She took one year off to work for Tri-County Regional Center. She has worked in every department at the county, ending up in the Adoption unit, which she has been at for 1 year this month. Adoptions has a special place in Anne's heart, as she was adopted when she was 2 months old. Anne keeps herself very busy with her 2 sons and being a BMX-mom. Anne has proven to us that she is very knowledgeable in this field and is a joy to have as a partner. Anne attended the KBYH/KCDHS Camp Forever this year, and was a great asset. Anne also has the coolest email ever!! Thank you for your service, Anne!!



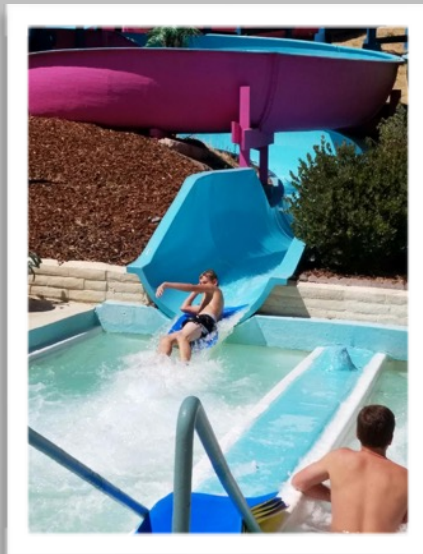
Boys just want to have fun!!



Kern Bridges Group Homes closed out their 2016 summer with a bang! Our trips took us to many destinations all around the Golden State. The first weekend of August, the boys traveled to Santa Barbara East Beach for a day of volleyball and boogie boarding. The next day, we sent a group to Redondo Beach to play ultimate Frisbee and swim. The following weekend, the boys traveled to Ranchos Palos Verdes to hike the Pelican Cove Trail along the coast. The very next day,



the boys participated in a kayak finished the month with trips to boys toured The Bridge to Water Adventures in Fresno.



adventure tour at Avila Beach. We San Gabriel Mountains where the Nowhere and water outing to Wild



SAFETY

Getting ready to bring home baby makes you see your home in a whole new way. Time for child proofing! Seemingly innocuous items like the mini-blinds suddenly became choking hazards! Uncovered outlets are there to tempt small fingers. The kitchen, bathrooms, stairs... the list of potential dangers is endless!

The toddler years are a joy, but bring with them a whole host of new child safety risks to consider. It seems as if as soon as your child learns to walk, they learn to run, and climb, and never slow down. They also learn to reach and grab for whatever catches their eye - and don't let those short little arms and legs fool you, they have the ability to get into everything! As they get older, we probably don't have as much to worry about as far as the home front is concerned, but there is a whole big world out there just waiting for them to enter. When joining the ranks of soccer moms (and dads), taxiing from one activity to the next, it is vital to be aware of child safety hazards and the proper equipment necessary to protect your child from them; bike helmets, knee pads, shin guards, etc. Now is also the time to educate our children (and ourselves) about stranger danger, bullying, peer pressure, and just saying no.

In today's world there are a whole host of new issues that earlier generations didn't face growing up. The Internet is a wonderful product of the new age of technology, but without proper precautions and monitoring it can be a dangerous place for children and adolescents. Of course no one can protect their children from everything or foresee all the possible dangers they may face, but with a little child safety planning and a lot of love we can protect them from a lot. After all, isn't that a parents' job?

-Taken from: Mychildsafety

Wanted:

Couch and Love Seat

Our Almklov Group Home is in need of a new or gently used couch and love seat. If you can help us out, please contact John Bacon at jbacon@kernbridges.com or call 661-396-2362

