



KERN COUNTY FOSTER FAMILIES ARE VALUED, RESPECTED, SUPPORTED, AND SKILLED PARTNERS AND ADVOCATES WHO:

- ★ Provide safe loving homes
- ★ Commit to the development and success of children and families
- ★ Encourage family connections and nurturing relationships
- ★ Maintain a lifelong connection to children whenever possible

FOSTER CARE OMBUDSMAN UPDATE

The Foster Care Ombudsman's role is to listen to your concerns, to document your complaints and suggestions, to remain neutral and objective and to keep information confidential.

Dear Caregiver:

It's hard to believe that we are near the end of the 2014-2015 school year. Hopefully, the children in your care were able to reach their highest potential in their school programs. I encourage you to keep each child's social worker informed of their progress and any unmet needs so they can begin to help you prepare for next school year.

In Spring 2014, I provided you with a brief update of what the Department of Human Services was working on to help support and develop ALL of our Resource Families. I am pleased to report that we have made positive strides to improve communication and have expanded training opportunities. We also provided incentives to encourage you to invite your friends and family members to become Resource Foster Families.

We value your input and once again we will be asking you about the quality of our services and support. A random percentage of caregivers will be asked to participate in a telephone survey within the next few months. We want your feedback about our practices and we will ask you about our performance in areas such as: Are social workers and supervisors responding to your calls within 1 working day? Is there an alternate contact person and is their phone number provided to you as another option to handle your questions? Are Medi-Cal cards provided to you within a few days of placement and is information on alternatives for emergency care also provided to you? Is the available medical and educational information provided to you at the time of placement or as soon as the information is received? Be sure to let us know how we are doing.

Lastly, in a continued effort to provide support to ALL our Resource Foster Families, I encourage you to take a moment to review the information provided inside this Newsletter. Please also consider other opportunities to care for children with special needs in areas of emergency care to possible adoption.

Thank you for your dedication to Kern's foster children... without you, life is harder for the families and children we serve.

Margarita Soza, (661) 631-6698

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR ALL CAREGIVERS

RECRUITMENT IN DISTRICTS

The Department has begun extensive recruitment efforts in outlying communities outside of the Bakersfield area. Foster Parent Orientations and PRIDE classes are offered through video-conference meetings. TAFT will host Orientations in May 2015 and PRIDE in June. Future Orientations and PRIDE will be scheduled in Ridgecrest and Delano this summer. Encourage your friends and family members to attend. Call the Foster Parent Recruitment Line at (661) 631-6204 for additional details.

CHDP

40% of Foster children in California are behind on their CHDP examinations, immunizations and dental exams. Please do not allow the foster children in your care be part of this horrific statistic. Let's get KERN County children immunized! Remember, ALL children need to be examined within the first 30 days of entering foster care. Contact the child's placement social worker to determine if your child is at risk of being behind and to share ALL updates so that all the child's files are kept current. A CHDP brochure is attached for your convenience.

PRIDE PRE-ADOPT

As of January 2015 PRIDE PRE-ADOPT classes are now merged with the PRIDE curriculum. Caregivers with children in the Adoptions Program or caregivers that are interested in becoming Adoption ready should contact the Adoptions Worker of the Day to schedule attendance in Adoptions Orientation AND begin PRIDE PRE-ADOPTION curriculum. Call (661)868-8900.

KINSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM (KSSP)

KSSP (Kinship Support Services Program): Henrietta Weill Memorial Child Guidance Clinic provides support services to relative and non-related extended family members (NREFM) caregivers of court dependent and non-court dependent children. Services include counseling and referral, case management, support groups for caregivers, family and children's activities and tutoring. Monthly activities include Kids Night, Teen Night and Family Night functions. Access services at 3628 Stockdale Hwy or 2001 North Chester offices or by calling (661) 393-5836.

PASS ALONG CARDS

Call for your deck of cards and begin referring your family, friends and neighbors to become a licensed Resource Foster Family. The cards have Orientation information and a space for your name/phone number, which can be used to begin a mentorship connection. \$50 Incentives are available for each qualifying referral submitted that results in an approved foster care license. Call The Foster Parent Recruitment at (661) 631-6698 for details

PLAIN TALK FOR LICENSED HOMES

ATTENTION EMERGENCY FOSTER HOME CAREGIVERS

We are planning an informational *Meet N Greet* meeting and dinner for all licensed caregivers that are currently approved or interested in our EFH placement program. If you are not currently an EFH provider but would like to help out, contact your Licensing Program Analyst (LPA) **and** EFH Social Worker Yolanda Covian, MSW at (661) 633-7045. We will provide additional information soon.

DID YOU BECOME A LICENSED FOSTER HOME

For sole purpose of adopting a child in foster care? Do you have an Approved Adoptions Home Study? *The Department would like to inform you that a completed Adoption Home Study is required before a foster-adopt placement is made. Call the Adoptions Worker of the Day at (661) 868-8900 for more information.*

VACATION SEASON IS COMING

Licensed Foster Family Caregivers Are Reminded to Prepare and obtain clearances for regular and vacation season. This means that if you will be leaving a "child" in care with someone more than 24 hours make sure to obtain the required information and forms from your assigned LPA. All care providers used 24 or more hours will require: (1) Fingerprinting, (2) Health Screen and TB Clearance, (3) CPR/First Aid (infant/toddler/adult). You may not use uncleared adults beyond 24 hours or those used on a regular and routine basis without the above requirements being met.

LICENSED FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED FOR SPECIALTY

The Department is actively recruiting county licensed foster parents to meet the growing needs of our foster children. Please contact your Licensing Program Analyst if you have room in your home and a heart to care for and love children who:

- Need Emergency Foster Home placement
- Are Medically fragile or have specialized medical needs
- Have severe emotional/behavioral challenges
- Qualify for MTFC
- Are part of a large sibling groups
- Are pregnant or parenting teens
- Are AB12 youth
- Are victims of human trafficking.

Specialized training and support will be provided, as needed.

MOVING? OR, RECENTLY MOVED?

Relatives and Non-related Extended Family Members MUST report new address information to the child social worker immediately upon moving, or preferably, prior to the move. A delay may adversely affect home approval and foster care payment eligibility.

Licensed Foster Parents must report ALL change of address to Licensing as soon as possible. Failure to do so can lead to violation of Title 22, Operation without a License 89206, and you could be cited. Not reporting can also lead to possible removal of children if the home does not pass the home inspection visit and may also result in a delay in foster care payment. Our goal is to assure you are provided with current and accurate information about our services and point of contact numbers.

DO YOUKNOW OF FAMILIES INTERESTED IN BECOMING FOSTER PARENTS?

If you have friends or family that may be interested in finding out more about becoming foster parents, please invite them to come to one of our orientations. Orientations are held at the Department of Human Services Partnership Building, 100 E. California, from 5:30-7:30pm. There is no commitment necessary to attend. Have your friends and family call the Recruitment line at 631-6204 for additional information.

Orientations are held:

- English: Second and Fourth Thursdays, monthly
- Spanish: Third Thursday, monthly

RESPITE CARE HOMES NEEDED

Please contact your Licensing Program Analyst (LPA) or Foster Care Ombudsman, Margarita Soza at (661) 631-6698 to sign up for the Respite Care Provider List.

NOTE FROM RDS

The Resource, Development and Support (RDS) committee's goal is to make this newsletter something that ALL foster caregivers find informative, interesting and useful. If you are interested in submitting an article, or have suggestions on making the newsletter better, please contact Margarita Soza at 661-631-6698 or email at sozam@kerndhs.com.

Bakersfield College Foster and Kinship Care Educational Program
Announces Remaining 2014/2015 Training Calendar for:

Caring for Children with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Needs



This training is a requirement for caregivers receiving or requesting Specialized Care Increments. Contact child's Social Worker for details.

Training is recommended for All resource families including Licensed Foster Homes, Relatives and Non-Related caregivers.

To register please contact:

BC Registration Line (661) 319-1836

or Mary Halberg (661) 395-4737

Remaining Calendar May/June 2015

05/05/2015	7:30-9:30 p.m. Room 102	Caring for Children with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Needs – Level 2	Leslie Foster, MSW KCDHS Supervisor, KCMH Representative TBA
05/19/2015	5:00-7:00 p.m. NEW TIME	Caring for Children with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Needs–Level 3/4	Patty Rosales, KCDHS Supervisor, KCMH Representative TBA NEW LOCATION: Henrietta Weill Child Guidance Clinic 3628 Stockdale Hwy. Bakersfield
06/02/2015	5:00-7:00 p.m. NEW TIME	Caring for Children with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Needs – Level 2	Miriam Ocampo KCDHS Supervisor, KCMH Representative TBA NEW LOCATION: Larry Reider Education Center 2000 K Street, Bakersfield Room 204
06/16/2015	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Caring for Children with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Needs – Level ¾	Cherilyn Price LCSW CPS Supervisor, KCMH Representative TBA NEW LOCATION: Larry Reider Education Center 2000 K Street, Bakersfield Room 201

Respite Care Providers List

May 2015

The Respite Care List is a listing of county foster parents willing to provide respite care. You may have to call several people before you can find one with an opening.

Name	Location	Phone #	Ages Preferred
Amos, Shirley	Bakersfield	833-2984	2-18
Otis, Gail	Rosamond	256-8968	0-9
Blain, Cheryl	Bakersfield	364-4349	2-17

If you can help and would like to have your names on this quarterly listing please call:

Your Licensing Analyst or Loretta Davis, (661) 631-6483 to sign up!

TO DO RESPITE CARE:

You must:

1. Have a current opening in your capacity for the number of children that you will be doing respite for
2. Get permission from child's Social Worker.
3. Get the paperwork from child's Social Worker.
4. Have an understanding of how to get medical care for children while in your care.

Respite Care Policy:

Respite care is the temporary care of a foster child by someone other than the foster parent.

- Caregiver is subject to Social Worker approval.
- Limited to 7 days/168 hours per child or 12 days/288 hours for a child receiving a SCI rate of Level 2 or higher.
- DHS' fiscal year is July 1st to June 30th. Respite Care hours must be used during the fiscal year. All unused days for current year **cannot** be carried over to next year.

You may also contact:
Margarita Soza ~ Foster Care Ombudsman
At (661) 631-6698

OPTIONS FOR CARE AND SUPERVISION

The following care and supervision options apply to County Licensed Foster Family Homes & Relative/Non Relative Extended Family Member Caregivers. This does not apply to Foster Family Agency homes.

Occasional short-term babysitter [Title 22, FFH, Section 89378(a)(1)(A)]

1. Time limit—less than 24 hours, on an occasional basis
2. May be under 18 years old—consider prudent parent standards: maturity, experience and ability to provide care and supervision
 - Caregiver shall ensure that babysitter knows how to contact them in case of emergency
3. Does not require ability to drive a car
4. Foster child may be a short term babysitter
Foster child must willingly agree to baby sit and include in Needs and Services plan

Alternative caregiver [Title 22, FFH, Section 89378(a)(1)(B)]

1. Time limit—24 to 72 hours without permission of SW
2. Time limit—over 72 hours with permission of SW
3. Must be 18 years or over
4. Need clearances—criminal/child welfare/etc.
5. Care and supervision to occur in caregiver's home
6. Caregiver must provide alternate with info re: child's special needs, medication, emergency contacts, etc.

Respite care [Welfare & Institutions Code 16501(b) and MPP 31-002(r)]

1. Time limit—72 hours or less
2. Care must be provided by licensed, approved or certified caregiver
3. This is not for routine ongoing child care and must be pre-arranged

Leaving child alone without adult supervision [Title 22, FFH, Section 89378(a)(1)(D)]

1. Use prudent parent standards
2. Time limit—occasional basis, does not include overnight
3. Time limit—if not occasional basis then document in Needs and Services/Placement agreement
4. Caregiver needs to provide emergency phone contacts, how to contact caregiver and has knowledge of emergency procedures

Licensed child care [Health & Safety Code 1596.750]

1. Child care in a licensed child care home or child day care facility.

Non-Minor Dependent (NMD) [Title 22, FFH, Section 893178]

- If the caregiver anticipates being absent from the home, the caregiver is permitted to leave a non-minor dependent in the home alone overnight. The caregiver shall ensure the maturity, experience of the non minor dependent and will ensure the NMD knows where and how to contact the caretaker.
- A NMD may be left in the home alone for longer than 72 hours as long as the caregiver provides written or verbal notification to the social worker or probation officer prior to the caregivers absence from the home.

What Does CHDP Offer?

Routine Physical Check-Ups:

- ♥ Growth and Development Check
- ♥ All Needed Shots
- ♥ Dental Screening
- ♥ Vision Screening
- ♥ Hearing Screening
- ♥ Nutrition Check-Up
- ♥ Health Education
- ♥ Tobacco Education
- ♥ Test for Anemia, Blood Lead, Urine, TB, and Others as Needed
- ♥ WIC Referral for Children to Age 5

Regular Dental Check-Ups and Follow Up Care if Needed.

If further medical, dental, or mental health services are needed, we will help you find them. Diagnosis and treatment will be paid for as long as your child is on Medi-Cal.

For persons with share of cost Medi-Cal, you may have CHDP pay for the check-up or you may pay for the check-up and have the cost count toward your required payment. A co-payment is NOT charged for CHDP services.

Bring your current Medi-Cal card and shot record.

Information:

For more information, or help with getting an appointment and transportation, contact your local CHDP office. Find their phone number in the government section of your phone book. Look under *Child Health and Disability Prevention* or *Health Department*.

Or, look for your local CHDP office at www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/chdp

If you need help with mental health services, call your county mental health department. They can tell you about other services for children and youth with full scope Medi-Cal who have severe emotional problems.



Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California

PUB 183 (English, 1/04)

English

Child Health & Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program

Medical & Dental Health Check-Ups



FREE
For Babies, Children, and
Youth Through Age 20
With Full Scope Medi-Cal

Why Check-Ups?

A complete **health** check-up may find medical, dental, and/or mental health problems before they become serious. Needed shots are given. There is time to ask questions. A health check-up may be given, when required, for foster care, sports, or camp. You can usually get CHDP Check-Ups where you get your health care.

Babies and Toddlers *Birth Through 3 Years*

Regular Well-Baby Care and Shots

Babies and toddlers need health check-ups often. They need to get their shots on time.



How often?

One exam during each of these age ranges:

Under 1 month	10-12 months
1-2 months	13-15 months
3-4 months	16-23 months
5-6 months	2 years
7-9 months	3 years

School Children *4 Through 12 Years*

School Check-Ups

State law requires children entering kindergarten or first grade to have a health check-up and be up-to-date on their shots.

Health check-ups may find health problems that could prevent a child from doing well in school.



How often?

One exam during each of these age ranges:

- Between 4-5 years
- Between 6-8 years
- Between 9-12 years

Teenagers and Young Adults *13 Through 20 Years*

Health Check-Ups

Teens need check-ups too! They may have questions about their health. They can ask a health care provider.

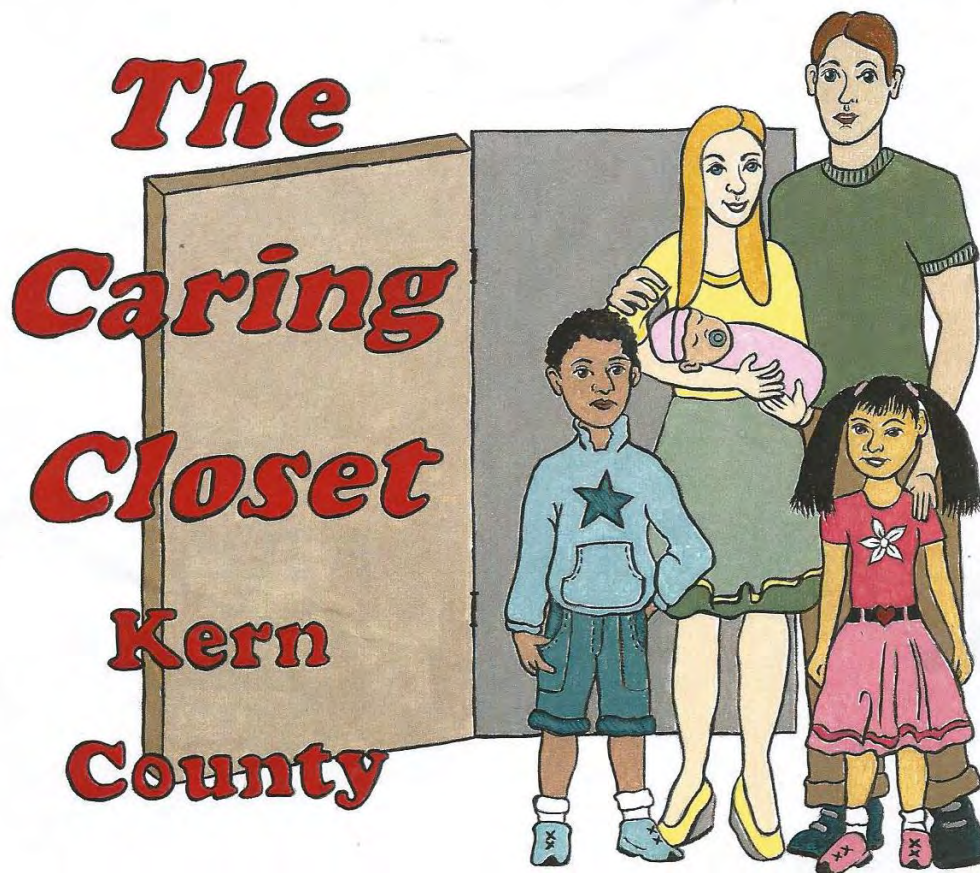


How often?

One exam during each of these age ranges:

- Between 13-16 years
- Between 17-20 years

Ask your doctor or local health department for other services for teenagers.



Are you a foster parent, an emergency foster home, a relative caregiver,
or a prospective adoptive parent?

Do you have a child or children in your home that need clothes or other essential items?

The Caring Closet Kern County is here to help!

We carry clothing items for all ages, as well as toys, baby items, and much more!

The Caring Closet provides items to certified or licensed foster families
and relative caregivers in Kern County at no cost!

Donations are also accepted

Contact Us...

We are located at 2216 17th Street inside St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Call the Caring Closet hotline at (661) 889-3142 for an appointment

Join our group on Facebook, The Caring Closet Kern County

Email us at TheCaringClosetKernCounty@gmail.com

Don't forget to check out our website at TheCaringClosetKernCounty.webstarts.com

Kern Partnership for Children and Families Scholarship Application



Scholarship Criteria

- Current Kern County Cal-Learn or foster youth (verification letter from DHS staff)
- Completed Scholarship Application
- Letter of acceptance from a vocational program, community college, or four year university
- High school or college transcripts
- Minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5
- Annual scholarship application and essay is due May 31st of every year at the request of the youth with a maximum of two years
- Submission of an essay (maximum of 500 words)

Scholarship Awards

Scholarships will be awarded based on essays written by the youth on their participation in activities related to community service, leadership/academic, **or** overcoming hardships, in addition to the Scholarship Criteria listed above. The awards will be granted to ten (10) youth in any of the categories below:

- Community service award \$ 500
- Leadership/Academic achievement award \$ 500
- Resiliency award \$ 500

The youth selected may re-apply for a maximum of two years.

Essay Instructions

Write an essay (maximum of 500 words) about your participation in community service, leadership activities, academic achievement or hardships endured have changed your life. The essay must be type-written and double-spaced. Handwritten essays will not be accepted.

Name: _____ Phone number: _____

Address/City/Zip Code: _____

Current school: _____ Grade Point Average: _____

Case number: _____ Email address: _____

- Cal Learn Youth Social Worker's Name: _____
- Foster Youth Social Worker's Name: _____

Submit all required documents no later than May 31st to: Vanessa Frando, 100 E. California Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93307 or by mail at P.O. Box 511, Bakersfield, CA 93302. If you have any questions, please call (661) 631-6343.



MAY 18, 2015
4:00 to 6:00 P.M.

SELF-ESTEEM & MENTOR ORIENTATION

Attend this **FREE** workshop and explore your future! Set short term & long term goals and get paired with a mentor.

Key workshop points include:

- * BUILDING POSITIVE SELF-ESTEEM
- * SELF IMAGE
- * NEGATIVE & POSITIVE FEELINGS
- * ONE-ON-ONE MENTORING OPPORTUNITY

Attendees must be referred by the Department of Human Services.

LOCATION
**HOPE
VILLAGE**
ROOM A
2116 P STREET
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

FOR MORE INFORMATION...
CALL ADRIAN AT
633-9133



Caregivers of Kern County

Foster a Child's Journey Home



Ckckids.yolasite.com

Spring is Here

April/May 2015 Edition



Dear Caregivers,

I am so grateful to all volunteers who have stepped up to serve on a committee. CKC has a great team. Thank you everyone for supporting our organization.

We have many things planned for the next few months and we hope you can participate. We will have our monthly bake sale April 7th and May 5th. Please help out if you can. Our yard sale is scheduled for May 2nd at Opal's place so donate, donate, and donate!

Please note the April 2nd & May 7th general meeting are cancelled. General meeting for April was held at the Easter Celebration and the Foster Parent Appreciation dinner is May 7th. This annual event will again be held at Hodel's from 5 to 7:30pm but don't quote me. Please check with the department for details to register.

Our Easter picnic was fantastic thank you to our community partners: KCDHS, IKEA, & the BAKERSFIELD EAGLES 93. See photos page 3, 4, 5.

Our Luau fund raiser (Flyer pg.7) is scheduled for May 17th at the Eagles Club. May is Foster Care Awareness month and if you purchase your tickets early (\$20 for the entire family) food is included for the first 100 or until it runs out.

Roaming Reptiles will be on hand with some exotic species sure to delight the kids and adults too! There will be some fabulous dancers, karaoke, and lots of games and activities for all.

This year the Corvettes of Bakersfield will be joining us in the Eagles parking lot for a great corvette car show. This is a 'People's Choice' so come on out and cast your vote for your favorite! The venue is 1718 17th Street, Bakersfield Eagles from 1 to 4pm. Last year's luau was a complete success and this year is sure to be even better!

See you at the meeting...

Alice, CKC President 2015-16 (661) 319-7272

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Our annual Heart Fundraiser to help with our Easter Celebration went very well. The Eagles Aerie gave us permission to sell paper hearts and raffle a basket to fund this event. Alice Meyer worked very hard getting baskets and donations. We appreciate everyone that could support this year's Easter event for the kids.



The bake sale is going on for April 7th (Flyer pg.6) and we are so thankful to KCDHS for their support. We are gearing up for our summer time ice skate party in July and BBQ with the Goen family in June. Please if you can donate to the bake sale we will be out back at the DHS CA/Union building around 6:30am setting up.

Our annual yard sale is upon us. May 2nd located at 10103 Huntington Downs, 93312. Time is 6am to 11am. Please if you can donate bring by your stuff.

We received two good trainings from BC these last few months, nutrition & obesity, and working with bio parents. Thank you Bakersfield College for keeping us up to date on the latest. Together we make the difference in the life of an At Risk Child! *Opal, V.P.*

The Goals of CKC

- Support all caregivers
- Safeguard children in our homes
- Network with Child Welfare Agencies
- Socialize events for families
- Education and information on current policies and regulations.
- Share ideas in a friendly atmosphere
- And fund raise, fund raise, fund raise!

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to assist all caregivers of foster/adopt/kinship children by offering our experience, support, training, Understanding and love. Our goal is to work closely with agencies, each other, and community partners to meet the needs of caregivers and to assist in better outcomes for These children and families.

Bakersfield College Thursday Evening Trainings

Date: 1st Thursday of each month immediately following the CKC meeting. You must pre- register by 6:15 p.m. You Will then receive 1.5 hours of training.

Foster & Kinship Care Education and Training Schedule Caregivers of Kern County (CKC) Training 2015

Address:

Kern County Department of Human Services
Prevention & Community Partnership Building (Corner of Tulare and Butte Streets)
100 E California Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93307

Child Care? Child care is available at \$5 per family

Pre-Register: Mary Halberg, Program Manager BC Family and Consumer Education Division Telephone: Registration Line 661-319-1836 or Mary 661-395-4737

FREE TRAINING

Date	Time	Topic	Facilitator
4/2/15	6:30-8:00 pm	Mental Health Schizophrenic	Via Turjanis, MFT
5/7/15	6:30-8:00 pm	M.A.R.E. Volunteer Program	Debbykate Kroeger, M.A.R.E. Program
6/4/15	6:30-8:00 pm	Kern Regional Services	KRC Representative

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2, 2015 - CANCELLED General meeting & training, Thursday 6-8pm. Meeting Held at Easter Picnic.

April 7, 2015 - Tuesday 7am to 9am *Bake Sale Fundraiser* in KCDHS back parking lot. Yummy goodies for sale to support yearly events for foster youth

April 23, 2015 – Board meeting 11 am, Applebees

May 2, 2015 – Saturday, Yard Sale 6am, Weather Permitting, 10103 Huntington Downs Ave. (661) 345-2626

May 5, 2015 – Bake Sale, Tuesday, 7am to 9am, DHS Bldg.

May 7, 2015 - General meeting cancelled due to FPA dinner.

May 7, 2015 – FPA Dinner, Hodels, 5-7:30pm

May 17, 2015 – Luau/Corvette Car Show, 1718 17th Street, 1 to 4pm.

May 28, 2015 – Board meeting, TBA, 11am

June 2, 2015 – Bake Sale, Tuesday, 7am to 9am, DHS Bldg.

June 4, 2015 – General meeting, 6-8pm, Partnership Bldg.

June 6, 2015 – BBQ Swim, 11am to 2pm, Goen Family Farm

June 25, 2015 – Board meeting, TBA, 11am

June 29, 2015 – Hurricane Harbor, Fresno

July 2, 2015 – General meeting, 6-8pm, Partnership Bldg.

July 7, 2015 - Bake Sale, Tuesday, 7am to 9am, DHS Bldg.

July 28, 2015 – Ice Skate Party, Rabobank, 6:30 to 8:30pm

Meeting Spot – 1st Thursday of each Month 6pm

The Community Partnership Building
Department of Human Services
100 E. California Avenue, Bakersfield, CA

Happy Easter Vacation

Our CKC 2015 Board Officials

Board Members

President	Alice Esqueda
Vice President	Opal Morland
Secretary	Lori Murphy
Treasurer	Gayla Gibson
Chaplain	Betty Nieto
Parliamentarian	Alice Meyer

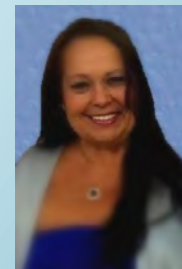
Committee Chairs

Auditor – Robert Geltman
Membership Chair - Jean Miller & Bettie Nieto
Event Committee – Kim Stallion, Alice Meyer
Editor/Layout-Opal Morland

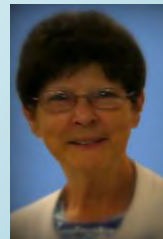
CAREGIVER BOARD 2015



Alice Esqueda/President



Opal Morland/Vice President



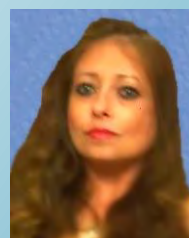
Bettie Nieto/Chaplain



Gayla Gibson/Treas.



Lori Murphy/Sec.



Alice Meyer/Parliamentarian



Robert Geltman/Auditor

Easter Celebration



Babies Hunt 1st





Easter 2015



Easter Basket Donations





**HAPPY
EASSTER**



Above: Older kids hunting eggs. Over three hundred were donated.

Below: The new PRIDE POSTER BOARD is complete to use for trainings, presentations and events.

General Meeting was called due to Easter vacation week.



IKEA donated blue bags with stuffed animals inside. Thank you IKEA.



Raising Your Kin



What's Happening

No matter why or how they came to live with you, your relative's children will benefit from being in your home. When children cannot be with their parents, living with a family member may provide:

- Fewer moves from place to place
- The comfort of a familiar language, culture, and family history
- A chance to stay with siblings
- More contact with their parents, depending on the situation

What You Might Be Seeing

Despite these benefits, the children will face some unique challenges.

- They may feel insecure and unsure that you will take care of them.
- They may act out or challenge you.
- They will miss their parents.
- They may be anxious or depressed.
- They may seem young or act too old for their ages.

Remember: Parenting a relative's child brings special challenges and special joys. Do not hesitate to ask for help or seek services in your community for yourself and your children.

For more information on support for kin raising children, visit Information Gateway's Supporting Kinship Families: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/outofhome/kinship/support/>

What You Can Do

It will take time for your relative's children to feel safe and secure in their new home with you. You can encourage these good feelings in a number of ways:

- Set up a daily routine of mealtimes, bedtime, and other activities.
- Help the children feel "at home" by creating a space just for them.
- Talk to the children, and listen when they talk to you.
- Set up a few rules and explain your expectations. Then, enforce the rules consistently.
- Reward positive behavior. When children make mistakes, focus on teaching rather than punishing.
- Be as involved with their school as you can, and encourage your children to participate in school activities.

This is a big job, and you may need help from your community. Here are some suggestions:

- Help with housing or other bills, clothing, or school supplies may be available in your community to help you meet the children's needs.
- Join or start a support group in your neighborhood. Often there are local kinship caregivers support groups.
- Ask for help and referrals from a church leader, the counselor at the children's school, or a social services agency.
- If necessary, get professional help to address any special needs your relative's children may have, such as medical care, mental health care, or special education. Use respite care if it is available.

Cómo criar a sus parientes



Lo que está pasando

Sin importar por qué o cómo vinieron a vivir con usted, los hijos de su pariente se beneficiarán de estar en su hogar. Cuando los niños no pueden estar con sus padres, vivir con un pariente les puede dar:

- Menos mudanzas de un lugar a otro
- El consuelo de compartir un idioma, una cultura y una historia familiar en común
- La oportunidad de quedarse con sus hermanos
- Más contacto con sus padres, dependiendo de la situación

Lo que usted podría estar observando

A pesar de estos beneficios, los niños enfrentarán desafíos particulares. Ellos:

- Podrán sentirse inseguros y no saber con certeza si usted los va a cuidar
- Podrán portarse mal o desafiarlo
- Extrañarán a sus padres
- Podrán estar ansiosos o deprimidos
- Podrán no comportarse de acuerdo con su edad

Lo que usted puede hacer

Tomará tiempo para que los hijos de su pariente se sientan seguros y a salvo en su nuevo hogar con usted. Usted puede alentar estos buenos sentimientos en una variedad de formas:

- Establezca una rutina diaria de comidas, actividades y horas de irse a la cama.
- Ayude a los niños a sentirse “en casa” creando un sitio especial sólo para ellos.
- Hable con ellos y escúchelos cuando le hablan.
- Establezca unas pocas reglas y explique sus expectativas. Haga que se cumplan las reglas sin falta.
- Recompense el buen comportamiento. Cuando los niños cometan errores, concéntrese en enseñar en lugar de castigar.

- Participe en su escuela en la medida que pueda y aliente a los niños a participar en actividades escolares.

Este es un trabajo arduo y es posible que usted necesite ayuda de su comunidad. Estas son algunas sugerencias:

- Es posible que exista ayuda con el pago de vivienda y otras cuentas, ropa o útiles escolares, disponible en su comunidad para ayudarlo a satisfacer las necesidades de los niños.
- Únase a un grupo de apoyo en su vecindario o ayude a crear uno. A menudo existen grupos locales para aquellos que proveen cuidados a sus parientes.
- Pida ayuda y remisiones de parte de un líder religioso, del consejero de la escuela de los niños o de una agencia de servicios sociales.
- De ser necesario, obtenga ayuda profesional para lidiar con las necesidades especiales que puedan tener los hijos de su pariente, como atención médica, atención de la salud mental o educación especial. Use servicios de apoyo para el cuidado de los niños si se encuentran disponibles.

Recuerde: Criar al hijo de un pariente trae consigo desafíos y alegrías especiales. No dude en pedir ayuda o buscar servicios en su comunidad para usted y sus niños.

Para más información acerca de apoyo para personas criando a los hijos de sus parientes, visite la sección Supporting Kinship Families (Apoyos Para Familias que Cuidan a los Hijos de Parientes) en el sitio web de Child Welfare Information Gateway: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/outofhome/kinship/support/>

Esta hoja de consejos se creó con información de expertos de organizaciones nacionales que trabajan para prevenir el maltrato de menores y promover su bienestar. Usted puede descargar esta hoja de consejos y obtener más consejos sobre la crianza en <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/promoting/parenting> o llamando al 800.394.3366.

Events at the Beale Memorial Library, May 2015

Saturdays, 2-4 pm: *Math Clinic*: Learn math or get assistance with your math homework; Open to learners of all ages. Sign up at the Reference Desk or call 868-0770. 2nd floor.

Mondays, 11 am: *Toddler Time!* Parents are invited to accompany their 18-month-old through 2-year-old children for music, nursery rhymes, stories and play. Registration is required. Arkelian Children's Room

Mondays, 12 pm – 1 pm: *E-book Experience*. One-on-one session with a librarian on how to download Kern County Library e-books onto your tablet, smart phone or laptop. Registration is required: call 661-868-0701.

Mondays, 3:30-6:30 pm: *Mindstorms Monday*. Teens, explore and have fun building robots using LEGO Mindstorms. Teen-LED (Learn Explore Discover) Lab, 2nd floor. Registration required: call 661-868-0701.

Tuesdays, 11 am: *Preschool Story Time*. Family-friendly stories suitable for children ages 3-5. Arkelian Children's Room

Tuesdays, 4:30 pm: *Online Story Time*. Families are invited to discover #StorytimeOnline on the Library's YouTube channel. New stories added weekly – visit kerncountylibrary.org for more info.

Wednesdays, 11 am: *Bilingual Story Time*. Stories and activities suitable for ages 3-5, conducted in both Spanish and English. Arkelian Children's Room

Wednesdays & Thursdays, 11 am – 1 pm: *Personal Computer Coach*. Sign up at the Reference Desk or call 868-0770 to reserve 30-minute sessions with a volunteer coach for one-on-one computer learning.

Wednesdays, 12 pm – 1 pm: *Bilingual Personal Computer Coach*. Sign up at the Reference Desk or call 868-0701 to reserve 30-minute sessions with a volunteer coach for one-on-one computer learning in Spanish.

Thursdays, 10:15 am: *Sensory Storytime*. Join us for hands-on learning as we engage all of the senses through music, movement, stories and play. This program is ideal for children with autism or sensory processing issues. Registration required: call 661-868-0701

Thursdays, 3:30-6:30 pm: *3D Thursday*. Teens, explore 3D digital design and 3D printing with fellow teens. Teen-LED (Learn Explore Discover) Lab, 2nd floor. Registration required as space is limited: Call 661-868-0701.

Saturday, May 2, 10 am – 1 pm: *Teen-LED (Learn-Explore-Discover) Lab Open House*. Come see the library's new teen space and learn what after-school technology programs are in store for teens; featuring 3D printing and robotics demonstrations by teen volunteers and information about teen volunteer opportunities.

Tuesday, May 5, 11 am: *Mother's Day Stories & Crafts*. Arkelian Children's Room.

Thursday, May 7, 5:30 – 6:30 pm: *LEGO Club*. Come build with us! All materials provided by the library. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For ages 7 and older. Arkelian Children's Room

Saturday, May 9, 10 am – 12 pm: *Talking Stone: Art of the Cosos*. Showing of a 60-minute documentary about the largest concentration of rock art in North America, followed by a discussion with Alan Garfinkel Gold, PhD. Tejon Room.

Saturday, May 9, 3-4 pm: *Orientation for New Volunteers*. Find out how to get started as a volunteer at the Beale Memorial Library. Gates Computer Lab

Tuesday, May 12, 5-6:30 pm: *Beginner Guitar Class*. Learn how to play guitar chords and songs in this beginner class. Bring your own guitar. Tejon Room

Wednesday, May 13, 4 pm: *Barks and Books*. Children, build your reading skills by sharing stories with a therapy dog. Registration required: call 661-868-0701. Arkelian Children's Room

Thursday, May 14, 5 pm: *Screening of the Film, "To Write Love On Her Arms"*. Sponsored by Kern County Mental Health. Auditorium.

Saturday, May 16, 3-4 pm: *Finding Happiness*. Surendra Dara – agricultural scientist, motivational speaker and founder of *Laugh to Live* – will discuss the philosophy of happiness, factors that contribute to and that take away happiness, and ways to find happiness within each of us. Tejon Room.

Tuesday, May 19, 1-2 pm: *Digitizing Your Ancestry*. Presented by genealogist, Bob Givens. Tejon Room.

Tuesday, May 26, 5-6:30 pm: *Beginner Ukulele Class*. Bring your ukulele and learn how to play it. Tejon Room

Wednesday, May 27, 4 pm: *Barks and Books*. Children, build your reading skills by sharing stories with a therapy dog. Registration required: call 661-868-0701. Arkelian Children's Room

Saturday, May 30, all day: *Summer Reading Kick-Off*.

Saturday, May 30, 10 am – 5:30 pm: *Friends of the Library Book Sale – Children's Special Book Sale*. Auditorium

All events are free. No reservations necessary unless noted. For more information, call Beale Memorial Library at 661-868-0770.

Kern County Library
www.kerncountylibrary.org