

The Foster Network

April / May 2014

Thank You for Fostering Hope

Foster parents and relative caregivers provide much more than a bed to sleep in and food to eat. You provide hope, love, inspiration, safety and stability to children who have had much of that taken away from them. With each personal story that I hear, my gratitude deepens. Your partnership in healing trauma and instilling hope is critical to the success of the children and families in this county. I am reminded of the words of Nelson Mandela when I think of the care you provide: *"Together... we have the obligation to put sunshine into the hearts of our little ones. They are our precious possessions. They deserve what happiness life can offer."* You provide this sunshine in spite of the challenges that may come up along the way. For that, my thanks can only begin to express the deep gratitude that I have for all that you do.

—Supervisor Steve Bennett



COUNTY OF VENTURA

CFS Contacts

Recruitment, Retention, & Support (RRS) Info Line	654-3220
RRS Foster Parent Social Worker	654-5581
RRS Recruitment Specialist	654-5582
RRS Manager	654-5594
Licensing	654-3456
Relative Approval	654-3422
Placement	289-1908 / 654-3211
Adoption Services	654-3210
Youth Services Division	289-1983
Rx for Kids Public Health Program	981-5373
Children's Health & Disability Prevention Nurse	654-5536
General Information Emergency Response Units	654-3444
General Information Ongoing Units	240-2700
General Information East County	955-2290
General Information Central Programs	654-3405
Children's Services Auxiliary Liaison	654-3245
Field Based Case Aides	654-3441 / 289-1989
ILP Coordinator	289-1982
Eligibility Officer of the Day	654-3409

CELEBRATE!

Foster Parent Appreciation Month

Board of Supervisors Foster Parent Appreciation

It's time to celebrate! The Board of Supervisors wants to recognize and celebrate all that you do as foster and relative caregivers! Mark your calendars for May 13, 2014 at 10 a.m. and join us in the Board Room at the Government Center. We will have a live choir, food, and special guest speakers. If you would like to attend the event, please call Elisa Carreno at (805) 289-1926 to RSVP by May 9, 2014. Watch your mailbox for an official invitation soon!

Tiny Key by Constance A. (former foster youth)

I had closed the door upon my heart, and wouldn't let anyone in.

I had trusted and loved only to be hurt but that would never happen again.

I locked the door and tossed the key as hard and as far as I could.

Love would never enter there again, my heart was closed for good.

Then you came into my life and made me change my mind.

Just when I thought that tiny key was impossible to find.

That's when you held out your hand and proved to me I was wrong.

Inside your palm was the key to my heart...You had it all along.

What's Goin' On?

Casa Pacifica Intensive Treatment
Foster Care (ITFC) Orientation
April 5, 10 a.m. – 12 noon,
975 Flynn Rd, Camarillo

Do you have a background in caring for or working with children with emotional and behavioral challenges? If so, you may be ideally suited to become an Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC) provider. Come hear about the program, its special benefits, and other opportunities to develop your understanding / skills in working with vulnerable children / youth. Participants will receive a certificate for 2.0 training hours. Register online www.casapacifica.org/training or call (805) 366-4064

The 7th Annual Non-Violent
Communication Conference 2014

April 5, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and
April 6, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Fee \$20 scholarships are available.
Child Development Resources,
221 E. Ventura Blvd, Oxnard
Sponsored by Child Development
Resources of Ventura County and
Choose Connection. Learn strategies
to: deepen connections with your
friends, family, and co-workers; learn to
speak from the heart without judging;
transform conflict into compassionate
dialog; create more harmony at
home and work; and enhance your
relationships. For further information
e-mail nvcinfo@cdrv.org or register
at [http://www.chooseconnection.com/
conference-registration](http://www.chooseconnection.com/conference-registration)

Aut2Run Autism Society

Ventura County Charity Race & Event
April 6, Opening Ceremonies 8:45 a.m.
California State University, Channel
Islands

The event, which is expected to draw
2000 participants, includes a 5K, 10K,
and FunK, Resource Fair, Kids' Zone,
Autism Q & A, Foster Care Recruitment
table, and art exhibit. For more info go
to www.aut2run.org

Foster Talk Networking

April 11, 9 – 11 a.m.

Cornerstone Church

2080 Winifred St, Simi Valley

An opportunity to receive updated
information as to changes related to
foster care and network with other foster
parents who are geographically related.
Specific topics will be addressed each
month and friendships will be made and
resources revealed. RSVP to Wendy
Homan at homanwendy@aol.com

Kudos to our Caregivers

Caring for medically fragile kids:

"Our specialty care providers are strong advocates for our medically fragile children. They can be found in the NICU, surgical waiting rooms, and at numerous specialty provider appointments all over Ventura County, as well as in Los Angeles; with double strollers, HEP binders, oxygen tanks and tubing, orthotics, and feeding pumps in tow. Many of them promote reunification by inviting the biological parents into their homes for the developmental therapy sessions and often supervising visitation between the parent and child. Thank you for all that you do to care for these especially vulnerable children. Your collaboration makes our jobs easier!" –The Public Health Nurse Team

Helping the process of reunification:

"I wanted to let you know that one of our FFA homes from Camarillo, CA recently worked with two of our county foster kids. They were exceptional in building a relationship, even across language barriers with the mother (as mom is Mixteco and Spanish Speaking). They independently assisted in arranging visitation as well. Additionally, they helped support the children and mother through the difficult time and went out of their way to help the mother with items for the children. I appreciated their commitment to reunifying the children, despite the obvious bond their entire family had with the kids. Their intentions in creating a safe and loving environment for two little ones who have experienced trauma was evident in many ways. I hope I am able to work with this family again, their efforts and great work should be acknowledged. Thank you!" –Social Worker Amanda Garman

Keeping siblings together:

"Recently we had to detain a newborn from a mother with another child in care. While this was very difficult for the mother to accept, she was willing to work with us if we were able to have the baby placed in the home where the older sibling had been living. Because this mother was able to trust this foster parent and had previously built a positive working relationship, she was able to do what was in the best interest of her new baby at this time. Thank you to this family for the support you offer this biological mother and for providing care that enabled this mother to accept her child going into care." –Social Work Supervisor Anastasia Kalmanides

Relative caregiver dedication:

"Recently, three children came into care and relatives stepped forward as willing to take them in. Because of a pool located in proximity to the home, the aunt and uncle were unsure if they were going to be able to be approved as relative caregivers. They worked tirelessly late into the night, with the help of their neighbors, to build a fence around the pool and were able to be approved. Due to this level of commitment and willingness to be creative, the children were able to be placed in the care of family that same night, which minimized the trauma they experienced in being removed from their home. Thank you to this family, and all relatives that step in to care for their family members!" –Relative Approval Social Worker Leticia Bivian

Supporting the bonds between children and families:

"I have been working with an exceptional foster parent. She e-mails the parents, maternal grandparents, and paternal grandparents with weekly e-mails and pictures of the children and sent school pictures and holiday pictures to the involved family members. Additionally, she placed regular calls to the parents, maternal grandparents, and paternal grandparents. She befriended the parents and acted as a "mentor" to them. She enrolled the children in gymnastics, dance classes, and Girl Scouts and took trips to Big Bear, Disneyland, and Sea World with them. She helped the children prepare birthday presents for their mother and helped one of the children prepare a "care package" of letters and drawings for a father who is incarcerated. Additionally, she actively engaged with the children's therapists and utilized the therapist's recommendations when the children were displaying externalizing behaviors. Throughout the children's dependency, she has consistently updated me on the children's progress and advised me of any of her or the children's concerns. As the children are now transitioning to return their parents' home, she continues to support the children and the parents. The parents also plan on keeping contact with her once their family is reunified. As this was her first foster care placement, she defines quality foster care and support to the community." –Social Worker Miata Holmes

Put on Your Oxygen Masks

When flight attendants are preparing you for departure, they always make it a point to remind parents to place their oxygen masks over their mouths before doing so for the children in their care. While this feels counterintuitive to a parent who will do anything to ensure her child's safety, it is important that caregivers remain functional so that they can help their child.

Foster parents and relative caregivers often forget to take the time they need to keep themselves healthy, safe, and positive. It is important you realize taking this time is an essential part of the care you provide to the children in your home! Here are some tips for self-care, adapted from the "Caring for Traumatized Children" curriculum, developed by the National Childhood Traumatic Stress Network:



- Make sure you get enough sleep and eat well
- Be physically active
- Take regular breaks from stressful activities
- Laugh every day
- Express yourself
- Let someone else take care of you
- Maintain a balance between work and relaxation, self and others
- Engage in activities that are purely for fun
- Have a regular stress management plan: meditation, praying, yoga, etc.
- Journal
- Listen to music you enjoy
- Be social
- Join a support or networking group
- Use respite services and family friends to take time away
- Ask your church or community group to sponsor a foster parent/caregiver night out

Click [here](#) for more ideas.

Foster Care Snapshot: The Critical Need Continues...

In the month of January 2014:

- A total of 968 children were in out-of-home care in the month of January 2014
- 47 new children were placed in out of home care in January
- Of the 286 foster homes we had in January 2014, only 49 homes were accepting placements, with a total of 63 open beds
- We welcomed 3 new foster homes into the CFS family

Please help us spread the word about the need for quality foster homes! Remember, foster parents are eligible to receive an incentive of \$100 for referring a family once they complete the licensing process and an additional \$100 once a child is placed in the new foster family's home! Contact your licensing worker for more information.

Best Practice: Incident Reporting

Children & Family Services knows that many things can happen while caring for the children in your home. It is a License Requirement that you report any physical and/or unusual incidents (injuries, medical emergencies, acts of aggression, property damage, etc.) to your child's social worker, and to Licensing by next working day, and submit written reports via the LIC 624 "[Unusual Incident/Injury Report](#)" within seven (7) days to of occurrence. Formal reporting of incidents to both Licensing and the child's social worker protects you and the children in your care.

What's Goin' On? cont.

Baby Basics and Beyond
April 14, 7 – 9 p.m. RSVP for location
(Simi Valley)

Participants will discuss developmental needs and characteristics of infants and identify variations on those needs depending on the special needs of the at-risk infant; explore ways of addressing the needs of the infant that will support secure attachment and developmental growth; and learn methods of self-care to better support family health during the infancy stage.
RSVP to jason_lee5@vcccd.edu

The Influence of Culture
on Care Giving
April 15, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

This free online webinar training provides the knowledge, skills, and strategies needed to partner with parents to help prevent child maltreatment. Required registration one week prior to webinar
(530) 872-3896 ext. 116

Relational Repair
April 15, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. or May 6,
975 Flynn Rd, Camarillo

This course introduces a child and youth care model for supporting individuals who have experienced relational stress, trauma, or disrupted relationships. Shifting from common deficit or strictly behavioral models, this course incorporates brain science to inform straightforward, yet thoughtful ways of reimbursing young people for the broken or missing experiences in their lives. Free for caregivers, register at <http://www.eventbrite.com/o/casa-pacifica-centers-for-children-and-families-254246353>

LCAP Foster Youth Stakeholder Forum
April 15, 6 – 8 p.m.

Ventura County Office of Education
5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo
The LCAP asks districts to describe how stakeholders involved with foster youth (e.g., child welfare, FYS, CASAs, foster youth, foster parents, ed rights holders, and others) have been engaged and involved in developing, reviewing, and supporting implementation of the LCAP. These stakeholders will gather in a forum to share their perspective and allow districts to gather input, ask questions, and/or receive feedback on their draft LCAP. Data on the academic outcomes of foster youth will also be shared. Please RSVP to Foster Youth Services at FYS@vcoe.org or (805) 437-1525 (Please describe specific areas of focus you would like covered at the meeting, if desired.)

What's Goin' On? cont.

Ventura County Children & Family Services Forum with Judy Webber
April 17, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
855 Partridge Drive, Ventura
Judy Webber, Deputy Director of Children & Family Services, will update Foster Parents on "what's new" within the Agency, outline the "Core Practice Model" resulting from the Katie A. settlement, and our local efforts and plans. As always, she will also field questions, comments and concerns. Foster parents and relative caregivers are invited to attend and talk directly with CFS Deputy Director, Judy Webber. Space is limited and, if needed, a waiting list will be established on a first-come first served basis, so please pre-register immediately by e-mailing rcarlson@vcccd.edu Limited childcare is also available with pre-registration; call Channel Islands Social Services (805) 384-0983, no later than April 10.

Documentation is the Key to Success
April 21, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Moorpark College CDC #114
This workshop will explain how to properly and appropriately document to protect yourself and help the foster youth. RSVP to homanwendy@aol.com

I am A Foster Parent, Now What?
April 24, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Moorpark College CDC #114
Upon obtaining a license as a foster home, many people find that they still have questions. This training will attempt to answer those questions, and hopes to provide new foster parents with a sense of comfort and confidence. RSVP to Wendy Homan at homanwendy@aol.com

MICOP's Mixteco/Indigenous Conference 2014
April 25, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Oxnard College 4000 S. Rose Avenue
Ventura County's 20,000 indigenous immigrant residents will be the focus of the conference, as we discuss traditions, daily life, and recommendations for how best to work with and serve their community. The conference will feature art exhibits of local artisans and will share together in a traditional indigenous lunch. Learn more about the culture of some children in foster care. \$75.00 registration fee Register at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/584670>

28th Annual Job / Career Expo for Youth
April 26, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Boys & Girls Club of Simi Valley
The YES Advisory Board coordinates this event to assist youth in finding employment. Youth are encouraged to come dressed to impress and prepared to interview. The event is expected to bring more than 50 employers. For more information regarding the YES program, call (805) 522-HIRE (4473)

Need to change the Primary Care Provider (PCP) for your dependent child?

Contact the Foster Care Eligibility Unit by calling (805) 654-3409 and asking for the Foster Care Eligibility Officer of the Day. They will contact Gold Coast directly to have the child's name added to their Managed Member List. Once the child has been identified as a Managed Member, they will no longer require an assigned PCP and can be seen by any Gold Coast/Medi-Cal provider.

For emergency situations you can change the provider manually by calling the Gold Coast Provider Line at 1-888-301-1228. You will need the child's Gold Coast ID or Medi-Cal number, the child's date of birth and the new provider's NPI number. The NPI can be found on the Gold Coast Health Plan Provider Directory.

Childcare Openings at Oxnard College Child Development Center

Have you been looking for childcare? The Oxnard College Child Development Center has half-day and full-day preschool openings for children ages 2-5. Part day program fees are \$22/day and full day fees are \$35/day. Child Development Resources (CDR) funding is accepted, and there is no limit on how many CDR funded children can enroll! Remember to contact CDR to apply for subsidies for the court dependent children in your care. To apply:

1. Complete the Centralized Eligibility List Application, which can be downloaded here: https://www.childdevelopmentresources.org/TextPages/how_do_i_enroll.aspx
2. Provide the completed application to Elisa Carreno at elisa.carreno@ventura.org or fax to (805) 654-3464. She will verify the child is a dependent minor and will submit the application packet, with the verification, to CDR directly.
3. Elisa will follow up with you to confirm the application has been submitted and provide you the CDR contact information so that you are able to check the status of the application.

Spotlight On: Faith in Motion

Faith in Motion is a partnership between CFS, foster family agencies, and faith communities who care for foster children and their families. We seek to work collaboratively with communities of all faiths to increase the number of quality foster homes in the County who welcome children out of a sense of call, mission, and love. Faith communities share a long history of mission driven service and concern for the most vulnerable among us. The children of Ventura County need communities of faith who will champion their need for a family, a home, and for hope in the midst of the trauma and loss.

Join our Faith in Motion initiative by becoming a Faith in Motion community. We will equip you with the tools, resources, and support to develop a strong ministry and network on behalf of foster children and families. To learn more, you can contact one of the Faith in Motion co-chairs at kim@bigler.com or john@darktodawn.org

Social Worker Appreciation

March was Social Worker Appreciation Month! CFS social workers were honored at a Board of Supervisors meeting for their tireless efforts in providing support and case management to children, parents, and caregivers.





Spotlight On: Milestones – Celebrating the Achievements of Foster Youth

The purpose of Milestones is to celebrate the achievements of foster youth and recognize this important time of life for those foster youth who have just graduated from high school, reached their 18th birthday, or are working their way through college or a vocational school. This year, Milestones will be held on May 31, 2014 at California State University, Channel Islands. The Milestones event typically includes a keynote speaker, dinner, music, and a photo booth, as well as gifts and prizes for the foster youth being honored. All current and former foster youth are invited to be honored! Please help us in reaching out to all foster youth who could be honored so we can send them an invitation. Go to www.milestonesvc.org for more details or contact John Franklin at john@darktodawn.org.

AB352, Hall. Foster Care: Smoke-Free Environment 1530.7 has been added to the Health & Safety Code

The law requires Group homes, foster family agencies, Foster Family Homes, and caregivers to maintain a smoke free environment in their facility. This law prohibits a person who is licensed or certified from smoking or permitting any other person to smoke inside the facility, and, when the child is present, on the outdoor grounds of the facility. Any person who violates the act, or who willfully or repeatedly violates any rule or regulation promulgated under the act, is guilty of a misdemeanor.



Foster Parent On-line Training

Foster Care & Adoptive Community <http://fosterparents.com>

Department of Washington Social & Health Services
www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/onGoingVid.asp

Foster Parent College www.fosterparentcollege.com

Florida's Just in Time Training <http://jitfl.cbcs.usf.edu>

Foster Club www.fosterclub.com/booster/article/foster-parent-online-training

Useful Links

County of Ventura Foster Parents
www.vchsa.org/foster

Children's Services Auxiliary
www.csavc.org

VC Foster Parent Association
www.vcfpa.com

Aspiranet
www.aspiranet.org

Arrow Child & Family Ministries
www.arrow.org

California Youth Connection
<http://calyouthconn.org>

CASA: Court Appointed Special Advocates
www.casaofventuracounty.org

Casa Pacifica
www.casapacifica.org

Channel Islands Social Services
www.islandsocialservices.org

Child Development Resources
www.childdevelopmentresources.org

Dark to Dawn
www.darktodawn.org

Interface Children & Family Services
<http://icfs.org>

James Storehouse
<http://jamesstorehouse.org>

Kids & Families Together
www.kidsandfamilies.org

Koinonia Family Services
www.kfh.org

National Foster Parent Association
<http://nfpaonline.org>

Neighborhoods for Learning
<http://first5ventura.org/parents-caregivers/neighborhoods-for-learning>

TEACH Fund Scholarship
www.vccf.org/scholarship/tech/index.shtml

Ventura County Office of Education
 Foster Care Services
www.vcoe.org/Portals/VcssoPortals/spes/usersdata/FYS%20Brochure.pdf

Women of Substance, Men of Honor
www.wosmohinc.com

Secondary Trauma

April 26, 9 – 11 a.m. Location TBD

Has a child's emotional reactivity ever taken such a toll on you that it has negatively impacted your health, emotional well-being, or personal relationships? This training will describe how a child's trauma may impact caregivers in such a way that they experience symptoms of post-traumatic stress as well. We will help you recognize and monitor your own and your family's emotional health, and learn specific steps to help you and your family to heal when secondary trauma occurs. RSVP to jason_lee5@vcccd.edu

Foster Talk Networking

April 29, 6 – 8 p.m.

Ventura Missionary Church
500 High Point Drive, Ventura

An opportunity to receive updated information as to changes related to foster care and network with other foster parents who are geographically related. Specific topics will be addressed each month and friendships will be made and resources revealed. RSVP to Debbie Flowers at debbiefowers@vcccd.edu

Trauma Informed Practice

April 30, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Ventura County Office of Education
5100 Adolfo Rd, Camarillo
Lunch will be served.

We are excited to be offering training on Trauma Informed Practice by Gabriella Grant, from the California Center of Excellence for Trauma Informed Care, which will cover:

1. Increasing our general knowledge of trauma-informed concepts, research, and services
 2. Applying trauma-informed approaches to the work that we do
 3. Assessing from a trauma-informed perspective
 4. Becoming aware of the cumulative impact of trauma
 5. Learning how to use trauma-informed interventions when working with adults, children and families with unsafe coping strategies, such as substance abuse, violence or isolation, among others
- CFS has space for 20 foster parents to attend.

RSVP to Darryl Woodward at daryl.woodward@ventura.org or (805) 477-5320

6th Annual Embracing Hearts

for Foster Youth Rummage Sale

May 10, 6 a.m. – 12 noon,

Lighthouse Church

3353 Old Conejo Rd, Newbury Park

It's that time of year again where we can participate in "Helping to Save One Youth at a Time!" Please come and support the foster youth that will be graduating from high school. All the proceeds from this sale will go to providing a food gift card for the graduating foster youth for their efforts. If you would like to donate items to be sold or volunteer at the sale or for more info, contact us at (805) 376-0472 or chloe@wosmohinc.com

Aspiranet Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC) Orientation

May 12, 6 – 8 p.m. or online anytime,
1838 Eastman Ave, Suite 100, Ventura

Being an Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC) parent is empowering children to heal and walk the path to a bright future. Join Aspiranet in providing care and guidance to children and youth with special emotional and/or behavioral challenges. The ITFC program was developed with the belief that children and youth can be successful in life when they live in comfortable home-like environments and get the therapeutic resources and individualized support they need to heal from past trauma. Open your heart and help an ITFC child find his or her inner hero. RSVP to scasey@aspiranet.org or (805) 289-0120. If you can't wait until May to get started, complete the orientation online today at:

www.aspiranetheroes.org/ITFC

Caring for Medically Fragile Children

May 14, 6 – 8 p.m.

VCCF Center Conference Room 4001
Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo

Foster parents are expected to meet the needs of children with a variety of medical conditions. A medically fragile child is one who, because of an accident, illness, congenital disorder, abuse or neglect, is in a stable condition but is dependent on life-sustaining medications, treatments or equipment. The purpose of this training is to help parents recognize the conditions and provide them with the information and tools they need to confidently care for the child. The following conditions will be discussed: Asthma, Diabetes Type 1, Seizure Disorder, Cardiac Issues, Cerebral Palsy & MRSA. To RSVP for the training, call Debbie Flowers at 986-5800, ext 2018 or e-mail debbiefowers@vcccd.edu

Ventura County Foster Parents Association

Foster Family Appreciation Night

May 15, 6:30 – 9 p.m.

Living Oaks Community Church

1077 Business Center Dr, Newbury Park

6:30 – 7 p.m. Meet and greet with some of the professional organizations that support foster children, kinship families and adoption families

7 – 9 p.m. Annual meeting with special surprise guests, door prizes, free books for all ages and fun for the entire family.

For information call Kim Lockwood at (805) 262-7775.

Free child care is available.

Call Channel Island Social Services at (805) 384-0983 by 12 noon May 11, 2014.

Faith in Motion Initiative Kick-Off

May 15, 9 a.m.

Lighthouse Church, Newbury Park

Calling all Faith Leaders! Join us for breakfast to learn more about becoming a Faith in Motion community in partnership with CFS, foster family agencies and our community partners. RSVP with Faith in Motion co-chairs at kim@bigler.com or john@darktodawn.org. See "Spotlight on..." for more information.

Together Conference

May 17, 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

1322 Las Posas Rd, Camarillo

Co-sponsored by Arrow Child & Family Ministries and Camarillo Community Church, this conference is focused on building healthy relationships for a lifetime. Tickets are \$20 before 4/15 and \$25 after 4/15. For more information, visit camarillocommunity.com/together or contact Julie Carroll at (805) 482-2423 or julie.carroll@arrow.org

Fun in the Sun: Family Appreciation Day

May 31, 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Location TBD
The East County FKCE program is sponsoring a free family appreciation event to celebrate Foster & Relative Appreciation Month! This will be a family friendly event with childcare, activities, guest speakers, and food!

For more information contact jason_lee5@vcccd.edu

Milestones

May 31, 2014

California State University, Channel Islands
See "Spotlight on..." for more information or visit <http://milestonesvc.org/index.html>

9th Annual SummerFest Community

Celebration of Health Living

May 31, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

255 W. Stanley Ave, Ventura

This FREE, family-friendly, community event sponsored by Ventura Education Partnership (VEP) and the Ventura Unified School District and includes many fun activities including entertainment and demonstrations, sports clinics for children of all ages, sports physicals for middle and high school youth, vendors with lots of cool give-aways and good ideas to keep you healthy, rock climbing wall, 3,000 Meter Run/Walk for all ages, fun zone, and lots more.

For more information, call (805) 641-5000, ext. 1550 or visit <http://vep4vusd.org/SummerFest.html>

Kids & Families Together Kinship Support Groups for Relative Caregivers

Oxnard: 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 6 – 7:30 p.m.
2201 Jasmine St, Sierra Linda Elementary School

Oxnard: 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 6 – 7:30 p.m.
2501 Gisler Ave, Harrington Elementary School

Oxnard: 2nd Wednesday, 7 – 8 p.m.
1777 Statham Blvd, St. Paul Baptist Church

Santa Paula: (Spanish Only) 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 9 – 11 a.m.
427 N. Oak St, Guadalupe Church Rectory

Simi Valley: 2nd Thursday, 9:30 – 11 a.m.
3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley Senior Center

Ventura: 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 6 – 8 p.m.
856 E. Thompson Blvd, Kids & Families Together Center

Thousand Oaks: 2nd Tues, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
401 Hodencamp Rd, Senior Concerns

Please contact Noemi Hernandez at (805) 643-1446 x 125 for more information and to sign up.