

Group Home Summer Recap



Throughout the summer we created opportunities for fun and personal growth. One of our young men completed the “Devil Pups” program with the Young Marines! Other boys participated in several adventures that took us all over California. Some of the places we visited this summer were Morro Bay, Hearst Castle, Disney’s California Adventure, and Magic Mountain, just to name a few.





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 OFFICES 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.



Placements

In recent months we have seen a decline in the number of foster kids being referred for placement. Reasons for this seem to primarily include a decline in the overall number of kids in foster care in Kern County as well as an increase in the number of kids being placed with relatives or non-related “relatives”. KBYH resource parents sometimes question why they aren’t getting called about kids needing to be placed and we wanted to reassure you that we are paying close attention to the needs and opportunities of our community. One avenue we have pursued is placement of foster children from other counties. KBYH is excited to announce that we have finalized a contract with Tulare County, who is anxious to partner with Kern Bridges to help meet their placement needs. This will be particularly meaningful for our families who live in the north end of our county (Delano, Shafter, Wasco, etc.). Also, KBYH is nearly approved to begin providing Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC). The ISFC program is intended to serve children/youth who require intensive treatment and behavioral supports. The goal is to ensure that youth in foster care receive the services they need in a home-based family care setting or to avoid or exit a short-term residential therapeutic program or group home. The program requires specially trained resource parents and professional and paraprofessional support. ISFC comes with very aggressive compensation for the resource family as well as support to assist the family in providing this high-level service. Resource parents who are interested in providing this service should contact Jim for further information.

Child Birthdays

- Marcos R: 19 years
- Kaylie C: 12 years
- Giovanni W: 9 years
- Leonor M: 10 years
- Jacob B: 15 years
- Bradley C: 21 years



Resource Parent Birthdays

- David Mongold: October 17
- Rigoberto Perez: October 18
- Darin Brians: October 30

KBYH Staff Birthdays

- Michael Ramirez: October 15
- Marlon Wilkerson: October 15
- Jose Soto: October 16
- Antonio Balderas: October 18
- Jill Howard: October 19
- Bianca Ruiz: October 20
- Steven Kresha: October 31

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

- Jim VanderZwan: 17 years
- Ana Landeros: 12 years



Foster Youth of the Month: Christopher O.

This month we would like to recognize Christopher O. as child of the month. Christopher was placed in the Dozhier home along with his two siblings on 8-15-17. Christopher was developmentally delayed in communication. With unconditional love, and early intervention speech therapy, he is now a chatter box. Christopher is a handsome and lovable 15 month old who likes to blow you kisses. The whole family has fallen in love with him. The Dozhier family are in the process of giving Christopher and his siblings a forever home.

Resource Family of the Month: Breanna & Jason Beavers

Congratulation to Breanna and Jason Beavers, KBYH resource parents of the month. This young couple have been resource parents since December 2017 when they received placement of a 4-week-old girl. They also received placement of two brothers , ages 4 and 5. September was a special month for the Beavers, becoming forever parents of the baby girl. This has been a long, hard endeavor but has resulted in the adoption of their 22-month old baby girl. The Beaver home provides children with unconditional love, nurturing and parenting that children need to become well-adjusted children. Congratulations on a job well done!!

KBYH Social Worker Spotlight: Ana Ellis

This month we proudly recognize Ana Ellis, DHS Social Worker of the Month. Ms. Ellis has always been available to care for the issues or needs of the children placed in our care. She has been thoroughly familiar with our clients' cases, and she has promptly responded to many last-minute requests for help. We view Ms. Ellis as a competent social worker who is always cheerful and professional. On many sticky issues involving the trouble shooting of our cases, Ms. Ellis developed clear and complete plans to ensure that the children and the children's biological parents were adequately supported. She is a dedicated Social Worker who is always at the service of our children. She has given us the support that we have needed to ensure proper case management which has led to better meeting our clients' needs. Ms. Ellis is highly respected and lauded by our resource parents. We are grateful for her unwavering support. Congratulations Ms. Ellis on this well-deserved recognition.





Safety Notes

Fall Prevention

We all want to keep our children safe and secure and help them live to their full potential. Knowing how to prevent leading causes of child injury, like falls, is a step toward this goal.

Falls are the leading cause of non-fatal injuries for all children ages 0 to 19. Every day, approximately 8,000 children are treated in U.S. emergency rooms for fall-related injuries. This adds up to almost 2.8 million children each year. Thankfully, many falls can be prevented, and parents and caregivers can play a key role in protecting children.

Key Prevention Tips

- **Play safely.**

Falls on the playground are a common cause of injury. Check to make sure that the surfaces under playground equipment are safe, soft, and consist of appropriate materials (such as wood chips or sand, not dirt or grass). The surface materials should be an appropriate depth and well-maintained.

- **Make your home safer.**

Use home safety devices, such as guards on windows that are above ground level, stair gates, and guard rails. These devices can help keep a busy, active child from taking a dangerous tumble.

- **Keep sports safe.**

Make sure your child wears protective gear during sports and recreation. For example, when in-line skating, use wrist guards, knee and elbow pads, and a helmet.

- **Supervision is key.**

Supervise young children at all times around fall hazards, such as stairs and playground equipment, whether you're at home or out to play.

-From: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov)