



# the foster NETWORK

December/January

## New Year Reflection:

Redwood trees are the tallest living things on earth, with the tallest tree in Muir Woods standing over 250 feet tall. The trees are so wide that it would take 30-40 people holding hands to encircle the entire tree. Amazingly, most of the Redwoods in Muir Woods are anywhere from 500 to 800 years old. So just how do these trees grow so tall and survive hundreds of years in the forest? Surprisingly, the roots of the redwoods are very shallow- only 6 to 12 feet deep. And yet, those roots support a tree that approaches the height equivalent to a football field! How is this possible? The roots of the redwood trees grow outward over 60 feet instead of deep underground. The roots extend and interlock with the roots of other redwood trees nearby and they form a strong bond. This vast underground root system ensures a firm foundation and source of strength for all the redwoods. The roots of older redwood trees hold on to the roots of new redwood trees beginning to grow. The strength is shared and propels the younger trees to soaring heights. In essence, they survive because they support each other. It is this vast interconnected root system that protects the trees during extreme conditions including windstorms, earthquakes, and flooding. The roots of the redwoods intertwine underground and together can withstand these forces. The trees could not survive on their own; this is why one never sees a redwood standing alone. Ever.

-Robbie Shockey, APAC Adoption Connections

It is this same interlocking of roots and strength that is needed within our fostering community as children and families enter the child welfare system each month and we welcome new caregivers. In the coming year, CFS will roll out new practices including Resource Family Approval, Safety Organized Practice, and the Quality Parenting Initiative to further strengthen the root structure of our caregiving community so that children receive the unconditional support and stability they need to thrive. Thank you for protecting children by strengthening families and extending your family roots.

## Thank You!

Elizabeth Thasiah, CFS Program Manager, Foster VC Kids



### CFS Contacts

Recruitment, Retention, & Support Info Line	654-3220	General Info Emergency Response Units	654-3444
RDS Manager	654-5594	General Info Ongoing Unit	240-2700
Licensing	654-3405	General Info East County	955-2290
Relative Approval	654-3214	General Information Central Programs	654-3405
Placement	654-3211 or 654-3212	Children's Services Auxiliary (CSA)	654-3245
Adoptions	385-9158	CSA Reimbursements Case Aide	289-1926
Youth Services Division	385-9146	Field Based Case Aides	654-3449
Rx for Kids Public Health Program	981-5373	ILP Coordinators	385-9114
Children's Health & Disability Prevention Nurse	654-5536	Eligibility Officer of the Day	654-3409

## Fostering Connections

Keeping kids connected to their families during the holidays can be a challenge with all of the activities we have going on in our lives, but it is critical for the children. The holidays can intensify the grief and loss children feel from being separated from their families. By working to find creative ways to help them stay connected, we can lessen some of these feelings and help them enjoy a beautiful season. Some things you can do to help your child are:

- ***Ask them about the holiday traditions they shared with their birth families and try to incorporate some of them into yours. The children in your home may miss some of the activities they experienced with their family or in a previous placement.***
- ***If possible, ask your child's family members about their holiday customs and traditions. Ask about their beliefs and observances. Although you may feel stretched thin at the holidays, try to coordinate schedules with the birth family to share an activity together. This gives children a chance to experience what is familiar to them while also experiencing new traditions. By celebrating together in small ways your child will feel reassured and enjoy the holidays more.***
- ***This is a good time for the youth in your home to make small gifts and send cards to their birth families or old neighbors and friends. Help them to make cookies or decorations, or put together a small stocking for a loved one. These can be delivered at visits.***
- ***Record a video of your foster child performing a little holiday greeting for their family. Dress them up in holiday clothing and have them sing carols or read "The Night Before Christmas" into the recording along with a personal message to their family. This will warm everyone's hearts!***

And finally, remember this is also a time when many children experience conflicted feelings about their birth families and worry about them. Reassure them and let them know it is okay to think about and miss their families. This is a great time to remind foster children that there is enough room in their hearts to love and care for everyone in their lives.

## AGENCY UPDATES:

### Continuum of Care Reform

Former foster children have told us and research has long shown that children living in family settings have better outcomes than children placed in long-term congregate care. AB 403 Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) includes components to reduce placements in congregate care settings, transitioning children and youth into family settings while transforming group homes into a new category of congregate care facility defined as Short-Term Residential Treatment Centers (STRTCs). These STRTCs will be utilized for time limited placements with specific treatment goals. In order to help our children and youth make the transition from residential settings into family homes we need more quality caregivers who are willing and able to meet their needs. To assist with this transition, CFS is evaluating additional training and supports we can provide to enhance our caregivers' capacity and prepare them for helping children make the shift from institutional care to family life. We will continue to provide more information as we refine our implementation plans. Stay tuned for exciting new training opportunities coming your way. This is also a great time to consider expanding your niche to accommodate older children who will need a family to support them as they transition out of congregate care. To learn more about Continuum of Care Reform please see this fact sheet from CDSS.

***Please Note:*** As part of CCR, we are seeking to increase the number of **Emergency Shelter Foster Homes (ESFHs)** serving children 0-18 for up to 30 day placements. Eligible caregivers are licensed for a minimum of two children aged 0-18. ESFHs receive an additional monthly retainer for each ESFH bed and work closely with the agency to ensure a smooth transition for the children either home, to a relative or to a stable placement. Contact Vicky Gonzales to learn more: [victoria.gonzales@ventura.org](mailto:victoria.gonzales@ventura.org) or call 805-289-1956

### Resource Family Approval

Resource Family Approval (RFA) is the new foster and relative caregiver approval process effective in Ventura County on March 1, 2016. RFA consolidates elements of the current licensing, relative approval, adoption, and guardianship processes. This means there will now be one streamlined approval process for all caregivers, thereby eliminating the need for a family to obtain additional fingerprints, approvals, and home studies if the case plan changes for a child in their care. If a caregiver is currently licensed, they will not be required to be reassessed as an RFA caregiver and will be eventually grandfathered into the new system. However, if a current licensed foster family wants to adopt, they may be required to go through the adoption home study process or the RFA process. For more information, join us at one of our RFA update trainings in January and February. Dates and locations will be mailed out to all caregivers.

## Introducing Safety Organized Practice *iFoster Updates!*

The term 'Safety Organized Practice' was first used to describe an approach to day-to-day child welfare casework. The practice is designed to help all key stakeholders involved with a child – parents, extended family, caregivers, child welfare workers, supervisors, managers, lawyers, therapists, CASAs, judges, and even the child him/herself - keep a clear focus on assessing and enhancing child safety at all points in the case process. The overarching goals for SOP:

- **Development of Good Working Relationships:** Using a spirit of curiosity, practices of family engagement, and a shared language for important child welfare concepts to help create good working relationships among all stakeholders involved with a family.
- **Use of Critical Thinking Decision Support Tools:** Helping all stakeholders use the best of their experience and the best state-of-the-art child welfare research to jointly assess family situations and arrive at clear statements of both the harm and danger to the children, and the goals for a child welfare intervention.
- **Creation of Detailed Plans for Enhancing Safety of Children:** Creating jointly developed, understandable, achievable, and behaviorally based plans that include all stakeholders and clearly show how the protection of children will be enhanced on an ongoing basis.
- **Child-Centered Engagement through Solution Focused Questions:** "What's working well? What are we concerned about? What needs to happen next?" These are questions that will guide many of our interactions with children, families and caregivers as we seek to ensure that the child's voice and good working relationships are central to our child welfare practice.

In the coming year, caregivers will be given training opportunities to participate and learn more about Safety Organized Practice.

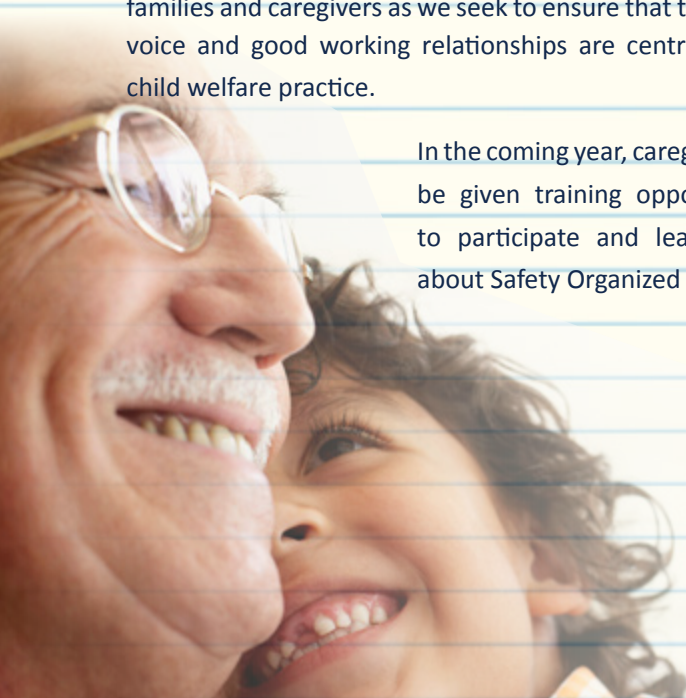
Are you a member of the [www.ifoster.org](http://www.ifoster.org) online resource portal community? If not, please take a few minutes to register at [www.ifoster.org](http://www.ifoster.org). By registering, you are signing up for local and national retail discounts and deals, local resources to help you meet your child's needs, and some goodies to support you and the youth(s) in your care. Remember, foster, adoptive, relative caregivers, and transition-aged youth are eligible for their own accounts! You can also call iFoster at 1-855-936-7837 and they can sign you up over the phone and help you navigate the resource opportunities. Are there resources missing from the portal? Contact iFoster! They are interested in identifying new resources to support our caregivers.

iFoster has added two components to the iFoster portal that can have added benefits for the child in your care. When you log in, you are taken to your home page where you will see an option for "My Child's Successes." By clicking on this, you can share successes and milestones your child has achieved. This will also enter your child into a drawing for some cool prizes donated by iFoster's corporate partners. You will be asked to provide supportive documentation of the achievement (report card, certificate, letter, etc) that you will upload into the secure portal. This becomes a cloud-based "backpack" of your child's success.

The 2nd addition is the Digital Locker for transition-aged youth. This locker, again with online banking level security, is a place where youth can store digital copies of their report cards, Medi-Cal card, photos, memories, school assignments, letters from the court or social workers, and many other important documents that often get lost along the way. Youth can sign up for their own iFoster account and access the portal. Upload documents by scanning, taking a photo with a smart phone or tablet, or directly from a computer. The locker supports a range of file types including PDFs, JPGS, and more!



Ventura County Children & Family Services



# Let the Holiday Celebrations Begin!

Save the Date for the Calvary Community Church Winter Event on Sunday, December 6th! Calvary Community Church's clothing ministry will be hosting a clothing giveaway for foster families just before the church's winter event! The winter event will include sledding on real snow, making s'mores, enjoying a petting zoo, and listening to the Christmas story.

**When: Sunday, December 6th**

**Where: 5495 Via Rocas, Westlake Village, CA 91362**

For more information, contact Calvary Church at 818- 991-8040

## Children's Services Auxiliary 2015 Holiday Toy Store

The Ventura County Children's Services Auxiliary is pleased to extend an invitation to participate in the **2015 Holiday Toy Store**. Please read the following information VERY CAREFULLY:

If you would like to receive a Toy Store Voucher for the Court Dependent Child(ren) in your home, please contact the child's social worker with your request by **Friday, December 4, 2015**. When you call in, please be prepared to provide the following information:

1. Your first and last name
2. Your mailing address
3. Your telephone number

Name, Age and Gender of each child for whom you are requesting a voucher. **Eligible children are those placed with you through Guardianship, KinGap, Foster Care, or Relative care.**

Once you have requested a voucher, please watch for your voucher in the mail. You should receive it within one week. If the social worker has not received your RSVP by **Friday, December 4, 2015**, you may not be able to receive a voucher. New this year: **Please bring your own bag or box for toys.**



## CSA Annual Holiday Party

**December 12th from 11-1pm**

**Oxnard Elks Lodge,  
801 South A St. Oxnard**

If you have not RSVP'd yet, please do so now to Elisa Carreno at [Elisa.carreno@ventura.org](mailto:Elisa.carreno@ventura.org) or (805)289-1926.

## Winter CAMPS Funding Available:

Please contact Elisa Carreno directly prior to paying for ANY camp between November-March 2016. Funds up to \$500 per child are available for Specialized Camps (such as Art, Dance, Swimming, Skiing, and Surfing). CSA MUST pay camps directly. Reimbursement from this fund is not available for caregivers. Contact Elisa Carreno at [Elisa.carreno@ventura.org](mailto:Elisa.carreno@ventura.org) or (805)289-1926.



Ventura County Children & Family Services



# Resource Corner

Foster VC Kids is here to help. If you have specific material or resource needs, contact your social worker or Foster VC Kids for support at [fostervckids@ventura.org](mailto:fostervckids@ventura.org) or call us at 654-3220. We can help you to access the resources you and your child need to thrive. To see the full list of resource providers, see our full Foster VC Kids Resource Toolkit.

**James Store House** has tons of new and like-new clothes (girl and boy) from newborn to teen, plus new socks, underwear and winter jackets. We also have diapers, wipes, Similac (sensitive tummy) formula, baby gear, some school supplies, accessories and shoes. Appointments are preferred, but drop-ins are always welcome! Email [jamesstorehouse@gmail.com](mailto:jamesstorehouse@gmail.com)) Phone 805 499-7161. We are open Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays 9am-2pm or by appointment.

**Claudia's Closet** is the teen resource division of James Storehouse, Inc. and provides new and gently used clothes, as well as gift cards to teens in care. Contact Claudia at [claudiascloset8@gmail.com](mailto:claudiascloset8@gmail.com) or 805-300-1014 to schedule an appointment.

**Heart-to-Heart** donates gently used items to foster parents, relative caregivers and children and is located in Ventura. Please email a resource request application to [HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org](mailto:HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org) to be referred. The resource request application can be downloaded from [www.fostervckids.org](http://www.fostervckids.org) or provided to you by calling 805-654-3220.

**Child Hope Services**, Inc. is a Christian faith-based foster and adoptive support organization. They can provide funds and gift baskets with basic needs items to support families in fostering and adopting. Please visit <http://www.childhopeservices.org/new-page/> and complete an application to be considered for support. Child Hope Services can also be contacted at 805-419-6182 or [info@childhopeservices.org](mailto:info@childhopeservices.org).

**Defending the Fatherless** provides a love closet with gently used and new items for foster and adoptive families. We will be happy to bring you items upon placement or to help you set up your home as you become a foster parent. We also have cribs, toddler beds, strollers, car seats and various infant items as well as backpacks. Contact Karen at [defendingthefatherless.info@gmail.com](mailto:defendingthefatherless.info@gmail.com) or call 258-9804

## Learning from the Research

Elizabeth Kolbert presents an interesting summary of new research in a recent article in the New Yorker entitled "The Terrible Teens: What's wrong with them?" which examines adolescent brain development. Kolbert presents information from neurologist Frances Jenson that demonstrates that "teens are not quite firing on all cylinders when it comes to the frontal lobes..." She explains that the frontal lobes are the part of the brain that help with planning, self-awareness and judgment. When optimally functioning, the frontal lobes act as the "brakes" for impulses coming from other parts of the brain. During the teen years, the brain is still building connections between different areas of the brain. The links to the frontal lobes are one of the last regions to be connected and the complete process can last until the twenties or even thirties. Given this, parents need to act as their teens frontal lobes and help them with things like planning and judgment, as well as understanding that their brains are not fully "online" yet.

Another researcher that Kolbert brings into her article is Laurence Steinberg. His work has found that the "pleasure center" of the brain (known as the nuclear accumbens) hits maximum development during

adolescence and then begins to shrink into adulthood. Note: teens are wired to seek enjoyment and excitement. This means that despite knowing the risks, the potential rewards of risky behavior seem greater to adolescents. These findings may explain why teens can answer why what they did was wrong but still did it anyway! Their brains are wired for excitement and enjoyment but still lack the cognitive capacity to consistently control their impulses and make safer choices. To read the entire article, please visit <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/08/31/the-terrible-teens>.

For tips on caring for teens, you can visit Dr. Dan Siegel's website at <http://www.drdansiegel.com> and click on Resources and Parenting Video Clips. Dr. Siegel is a world-renowned doctor, researcher, author and psychotherapist whose work on trauma, parenting, and mindfulness continue to educate the community on best practices in parenting and working with trauma. You may also want to read the following books: "The Teenage Brain: A neuroscientist's survival guide to raising adolescents and young adults" by Frances Jenson and Amy Ellis Nutt "Age of Opportunity: Lessons from the New Science of Adolescence" by Laurence Steinberg "Brainstorm: The Power and Purpose of the Teenage Brain" by Dan Siegel

## *Kim A!*

I'm writing this email as a big kudos to the foster mother, Kim A. who lives in Simi Valley. Foster parents like Kim are the ideal team members that we all strive to find and work with! I want to recognize all of Kim's much appreciated strengths as a foster parent. Kim has continuously demonstrated amazing support for the family reunification process. She has done everything from continued communication with me, providers, and the birth mother; to making herself available for transportation and facilitating visits (in Oxnard), to meeting the parents at the child's medical appointments. It has all been so helpful for everyone and is greatly appreciated. She also recently worked with Tri-Counties Regional Center to initiate services for the child and later discussed with me the possibility of involving the parents in these sessions. A concept I completely support, but the fact that she initiated this conversation was just great! As busy as I am as an ongoing social worker, the support provided by Kim is superb. She is always willing to explore a new suggestion and is so positive all the time too. My understanding is that she is a newer foster parent, but with her optimistic qualities I told her that she's ready to be a mentor! Thank you Kim! - Gladys Gonzales

## *Jennifer C!*

I was recently completing an annual licensing home inspection at the foster family home of Jennifer C. A documented alternative plan (DAP) was required so I contacted the ongoing worker, Caren Davidge, to make sure she was in agreement. Caren shared that although this is a newer foster parent, she has been absolutely awesome to work with! She also shared that there have been difficulties with the children and that the foster mother has really been working hard to ensure the best for the children in her care. The family has been willing to engage with the birth parents and is very much in agreement with working with the Consortium to develop a Post-Adoption Agreement. They are committed to keeping connections with siblings and extended relatives as well, and can't live with the idea of the girls (ages 2 and 3) not knowing their sisters and aunts, uncles, grandparents. They are all heart and able to put the children's needs first. - Melyssa Moss

## *Ofelia F!*

I just moved a child from the home of Ofelia F. and I wanted to make sure that I mentioned how great this caregiver was! She was supportive of all the services the child was participating in, followed through with all the suggestions from his clinicians for improving his behavior, and really put in a lot of effort and care for this child. Mrs. F was aware of how important family connections are and was open to communication with the family from the start. She is an awesome placement resource! - Mallory Retes



# What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

*Please don't forget* to visit our Events calendar at <http://fostervckids.org/> for up-to-date information on training, networking groups, and other events. Be sure to also *"like"* Foster VC Kids on Facebook to get regular updates about training, other Foster VC Kids events & read caregiver kudos.

## TEACh and Other Scholarship Opportunities for Foster Youth (West County)

*Presenter: Rhonda Carlson*

*Tuesday, December 1st 6:30-8:00pm*

*Ventura County Office of Education 5100 Adolfo Road,  
Camarillo- Oxnard Room*

Current or former foster youth have unique scholarship opportunities available just for them! This informational session for care providers and youth will provide information about the TEACh scholarship and other VCCF scholarships available to Ventura County foster youth who plan to attend college or vocational training in the Fall of 2016. Limited space available! Participants will receive credit for 1.5 hours of training upon completion of the class. Please RSVP to [rcarlson@vcccd.edu](mailto:rcarlson@vcccd.edu) Sponsors: Ventura College FKCE & Ventura County Office of Education.

## Foster Parent Advisory Round Table

*December 2nd, 2015 and January 6th, 2016 at 7:00 pm*

The Roundtable is open to all caregivers and will meet on a monthly basis to discuss what is working well and what is not, what improvements need to take place within our agency and caregiving community, and how we can better support and equip caregivers to provide the best trauma informed care. If you have interest in taking part in this monthly meeting on a regular or drop in basis, please contact the RDS unit at 805-654-3220 or email us at [fostervckids@ventura.org](mailto:fostervckids@ventura.org). Meetings will be held the first Wednesday of the month and will be held at 855 Partridge Drive in Ventura.



Ventura County Children & Family Services

## Supporting Emerging Adults Networking Group NEW! (West County)

*Facilitators: Rhonda Carlson & Laura Welbourn*

*2nd Friday of every month: December 11th & January 8th  
5:30-7:30pm*

Please RSVP for west county location and directions. Typical young adults are staying at home longer and longer. The average age of independence for young adults is almost 30! Yet we expect our youth from traumatic backgrounds to begin to be independent at 18-21. Clearly a huge gap exists for these emerging adults. Many former foster parents, kinship providers, mentors and other "non-related" family members step in to fill that gap by opening up their homes and/or providing other financial, emotional and physical support, especially as young people begin to "age out" of the resources available to them. If you are one of the many care givers out there in this situation, we've designed this group just for you. Please join Rhonda and Laura (whose passion for youth overflow into every aspect of their lives) for this new monthly Networking Group the second Friday of each month. A specific topic will be explored each month: December (Limited Resources in the Season of Giving) January (The Next Generation: Supporting My Parenting Emerging Adult) Participants will receive credit for 2 hours of training upon completion of each class. Please RSVP to [rcarlson@vcccd.edu](mailto:rcarlson@vcccd.edu) Sponsor: Ventura College FKCE

## Baby Basics and Beyond (East County)

*Facilitator: Mariana Abarta*

2nd Monday of every month: December 14th 7:00-9:00pm @ Mariana's House (Please RSVP for address and directions) 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. We will explore ways of addressing the needs of the infant that will support secure attachment and developmental growth. We will also learn methods of self-care to better support family health during the infancy stage. Participants will receive credit for 2 hours of training upon completion the class. Please RSVP to [Jason\\_lee5@vcccd.edu](mailto:Jason_lee5@vcccd.edu) Sponsor: Moorpark College FKCE

# What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

## West County Foster Parent Networking - Evening

*Tuesday, December 29th, 6 pm-8 pm*

*Where: Ventura Missionary Church, 500 High Point Dr.,  
Ventura (Sanctuary Building)*

An opportunity to receive updated information as to changes related to foster care, receive support from your foster parent peers, and earn training hours. Please RSVP [fostervckids@ventura.org](mailto:fostervckids@ventura.org) or 654-3220. **Please make your childcare reservations directly with Channel Islands Social Services at (805) 384-0983. Childcare is not guaranteed without a reservation.**

## West County Foster Parent Networking - Morning

*Wednesday, December 30th, 10 am – 12 pm, Ventura*

*Missionary Church, 500 High Point Dr., Ventura  
(Sanctuary Building)*

An opportunity to receive updated information as to changes related to foster care, receive support from your foster parent peers, and earn training hours. Please RSVP [fostervckids@ventura.org](mailto:fostervckids@ventura.org) or 654-3220. **Please make your childcare reservations directly with Channel Islands Social Services at (805) 384-0983. Childcare is not guaranteed without a reservation.**

## Foster Parent Support Group

*Thursday, December 17th and Thursday, January 28 -  
please RSVP for time and location.*

Support from your peer foster parents is critical to your success! One of our long time foster parents, Amanda Bowles, has created a support group that is open to all

caregivers! This group usually meets the last Thursday of the month but due to the Holidays December's meeting will be on the 17th. Contact Amanda at (805) 320-6705 or [amanda.bowles86@gmail.com](mailto:amanda.bowles86@gmail.com) for the time and location.

## Support Group for Foster & Adoptive Families in Newbury Park

Everyone is welcome to come to a support group for foster and adoptive families at Monte Vista Presbyterian Church in Newbury Park. The meetings are from 5 to 7 PM on the last Sunday of each month and alternate between group discussions one month and scheduled speakers the next. A meal is served and childcare is provided. Monte Vista Presbyterian Church is located at 3797 W. Lynn Road, on the corner of Reino and Lynn roads, in Newbury Park. If you are interested in attending, please contact me, Sue Aby, at 805-498-5387 or [wwaby@aol.com](mailto:wwaby@aol.com). Please join us!

## FAFSA and Chafee: Understanding Financial Aid available to Foster Youth

*Presenter: Danielle Rodriguez & Ventura College  
Financial Aid Staff*

*Wednesday, January 6th 6:30-8:00pm (arrive at 6pm for  
pizza- you MUST pre-register by Jan. 5th)*

Current or former foster youth have a lot of financial aid available to them simply by filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This informational session for care providers and youth (current high school seniors, graduates or college students) will provide information and hand-on help in completing the forms that will help youth pay for college in the Fall of 2016. Pre-registration is required by January 5th. RSVP to [rcarlson@vcccd.edu](mailto:rcarlson@vcccd.edu)  
Sponsors: Ventura College Financial Aid, FKCE, & Ventura

Foster   
VC Kids

Ventura County Children & Family Services





# What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

County Office of Education

## Ventura County Children's System of Care: Agency 101

**Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2016**

**Time: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm**

**Location: Ventura County Office of Education  
Conference Center, 5100 Adolfo Rd, Camarillo**

Agency 101 provides information on resources for families for at-risk children and youth. Come learn about community resources, eligibility requirements, fees, funding streams, and more.

## Kinship Conference

**Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016**

**Time: 8am-3pm**

**Location: VCOE Ventura County Office of Education  
5189 Verdugo Way CA, Camarillo 93012**

First ever Kinship Conference of Ventura County! Both English/Spanish classes offered. "Learning, Lunch & Love!"  
\*Also included is a presentation on RFA! Free!

## Kinship Parenting for Relative Care Givers (Walk-ins welcome!)

Kinship care is the full or part-time parenting of children by grandparents or other relatives. These training groups will explore the practical issues related to parenting a second generation and provide tools and support to help you get and keep your bearing along the way. No RSVP needed. For further information, email [kssp@kidsandfamilies.org](mailto:kssp@kidsandfamilies.org) or go to the Kids and Families Together website.

### Oxnard Resource Group

1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm, Sierra Linda Elementary School, 2201 Jasmine Street, Oxnard

### Ventura Resource Group

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm, Kids & Families Together 856 E. Thompson Blvd. Ventura

### Simi Valley Resource Group

2nd Thursday of each month, 9:30 am-11:00 am, Simi Valley Senior Center, 3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley

### Thousand Oaks Resource Group

2nd Tuesdays of each month, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm, Senior Concerns, 401 Hodencamp Rd. Thousand Oaks

### Camarillo Resource Group

4th Wednesday of each month, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm, at CISS, 5251 Verdugo Rd. Suite G, Camarillo

### Santa Paula Resource Group (Bilingual)

2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month  
6:00 pm- 8:00 pm, SPHS 404 N. 6th St. Room 114, Santa Paula



# Foster Care Snapshot:

*The Critical Need Continues...*

*In the Month of September:* There were **883** children in care  
**245** children were in foster home placements (County & FFA)  
**400** children were in kinship/relative care placements  
**110** children were in guardian homes  
**7** finalized adoptions (**128** Fiscal year to date)  
**86** children remained in group homes  
**49%** of siblings are separated from each other  
We welcomed **5** new foster homes into the Foster VC Kids 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 analyst for more information!



## Useful Links

County of Ventura Foster Parents  
[www.fostervckids.org](http://www.fostervckids.org)

iFoster

[www.ifoster.org](http://www.ifoster.org)

CFS Independent Living Program

[www.ventura.org/ilp-youth/ilp-youth](http://www.ventura.org/ilp-youth/ilp-youth)

Children's Services Auxiliary

[www.csavc.org](http://www.csavc.org)

CASA: Court Appointed Special Advocates

[www.casaofventuracounty.org/](http://www.casaofventuracounty.org/)

Channel Islands Social Services

[www.islandsocialservices.org/](http://www.islandsocialservices.org/)

California Youth Connection

[www.cal-youthconn.org/](http://www.cal-youthconn.org/)

Kids & Families Together

[www.kidsandfamilies.org/](http://www.kidsandfamilies.org/)

VC Foster Parent Association

[www.vcfpa.com/](http://www.vcfpa.com/)

Dark to Dawn

[www.darktodawn.org/](http://www.darktodawn.org/)

James Storehouse

[www.jamesstorehouse.org/](http://www.jamesstorehouse.org/)

Women of Substance, Men of Honor

[www.wosmohinc.com/](http://www.wosmohinc.com/)

Interface Children & Family Services

[www.icfs.org](http://www.icfs.org)

Aspiranet

[www.aspiranet.org/](http://www.aspiranet.org/)

Arrow Child & Family Ministries

[www.arrow.org/](http://www.arrow.org/)

Casa Pacifica

[www.casapacifica.org/](http://www.casapacifica.org/)

Koinonia Family Services

[www.kfh.org/](http://www.kfh.org/)

National Foster Parent Association

[www.nfpaonline.org/](http://www.nfpaonline.org/)

TEACh Fund Scholarship

[www.vccf.org/scholarship/tech/index.shtml](http://www.vccf.org/scholarship/tech/index.shtml)

VC Office of Education Foster Care Services

[www.vcoe.org/spes/FosterYouthServices.aspx](http://www.vcoe.org/spes/FosterYouthServices.aspx)

Neighborhoods for Learning

[www.first5ventura.org/parents-caregivers/neighborhoods-for-learning](http://www.first5ventura.org/parents-caregivers/neighborhoods-for-learning)

Child Development Resources

[www.childdevelopmentresources.org/](http://www.childdevelopmentresources.org/)

Rainbow Connection Family Resource Center

[www.rainbowconnectionfrc.weebly.com/](http://www.rainbowconnectionfrc.weebly.com/)

Macaroni Kid

[www.camarillo.macaronikid.com/](http://www.camarillo.macaronikid.com/)

Parent Click

[www.ventura-ca.parentclick.com/](http://www.ventura-ca.parentclick.com/)

## On-Line Training Resources

Foster Care & Adoptive Community

[www.fosterparents.com/](http://www.fosterparents.com/)

Department of Washington Social and Health Services

[www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/onGoingVid.asp](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/onGoingVid.asp)

Foster Parent College

[www.fosterparentcollege.com/](http://www.fosterparentcollege.com/)

California's Just in Time Training

<http://www.qpicalifornia.org/justintime.shtml>

Foster Club

[www.fosterclub.com/\\_booster/article/foster-parent-online-training](http://www.fosterclub.com/_booster/article/foster-parent-online-training)