CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES / SUMMER 2013 / VOL 5 ISSUE 3



Sponge Bob Square Pants (Karen Werno) Adrian Santillan & Hello Kitty (Roylyn Burton)



relative caregiver picnic makes its debut

ver 200 relative caregivers and volunteers met in April at Mariners Church to enjoy food, music and time together.

Orange County Social Services, Children and Family Services (CFS) teamed up with Olive Crest Kinship Support Services to organize the picnic. Faith in Motion partners also lent a hand and provided a good portion of the entertainment, food and activities. Orange County Employees' Association sent the hot dog wagon and provided 600 hot dogs.

The kids enjoyed carnival-style games, a large, obstacle course jump house, face painting, cartoon characters, and treats. The caregivers visited resource booths and gathered information for their families. They also were treated to several games of Bingo and prizes.

Olive Crest caregiver and mentor, Javier Hernandez, is raising his four nieces and nephews and had a great time with his family. "The kids had so much fun with all the activities. We are so blessed by all the wonderful people that put the picnic together. My family and I thank them," said Hernandez.

Olive Crest Kinship Director, Helen Lindsey, views this event as a great example of the impact such collaboration can have in support of Orange County families.

Special thanks to:

Amplify Band at Orange Hills Assembly Junior League Mariners Church Mission Community Church Orange County Employee's Association: (Carlos and Jerry for cooking) Operation S.O.S. Saddleback Church

keeping in stride: foster parents helping kids in special ways

by david harper senior social services supervisor

ake loved the excitement of moving fast; the wind kissing his face. When I visited his foster home, he asked me to run with him. And when the opportunity presented itself, he was eager to complete the Surf City Half-Marathon with me.

It was amazing. As the miles clicked by, runners and spectators greeted Jake with cheers of encouragement and affection. At the end of the race, a finishing medal was placed around his neck. I tried to convince myself that it was a bead of sweat, not a tear, I was wiping from my cheek. I know Jake had a great time, but pushing his wheelchair for 13.1

miles was an unforgettable gift to me. This 12-year-old boy with Muscular Dystrophy shared with me an experience of profound gratification and emotional rejuvenation.

Running a race is already an overused metaphor, so allow me to add the twist of running a race while pushing a wheelchair. This is what fostering a child with special medical needs is like. All runners (foster parents) are amazing for simply being in the race (foster parenting). Those pushing wheelchairs (medical foster parents) may have to strain a bit harder at times, but the encouragement and support (resources available to medical foster parents) propel these runners forward toward success and the rewards are substantial.

The Special Medical Unit (SMU) is looking for foster parents willing to consider fostering a child with a medical need. You don't need to exclusively commit to only taking medical children. You also don't need a special license, medical background or previous foster care experience. Support includes child-specific medical training, a medical senior social worker and supervisor, Special Medical intake and placement coordinators, public health nurses, monthly respite reimbursement (up to 20 hours per month), and specialized foster care rates based on the child's individualized level of care. For more information, please contact Karen Werno, Special Medical Placement Coordinator, at (714) 704-8533.



operation s.o.s. hosts golfing party for youth

n May, Operation S.O.S. hosted a golf night for youth and their families at Camelot Golfland in Anaheim. Over 30 kids and adults spent the night miniature golfing, playing arcade games and eating pizza. "The night was so amazing. The kids just blossomed before our eyes," said Coral Feliciano-Mora, director of Operation S.O.S. "One girl who came was quiet and didn't want to make eye contact with anyone when she first arrived. Her mother said she didn't have any friends. We put her on a team and off she went. When she came back, she was laughing and jumping around. She made friends and even swapped phone numbers with my daughter," Feliciano-Mora said. The next event is Family Game Show Night on June 22 at 5 p.m. at Sound Chapel. Contact Joanna Hussey for more information.

foster care licensing updates

by michael manchester foster care licesning

side rail drop down crib use illegal

id you know that it is now illegal to use any side rail drop down crib for an infant? Manufacturers have stopped making them and are no longer providing the hardware which would allow a caregiver to install and make the drop side railings stationary. All cribs must now have only stationary railing cribs that have actually been manufactured that way.

If an infant is currently placed a home, replacing the crib within 24 to 48 hours is expected. Upon being informed that this type of crib cannot be used, there is a 30 day grace period for a foster parent to replace the crib if a child is not using the crib in the home.

Nueva Ley Sobre Cunas

¿Sabía usted que ahora es ilegal usar cunas con baranda móvil? Manufacturas ya no hacen las cunas con baranda móvil y ya no están proporcionando el armamento para ser la cuna estacionario. Las cunas tienen que ser estacionarias y tienen que venir así de la manufacturas.

Si tiene un niño en su hogar, tiene que reemplazar la cuna entre 24 a 48 horas. Ya que han sido informados que este tipo de cuna no puede ser usada, ustedes tienen 30 días para reemplazar la cuna si no tienen niños en su casa.



n this past quarter, Foster Care Licensing had a resurgence of new foster home applications, both open and fost-adopt. We welcome these new homes to our family.

Because of our new families, we would like to list some items that continue to arise during the annual and initial home reviews.

Child Proof Locks

How many of you are aware of the relatively new 'magnet locks'? These magnet locks are available for all of your items that are required to be inaccessible or locked up. The locks can't be seen from the outside door or drawer and can only be opened with the little white magnet that comes with the locks.

Hot Water Temperature

Did you know the water temperature (as tested directly from the tap at it's hottest) must be 120 degrees or less? And it takes your water heater an entire 24 hours to adjust to a newly changed temperature? It is a good idea to periodically test your water temperature and make the necessary adjustments to the water heater. Your home's water temperature will always be tested during your annual home review.

School Connect - a new collaboration

Do you know about School Connect? The county is collaborating with the Orange County Department of Education to obtain information from all foster parents, new and seasoned alike, regarding what schools (elementary, middle and high school) you are willing to transport to within your area. Originally, many of you received an e-mail requesting the attached School Connect document to be filled out and returned to Foster Care Licensing. Now, the School Connect documents are included in the New Foster Family Home Application packet. Your Foster Care Licensing workers will also bring them to your home during annual and initial home reviews and will ask you to fill them out.

This information is going into a database that will enable the county to place foster children in homes that are in the neighborhoods of the schools the foster children are currently attending. This will allow our foster children to continue to maintain friendships with friends and teachers alike. Call us if you have not filled one out yet.

Foster Children's Records

Are you keeping a separate, updated file for each of your foster children? Do you know what forms are required to be in a foster child's folder? Do you know this is another important area of review when we come out to complete your annual home review? If you do not know what should be kept in the folder, please contact your Licensing worker and they will provide a list of the necessary forms.

Civil Penalties

Please make sure any adult, 18 years or older, who is residing in your home has been fingerprinted with Foster Care Licensing. If there is an adult residing in a foster home that has not been fingerprinted and cleared, a \$100 civil penalty fee will be assessed, per day for up to five days.





rianna is a funny, charismatic African-American girl with brown hair and beautiful brown eyes. Brianna has a warm smile and a charming personality. Brianna is engaging and friendly. She admits to being a finicky eater and does not like to eat anything out of the ordinary, especially fish.

Brianna's favorite activities include listening to music, dancing and going to the mall with friends. She describes herself as "very outgoing, nice, caring, sincere, and funny".

Brianna would like to be either a youth counselor or an attorney for foster children as she would like to assist foster youth the same way her counselors and attorneys have helped her. Brianna is interested in being adopted, even though she is of an older age. Brianna would greatly benefit from a safe, secure, loving permanent home to provide her with unconditional love and support.

If you are interested in providing Brianna with the loving, permanent home that she deserves and longs for, please contact the Adoption Matching Coordinators, Margot Umemoto at (714) 704-8945 or Elizabeth McConnell at (714) 704-8944.

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The Foster Care Auxiliary always strives to offer the most services, trainings, events, and products to our foster families.

Available to our members:

Computers for Foster Students Program Support Group

Lending Library of Foster and Child Care Related Material

Baby Gear Lending Program

Foster Parent Training Opportunities

Foster Parent Training Opportunities

Fun Family Events

Scholarships

Birthday Corner

Monthly Distribution Days of new items obtained from community resources

Thrift Store with deeply discounted, used donations
A network of foster families available for support and help

Visit our web site or contact us if you are interested in joining! 333 S. Brookhurst St. Anaheim, CA 92804 FosterCareAux@yahoo.com / (714) 778-3383 www.FosterCareAux.com

Foster & Kinship Care Education

The foster and kinship care education program at Saddleback College provides quality education and support opportunities to caregivers of children in out-of-home care. The free classes are designed to assist the caregivers in meeting the children's educational, emotional, behavioral, and developmental needs.

In order for foster parents to meet their annual eight hours of training, monthly classes are offered throughout Orange County. To view classes, visit www.saddle-back.edu/fkce or call (949) 582-4884 to request a class catalog and to register for classes.



Meetings will be held in comfortable settings...like a park...and children of all ages are welcome!

for more information, contact cynthia bradbury, licensed foster parent, at (714) 588-4316 or at cbradbury@socal.rr.com.

Relative Support Services Available

Olive Crest's "Relatives Raising Children" is a Kinship Support Services Program, funded by the California Department of Social Services, to provide support services to any relative caregiver or non-extended family member caring for someone else's child in Orange County. Juvenile court dependency is not required.

Because we care about your family, we offer kinship support groups in English and Spanish throughout the county. If you are a relative caregiver or you know one needing support, kinship related information or if you want to help in some way, please contact us at (714) 543-5437 or visit our website at www.olivecrest.org/kinship.

El Programa de Olive Crest "Criando al Hijo del Pariente" es un programa de servicios de apoyo para personas que están criando a niños de la familia. El programa está financiado por el Departamento de Servicios Sociales de California, para proporcionar servicios de apoyo en el Condado de Orange.

Los grupos de apoyo del programa están disponibles en inglés y español en varias partes del condado y se enfocan en las necesidades específicas de familias que están criando a niños de la familia. Si usted es padre de crianza de un niño de la familia o conoce a alguien que esté buscando este tipo de apoyo e información relacionado al programa, o si usted quiere ayudar de algún modo, por favor póngase en contacto con nosotros llamando al (714) 543-5437 o visite nuestro sitio web en www.olivecrest. org/kinship.







women's therapy support group

LHD, INC. Psychology Services is pleased to partner with The Foster Care Auxiliary. Discounts available for caretakers in Foster Care Auxiliary families

Description: This is a process group designed to help each member learn how to re-claim their lives by learning the skills to eliminate the effects and symptoms of life/trauma and by replacing with multiple modalities for self care within the supportive environment. Groups now forming for April 2013.

Cost: \$40/week or \$160/month 2140 W. Chapman Ave., Suite 253

Orange, CA 92868

Office: (714) 264-9446; Fax: (714) 538-7680

www.lhdinc.net lhdinc1@gmail.com



PARENT TO PARENT is a 10 week course at no cost for parents and caregivers designed to help you:

- · Understand and manage your child's development
- Find positive approaches to parenting
- Communicate effectively with your children



- Learn helpful parenting skills to deal with challenging behavior
- Develop relationships with other parents in your community

Class Information

SIGN UP NOW

- Open to parents and caregivers with children ages 0 to 12 years of age
- · All services are provided in English and Spanish
- The course is offered in various locations throughout Orange County
- · FREE child care at select locations

For more information or to sign up for a class please call toll-free at:

1-855-955-5900

Parent2Parent@ BrightFutures4Kids.org

Funded by Orange County Health Care Agency, Behavioral Health Services, Prevention and Intervention Division, MHSA/Prop. 63

Directory

FOSTER CARE INFORMATION LINE (888) 871-KIDS (5437)

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES RECEPTION

(714) 704-8000

(714) 935-7584 (emergencies & after hours)

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Michael Riley Social Services Director

Mike Ryan

Social Services Chief Deputy Director

Gary Taylor

Children & Family Services Director

Anne Bloxom

CFS Deputy Director

Ray Gallagher

CFS Deputy Director

Susan Holl

CFS Deputy Director

Jorge Sole

CFS Deputy Director

RESOURCE FAMILY RECRUITMENT, LICENSING & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Paula Kitchen, Program Manager

FOSTER & ADOPTIVE FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Cheryl Alexander, Supervisor

(714) 704-8230

Roylyn Burton, Community Program Specialist

(714) 746-2778

*Juan Herrera, Recruiter/Trainer

(714) 704-8242

Sharon Landis. Recruiter/Trainer

(714) 704-8257

*Yazmin Leal, Staff Specialist

(714) 704-8828

*Lorena Rodriguez, Information Line

(888) 871-5437

Robert Waddington, Recruiter/Trainer

(714) 704-8256

FOSTER & KINSHIP CARE LIAISON

*Joanna Hussey (714) 704-TALK (8255)

LICENSING

Jim Deming, Supervisor (714) 704-8887

Donna Avise (714) 704-8821

*Nena Casis (714) 704-6102

Colette Kim-Abiog (714) 704-6105

Michael Manchester (714) 704-8819

*George Reyes (714) 704-8896

**Lianne Vu (714) 704-8811

*Angelica Zikoor (714) 704-8838

BIRTHDAY GIFTS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

Mona Gustafson (714) 679-2438

Call for an appointment

EMERGENCY SHELTER HOME (ESH)

*Estela Ahuero (714) 935-8104

TRANSITIONAL PLANNING SERVICES PROGRAM

Raquel Amezcua, Program Manager

*Irene Briggs, Supervisor (714) 940-3965

Ilan Wolf, Supervisor (714) 704-8314

MULTIDIMENSIONAL TREATMENT FOSTER CARE (MTFC)

Dr. Mary Eason, Program Supervisor

(714) 704-8238

Terry Maher, Program Supervisor

(714) 704-4122

Michelle Medina, Recruiter/Trainer

(714) 704-8837

Denise Odom, Recruiter/Trainer

(714) 704-8835

SPECIAL MEDICAL PROGRAM

Karen Werno, Placement Coordinator

(714) 704-8533

Mary Ewart, Medical Intake Coordinator

(714) 704-8531

Cindy Hutchison, Medial Intake Coordinator

(714) 704-8531

TIME OUT FOR PARENTS (TOPS)

New Alternatives, Inc. (714) 245-0045

WORKING CAREGIVER CHILDCARE

*Margaret Lopez-Krill (714) 704-8087

FOSTER & KINSHIP CARE EDUCATION

Saddleback College (949) 582-4884

FOSTER CARE ADVISORY BOARD

Sallie Miller (714) 848-2558

Karen Templeton (714) 556-5250

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS

Fountain Valley

Sallie Miller (714) 848-2558

Huntington Beach/Parents of Teens Jessie Damerval (714) 848-0347

Single Parents (Male/Female) Cynthia Bradbury (714) 843-6835

Foster Care Auxiliary/Anaheim

Kathy Harvey (714) 778-3383

Orange/Spanish Support *Joanna Hussey (714) 704-8255

ORGANIZATIONS

California Children's Services (CCS)

(714) 347-0300

CalOPTIMA Liaison (714) 246-8864

Member Services (714) 246-8500

Claims Department (714) 246-8885

Child Health & Disability Program (CHDP)

(800) 564-8448

Denti-Cal (800) 322-6384

Foster Care Auxiliary of Orange County

(714) 778-3383/www.fostercareaux.com

Kinship Center

(714) 957-1004

Olive Crest Kinship Support Program

Helen Lindsey

(714) 543-5437 ext. 1211

Orange County Mental Health

(714) 834-5015

Vision Services Plan (800) 877-7195

*Spanish Speaking

**Vietnamese Speaking

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