



the foster NETWORK

The Integral Co-Parenting Relationship Manager's Message

Resource Families play an essential role in helping a child's birth parents stay emotionally connected to their child and in supporting family reunification. When parents and resource parents work together, we now know that kids go home more quickly and stay home. Children in foster care also get better care when the parent and resource parent exchange information and insights about the child and work together to make visits positive. Kids also feel less worried about their families and demonstrate lower anxiety and fear. Many kids are worried about loyalty—if they like the foster parent, does that mean they can't like their parent anymore? Children feel better and safer if they see the foster parent and parent getting along.

Reunification is also easier for the child if the relationship with the resource parent doesn't end, even if contact with the foster parent is just a card, a phone call, or occasional stopping by. The resource parent can become an ongoing support to the parent after reunification, someone who is an expert about their child and part of the larger safety network. When things are tough and a child is acting out, the parent can call and say, "What do I do?" The resource parent is able to say, "This worked for me." This kind of communication and support can help prevent the child from re-entering foster care and help children and their parents stabilize for the long term.

One way that Ventura County is seeking to enhance the co-parenting relationship is through hosting All About Me Ice Breaker meetings between caregivers and parents. Through the use of simple questions like "share with me your child's favorite foods, comfort items, etc.", caregivers and parents take the first step towards a partnership of mutual caring and support for their children. For more information on All About Me Icebreakers, click the link and take a look at this video: <http://www.aecf.org/blog/resources-for-holding-icebreaker-meetings-between-birth-and-foster-parents/>

Please share with RDS any positive personal experiences you have had partnering with your child's parents. We would like to share these.

Elizabeth Thasiah

CFS Contacts

Adoptions	240-2700
CFS Hotline	654-3200
Children's Health & Disability Prevention Nurse	240-2700
CSA Reimbursement	654-3220
Eligibility Officer of the Day	654-3409
Field Based Case Aids	654-3444
Recruitment, Development, & Support Info Line	654-3220
General Information East County	955-2290
General Information Emergency Response & Court Units	654-3444

General Information Family Support and Collaboration (Formerly Central Programs)	654-3405
General Information Ongoing Units:	240-2700
ILP Coordinators	240-2700
Licensing NEW NUMBER!	654-3405
Placement Vacancy Line	289-1900
RDS Manager	654-5594
Relative Approval	654-3405
RFA Officer of the Day	654-3405
Rx for Kids Public Health Program	289-9308
Youth Services Division	240-2700



Q&A

Q: How can parents and foster parents build connections?

I talk about a concept I call “the bridge”— you can agree together about where you need to be on that bridge and move forward in baby steps to cross it. You don’t have to start with face-to-face meetings. There are a lot of ways to have contact: exchanging notes about the child, talking on the phone, or attending school meetings or doctor visits where the parent can provide useful information about the child. When you both naturally feel ready to move to the next level, you can begin meeting in neutral territory. Once you get past the awkwardness and everyone feels comfortable, the foster parent can take the child to the parent’s home for visits, or let the parent come to her home. These steps are case-by-case, moment-to-moment decisions made in partnership with the social worker, parent and foster parent.

Q: How can the child welfare agency help in the co-parenting process?

An “All About Me Icebreaker” meeting soon after placement is a first step where the parent and foster parent meet and talk about what the foster parent needs to know to take good care of the child. The foster parent can ask about the child’s favorite foods or activities. The foster parent may say, “Johnny keeps asking me why he’s in foster care. How can we handle that?” Parents and foster parents can talk about how to have good visits. Would the parent like to bring the child a snack? Would the parent like to do the child’s hair? Can they talk before the visit so that the parent can ask about the child’s activities, like, “I heard you went to the zoo. Tell me about that.” They can discuss how to end visits in a positive way. The more you can talk and agree up front, the smoother things will go.

By Denise Goodman, a consultant to the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Family to Family initiative, works with public and private child welfare agencies nationwide to support parents and foster parents in working collaboratively. Excerpted from “Rise” Issue 13, 2009.

National Foster Care Month 2017



May is Foster Care Month and we want to celebrate our families! Caregivers will be recognized at the Board of Supervisors Meeting on May 16th, and CFS will be holding a special appreciation event directly afterwards. Foster VC Kids will be providing more information closer to the event.

VCFPA will be hosting their annual Foster Parent Appreciation event on **May 11th from 7-9pm**. More details to follow!

It’s a time to recognize that we each can play a part in enhancing the lives of children and youth in foster care. Caregivers can visit <https://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth> to find resources and information to help ensure that their future is bright.

Kudos Corner

Savannah J.

Savannah connected with the biological mother of a child in her care and began communication to coordinate visits so that the mother could have more frequent visits. Beforehand, the mother was confused why she was not able to have more visits and the foster mother had concerns for the children based on what little she knew about the mother. Once connected, they were able to talk more in depth about the children and their needs, such as special dietary requests. The foster mother learned that the bio mother was very young, and they found a common experience. Savannah offered to help the mother since she went through the same experience and was happy to know that the mother cared just as deeply for the children as she did, and the mother felt comfortable knowing who was caring for her children. They developed a relationship and Savannah has offered to help the mother after the children returned to the mother's care and maintain a relationship with the children. Thank you Savannah for such a wonderful example of co-parenting!

– Susan D.

Elena E.

Elena is so pro-active with the children's transition plan in an effort to reduce anxiety for everyone involved. She utilized Family Team Meetings and increased info sharing with children's grandparents. Awesome work!

– Elisa C.

Megan S.

I wanted to let you know that foster mom Megan has been AWESOME. Megan communicates with her foster daughter's biological mom using a notebook that they write in each week to each other. Mom's face lights up when she reads about what her daughter has been up to. Megan includes pictures (including her first day of preschool!) and cute art projects that the child works on. Mom tells me each week how much she appreciates Megan and how thankful she is that her daughter is in a loving foster home. The child loves Megan (she calls her Auntie Megan) and it's very obvious that she is very well taken care of in Megan's home. We are so grateful for such an awesome foster parent!

– Jessica V.

Liz J and Beth S.

Kudos to these families, who love and care for a special population in our system, teenagers. These kids often come with multiple layers of trauma, not to mention drama. They have an apprehensive hope for a place to call home. It takes extraordinary ability to walk beside and support them through their quest to resolve their past trauma and their hopes to build a future for themselves. Thank you to these families caring for teens!

– Betty C.

Leeann and Richard M.

This family prepared for the care of an infant. They paid for her prescriptions out of pocket so they were ready to take placement. They have documented the child behavior and have been great communicators. Thank you!

– Lidia J.

Anne D.

The foster mother Anne communicated with the biological parents and has been very open with the family. The mother expressed that she felt relieved to know who was caring for her children and that she felt very comfortable after meeting the foster mother, knowing that the children were in good hands. Anne was cooperative in attending necessary Family Team Meetings and offered her perspective about the children's needs, explaining to the mother her reasoning for concerns. The mother learned updates about her children, such as how her toddler was thriving in daycare and that she could benefit from the interaction. Anna has offered support for the family after the case moved to Family Maintenance. Thank you Anne for a great example of resource parents teaming with biological parents from the beginning!

– Susan D

Laura W.

Laura has become a mentor to an aged out youth, helping to support and guide her into adulthood. Laura is an amazing advocate for this young mother, teaching her how to navigate through life, schooling, jobs as well as providing unconditional love and support this youth will learn to bestow on her own child, by modeling those same behaviors. Thank you Laura, you are an inspiration!

– Crystal S.

Martha M.

Martha is on her 3rd placement because she keeps children for the life of their case. She works well with birth families and maintains relationships after children leave her home. This caregiver is also good at engaging in services and keeping the children's appointments. Great co-parenting and commitment, Martha!

– Elisa C.

Call for Kudos!

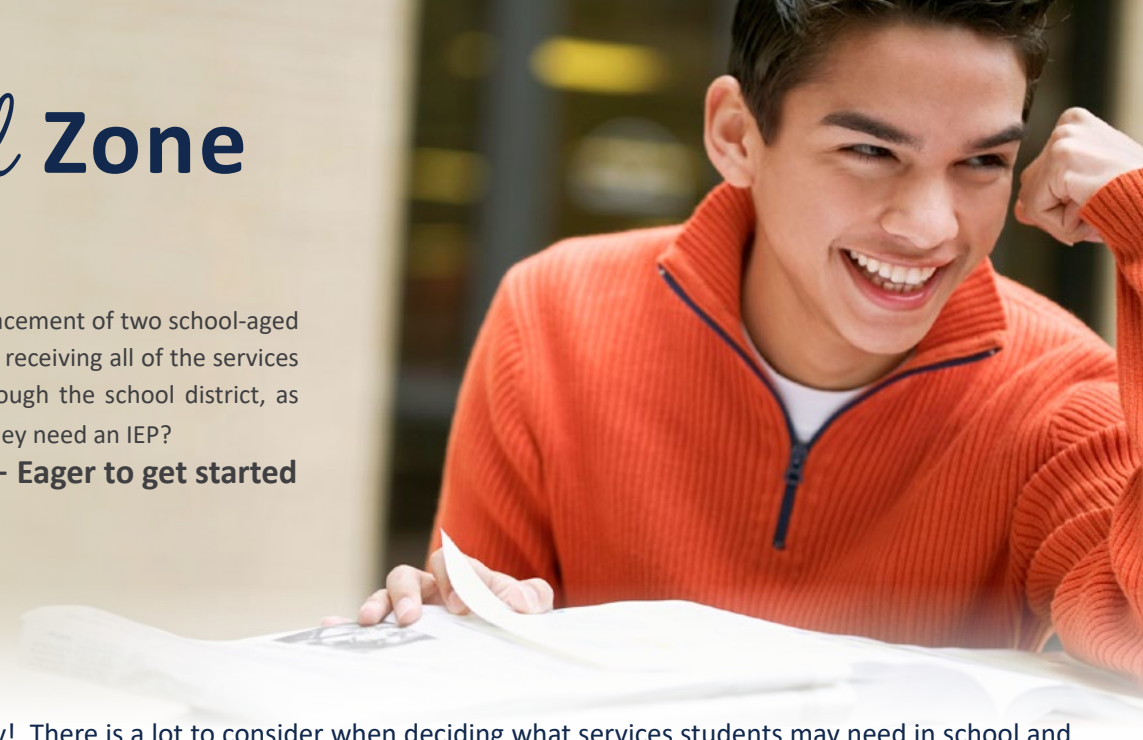
We know that excellent partnership between caregivers, bio parents, community resources and social workers happens every day. Now, the Foster VC Kids team wants to hear about it! We are asking for everyone to submit kudos about any great experience they want to share. Please drop an email to Crystal.Stratton@ventura.org to share the love!!

The School Zone

Dear FYS,

I am a new foster parent and have placement of two school-aged siblings. I want to make sure they are receiving all of the services and resources available to them through the school district, as they are both behind in school. Do they need an IEP?

— Eager to get started



Dear Eager,

Congratulations on your new family! There is a lot to consider when deciding what services students may need in school and the process to identify appropriate interventions isn't always clear.

First, you'll want to identify the Foster Youth Education Liaison in your district. You can click [HERE](#) for a list. Call or email and introduce yourself as the new foster parent to the two students. Ask him or her how the district and school handle requests for services when students are struggling. Typically, schools are able to offer services such as tutoring, school counseling, extra help, and other interventions within the general education environment. You'll also want to make contact with the school principal and counselor, identifying yourself as the care provider and conveying your concerns. You might want to ask for a "Student Study Team" meeting (or similarly-named meeting) for a school team to sit down together to discuss the concerns you and school staff may have about the child and brainstorm interventions.

If you, as the care provider, do not hold education rights for the children, you will be limited in what you are able to accomplish directly with the school. You'll want to make sure your social worker is assisting you with any information that needs to be communicated with the education rights holder (often the bio parents). Everyone should work together as a team to ensure a student's needs are met. Education is a great opportunity for co-parenting!

Finally, if interventions do not adequately address a student's needs over a period of time, a special education evaluation may be in order. For specific timelines and responsibilities regarding the special education referral process, see www.vcselpa.org.

For questions related to foster youth and education, please contact the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program at 805.437.1525.

Attention All Graduating **HIGH SCHOOL** Students!

CSA will be accepting application for our 2017 scholarships from April 1 to June 1, 2017.

There are currently two scholarships programs available through CSA; fill out and submit one application and you will be considered for both. Applicants are reviewed by a screening committee to determine who and how much each individual will receive. No less than \$250 will be given to any recipient. If you need additional information about our Scholarship programs, please contact Leeann Mesa via email or call 805-217-6187. Please complete the application and the essay and submit via email to Leeann Mesa - leeann@csavc.org. **Visit our website at <http://www.csavc.org/scholarships.html> for more details.**



Nurses Corner: **A Medical Home for Foster Youth**

- Veronica Ruiz, Public Health Nurse

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends a medical home for each child and youth in order to “to provide uninterrupted care.. to support and sustain optimal outcomes.” Children in foster care are not an exception. Children in foster care have historically not received consistent medical, dental, or behavioral health care, yet they are often at the greatest risk to be suffering from a medical, dental, or behavioral health condition. A “medical home” is a partnership between the family and their health care provider. This partnership will be the entry point to a system of care giving access to a variety of needed services. The medical home is guided by the physician, to serve patients with comprehensive, coordinated, and continuous care. This medical home will also provide a consistent relationship with a medical provider and staff who know the child well.

Children in foster care are required to receive a medical and dental exam within 30 days from the day they enter foster care. Effort should be made to have this exam be at the place where the child has received care in the past. You can ask a social worker to try and find this out for you. If this is not possible, care should be started and every effort should be made to have the child continue to be seen where care was started once the child entered foster care. The reality children in foster care is that they may have to be moved from one home to another, though every effort is made by our agency to keep this from happening. Each time a child sees a new medical, dental, or behavioral health provider, it may result in a loss of continuity of care, duplication of medical services, loss of time in delivering needed treatment, or important follow up not done.

Children and Family Services has a team of Public Health Nurses to help foster families establish or continue services with a medical home. Please call us for any health related issue you may have. (805)654-3467, please ask to speak to a Public Health Nurse.

Did YOU Know?

New CSA Reimbursement forms and Guidelines are here!

2017 Updated CSA Reimbursement forms and Guidelines are being mailed out to all caregivers. Please visit CSAVC.ORG for additional forms

Call for Action!

To all of our wonderful resource families who are co-parenting with birth families – We want to hear from you! We would love to talk to you more about your experiences and successes and share your stories. Please contact Jaci Johnson at 805-289-1948 or email her at Jaci.Johnson@Ventura.org.

What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Events

Empowered to Connect

Friday and Saturday,

April 7 & 8, 2017 9am – 5pm both days

Calvary Nexus - Mobil Ave. Campus
380 Mobil Avenue Camarillo, CA 93010

Come experience practical teaching in a safe and supportive community as we work to equip families, churches, and professionals to better serve children impacted by adoption and foster care.

Featuring Trust-Based Relational Intervention® methods developed by Dr. Karyn Purvis and Dr. David Cross from the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development, this conference helps bring attachment and connection in families. This conference is ideal for adoptive and foster parents, those considering adoption or foster care and those who are serving and supporting others, including social workers, agency professionals, church staff and ministry leaders, counselors, therapists and others.

Foster VC Kids highly encourages caregivers to attend this important training!

This free conference will be hosted by Defending the Fatherless at Calvary Nexus Church. Lunch will be provided both days to those who register. Register on Eventbrite [HERE](#) or call Foster VC kids at (805) 654-3220.

9th Annual WOSMOH Charity Golf Tournament

May 5th, 2017

Ojai Valley Inn & Spa

905 Country Club Road, Ojai, CA 93023

The goal, vision, and mission is to reach as many young lives as possible to assist in their rehabilitation, and with your help, we are one tee box closer...

Entry Fee: \$150

Deadline for Entry: May 1st, 2017

For more info, please call Kenneth Fewer
(805) 278-3702 or Sandra Felder (805) 377-3114.

HOPE4Kids FESTIVAL & RUN

April 29, 2017 8 am – 2pm

Camarillo Community Center

1605 Burnley St., Camarillo, CA 93010

The HOPE4Kids Festival & Run is a community effort sponsored by RaisingHOPE in partnership with a variety of community partners. Monies raised by this event go directly to assist foster youth in paying for any needs that are not covered by Medi-cal, the county and other organizations. To date, they have assisted hundreds of youth with orthodontia, textbook purchases for college courses and extracurricular activities such as sports equipment, camps, arts and more! The FREE festival includes a silent auction, Kidzone, performances, vendor booths and foster gallery. Proceeds benefit children in foster care and those recently transitioning out of foster care.

5K/10K/Kids Mile Fun Run

Sign up to run, walk, volunteer or donate at raisinghope.org

Participants receive:

- Chip timing by Racewire
- Medal
- T-shirt
- Goodie Bag
- Award for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place male and female in each category

For more information or to become an event sponsor, please email info@raisinghope.org



It's Summer Camp Registration Time!!

Summer is fast approaching. CSA provides camperships for both generalized and specialized camps. Please check CSA Guidelines prior to registering or enrolling kids in to camps, as the guidelines and procedures have changed. Don't forget to register your little or big ones for fun and enriching camp opportunities. Check out your city Parks and Recreation web page or go to the Conejo Valley Guide for camp ideas throughout the entire Ventura County. Click [HERE](#) for a list of camps!



The Channel Islands Boating Center is excited for another great summer with the Youth Watersports Camp. Age requirements 9-13 (kayaking), 9-15 (sailing), 12-15 (stand up paddle board/windsurfing)

Sessions offered from June 19 to August 4 Monday- Friday (No camp Fourth of July week)

Kayaking (1 week sessions), Sailing (2 week sessions), Stand Up Paddle Board/Windsurfing (2 week sessions)

At the CSUCI Watersports Camp, we offers courses for all skill levels. Whether you are a true beginner or have engaged in watersports activities for years, you can find fun, excitement and challenge on the water through our camps. With a safety first attitude, our professional and certified instructors allow students the opportunity to learn in a safe and enjoyable environment. Our camp is intended to teach the skills necessary for handling and maneuvering these vessels safely while teaching proper etiquette and seamanship that is useful in all types of boating.

A LOOK INTO THIS SUMMER: Aquarium Visits, Maritime Museum Visits, Family Day at the Docks, Windsurfing and Stand Up Paddle Boarding Program, Sailing, and Kayaking. **Campers must be 12 years or older to register for Windsurfing/SUP Program**

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE: We have been fortunate to receive scholarship funding from the Department of Boating and Waterways to offer full scholarships for the week/s of either sailing, kayaking or windsurfing/SUP. Scholarship application can be found within the registration link below.

*** Each child can only receive one scholarship for the summer.*

Click this link for registration www.ciboating.org/programs/youth/
Contact the CIBC staff with any questions. 805-437-3710 or email Jennifer.maravola@csuci.edu

Featured Camp: **ComfortZone Camp**

ComfortZone Camp is an incredible non-profit organization that offers FREE weekend bereavement camps for kids ages 7-17 throughout the year for children who have lost a parent, sibling or primary care giver. Children who have experienced the loss of a family member often become miniature adults before their time. Comfort Zone provides

a safe environment where kids can have fun, be around people who "get it" and get back to being kids again.

One camp location is only about 20 minutes south of Oxnard. You can refer any foster youth directly to ComfortZone camp via the website below, and/or have the caregiver apply. Once a child is accepted to participate, the child can return once a year, for free, until they reach the age of 18.

There are licensed therapists in attendance who work directly with the campers throughout the weekend. Website for more info: <https://www.comfortzonecamp.org/>

Operation Ventura

The YMCA is committed to being socially responsible. Through Operation Ventura, an outreach initiative, and the generous support of our donors, the Y has been able to provide free programming and membership to homeless and foster youth and families. Participation in swim programs and youth sports allows the underprivileged children in our community an opportunity to participate. These programs range from Swim, to dance, to sports, to drama and Martial arts. The Y will give certificates to Foster VC Kids for distribution to Foster Parents on a first come, first serve basis. Contact RDS at 805-654-3220. The YMCA contact is Amber Stevens at 805.642.2131 ext 17. For more information on classes please visit the new Aquatics and Youth Class Guide online or click [HERE](#) for the guide!

Royal Family Kids Camps of Ventura

RFK of Ventura is part of the nation's leading network of camps for abused, abandoned and neglected children. RFK is a residential summer camp where, for one full week, children (ages 7 to 11) in foster care from throughout Ventura & L.A. Counties can experience wholesome affection, undivided attention, and unconditional love. Campers enjoy hiking, swimming, horseback riding, zip-lining, bug- & lizard-catching, bike riding, skateboarding, canoeing, singing, dancing, participating in skits, roasting marshmallows around a campfire, hearing Bible stories, playing sports and other outdoor games. For more details, click [HERE](#) or visit www.ventura.royalfamilykids.org

Resource Center

Rachael's Closet: Rachael's Closet is available to help you on your journey as a foster, relative, kinship, or resource care provider by providing assistance with Co-Parenting, Visitation, & Playroom, Peer Mentorship, Guidance, & Support, Small Group Networking, Training, and Education, New and Gently Used Clothing, Car Seats, Strollers, Cribs & Other Things and Care Bags. To schedule an appointment, contact Lisa Carlson-Pugh at 805-285-3790 or email: Lisa@VCFPA.com. You can visit their website [HERE](#) or check out their Facebook [HERE](#).



ACTION: ACTION is a Ventura County nonprofit organization that mobilizes volunteers, churches, and businesses to volunteer and help people. By matching up volunteers with needs, our volunteers find ways to help that fits their abilities and resources while those in need benefit. Through this Serve Every Day program, a wide range of help can potentially be provided. Possibilities include basic household repairs, help with yard work, helping a family move or supplying basic household goods/appliances for those that can't afford them. For more information, please call 805-987-0300 or email action@actionvc.org.

Hair Whisperers: CFS has a contract with Hair Whisperers for in-home lice removal. Contact Foster VC Kids at HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org or 805-654-3220 to request a referral. Families must be referred by Foster VC Kids/CFS Staff.

Catalyst Church: has a closet of gently used girls and boys clothing (newborn to age 6), diapers, toothbrush, toothpaste, and new underwear. Foster parents can come and collect as needed for their new foster child. Please call Amy Freehauf to set up a time to come by. 805-766-1916. Catalyst Church is located at 241 N. Mill St., Santa Paula.

Open Hands Ministry: South Coast Fellowship offers a clothing and food pantry. The pantry is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00am-12:00pm. To set up your first appointment, contact Larry Nordyke at 805 658-7223. The pantry is located is 1595 Walter Street, Ventura

Shelter Care Resources: provide materials and resources such as gently used and new clothing, diapers, wipes, car seats and furniture to resource families. Email at ShelterCareResourcesOxnard@gmail.com for more information. Oxnard area.

Ventura County Foster Parent Association: We are people like you! We are foster parents, relative care providers, adoptive parents, resource families and most importantly—we are everyday people that make a difference in our community. Our membership is comprised of care providers who donate their time, knowledge and personal resources—all to provide a better a life for those who are in a helpless position. VCFPA provides services such as Caregiver Advocacy & Support, Mentorship & Networking, Rachael's Closet, Training & Education, and Networking.



Contact Us To Learn More!

Contact: Rick Pugh rick@vcfpa.com 805.285.3790

Web: <http://vcfpa.com>

Calendar of Events: <http://vcfpa.com/events/>

Membership Information: <http://vcfpa.com/membership/>

Foster VC Kids is here to help. We have many resources available for you and your children's needs, other than the above highlighted. If you have specific material or resource needs, contact your social worker or Foster VC Kids for support at 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** at fostervckids.org/resources

RISE
Magazine

Rise magazine is written by parents who have faced the child welfare system in their own lives. Many people don't know that the majority of children who enter foster care return home to their parents—and that most children in care wish for a lifelong relationship with their parents, whether they live with them or not. Helping parents is fundamental to helping children in foster care.

Through personal essays and reporting, parents illuminate every aspect of the child welfare experience from parents' perspectives. Sign up for a free individual subscription. For caregivers and child welfare professionals, Rise stories offer insight that can improve how you engage and support fragile families. For parents, Rise offers information, peer support, and hope.

<http://www.risemagazine.org/store/>

Faith In Motion

Faith in Motion is a unique collaboration between the County of Ventura Children and Family Services and Ventura County faith communities. With approximately **1000 children in foster care in Ventura County**, we seek to engage faith communities who care about highly vulnerable children in our community who have been removed from their parent or guardian due to abuse and neglect.

Faith in Motion's two main goals are to:

- Recruit high quality foster and adoptive families within the faith community; and
- Encourage faith-based congregations to develop support services for foster, kinship care and adoptive families

We are excited to announce that we have recently partnered with Catalyst Santa Paula, Trinity Lutheran of Simi Valley, South Coast Fellowship, nCourage Church of Ventura, ACTION VC, Westminster Presbyterian, and Lightshine Church. [View all of our current Faith In Motion Partners!](#)

We believe faith communities have the opportunity to make a big impact on our foster care system because of the size of their networks, the existing structure and the spiritual motivation. In partnership together, the county and the faith community can be very effective in finding mission driven homes and offer unconditional support for the children in Ventura County.

Trinity Lutheran's Elementary school did a donation drive that the **Good Sheppard** 3rd- 6th grade classes put on for **Child Hope Services**. They not only donated an incredible amount of items that will all go into HOPE Chests, but they brought it to Child Hope, toured the warehouse and learned all about foster care, Child Hope and how to serve our foster community. They were all so engaged, asked lots of questions and even came up with ideas for future events.



Child Hope Services is one of the many amazing organizations that recognize the need for support in all the many facets that make up this world of foster care.

As an organization, they support and cover resource families and foster youths with the practical resources needed in the critical first moments of foster care placement, along with supporting their long-term practical and relational needs.

These are the three "legs" of Child Hope's ministry: HOPE FUND: Supporting families as they are going through the process of becoming a licensed resource family and prepare new families for their journey through foster care. Providing a HOPE Chest, a week supply of gently used and new clothing, new toiletries, diapers/wipes, a hand knit blanket, stuffed animal and age specific gift box and Bible for kids coming into foster care. **HOPE COMMUNITY:** Providing events throughout the year, like Project You Belong, that provide families an opportunity to connect to other like-minded families, walking the same journey through foster care. **OFFER HOPE:** We provide volunteer opportunities for anyone who has a heart for these kids. From putting together donation drives and serving in our warehouse to joining our Group Homes Ministry or volunteering at one of our events, we love connecting people to our foster community and giving them a place to positively impact the lives of others.

Upcoming Resource Events

Prom & Graduation Dress Event!

Beginning April 1st, any teen in care can make an appointment to come to JS to find a prom/graduation dress as well as accessories for girls and guys for our Prom Pop-Up Boutique. Last year's events were such a success, and we look so forward to blessing them again! Email to make an appointment: jamesstorehouse@gmail.com

Spring Fling — April 1st

In collaboration with Kids and Families, James Storehouse is hosting an event that includes an Easter Egg Hunt, games and will distribute Easter Baskets.

Girls Beach Bash — April 22nd

Westminster Presbyterian Church Ladies Ministry is hosting a beach bash full of activities, and fun in the sun for foster girls, ages 11-17. To attend this retreat at a beach house on Faira Beach, please RSVP to Julie Beth Martin at 818-889-1491 or Julie@wpcwestlake.org.



Clothing Distribution for Foster Youth—June 10th 9:30-11:30am Calvary Community Church, 5495 Via Rocas, Westlake Village CA 91362, Room 1100. Calvary Community Church appreciates all Foster Youth and their families. We want to invite you to our Foster Youth Clothing Distribution. We have "gently used" clothing featuring various sizes and brand names that will fit girls and boys from birth to age 25 years old.

To make sure we have plenty of clothing for all, please RSVP to Patricia Kawamoto kenkawa@sbcglobal.net

**Milestones — Friday and Saturday,
April 7 & 8, 2017 9am – 5pm both days
Calvary Nexus - Mobil Ave. Campus
380 Mobil Avenue Camarillo, CA 93010**

This June, 8-9 Ventura County foster youth, ages 17 and older, will be honored at the annual Milestones event where they will share the milestones they have reached in the past year. Many of the honorees will be graduating high school, and others will have completed another semester in College, moved into their first apartment or reunited with a family member. The Milestones event is funded entirely by donations from individuals, agencies, businesses, and churches in Ventura County. Gift cards (WalMart, Target, etc.) are provided to each youth being honored at Milestones. So, donating 1 or more \$25 gift cards is a great way to help out.

Donations can also be made at the Milestones website at www.milestonesvc.org. For a list of the ways your group or you can donate and be a blessing to the youth being honored this year, click [HERE](#).

**9th Annual Embracing Hearts for Foster Youth
Rummage Sale — May 13th, 2017**

Lighthouse Church, 3353 Old Conejo Rd, Newbury Park

All proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to provide food and support for foster youth leaving the system. WOSMOH is collecting donations now! Please contact us if you would like to arrange a pick-up or drop-off or would like to make a donation: (805) 376-0472. You can also visit our website: www.wosmoh.org

What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

A Caregivers Approach to Trust-Based Interactions (Central County)

**Trainer: Pam Lehtonen, Certified Parenting Educator
Wednesday, April 5th 6-8:00pm**

Ventura County Community Foundation

4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo (Community Room)

Because of their histories, children from hard places have changes in their bodies, brains, behaviors, and belief systems. While a variety of parenting strategies may be successful in typical circumstances, children from hard places need caregiving that meets their unique needs and addresses the whole child. This workshop will serve as a “preview” of the Empowered to Connect simulcast on April 7th & 8th (we encourage you to attend. Link to it here <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/empowered-to-connect-simulcast-ventura-county-tickets-32448032940>)

Pam has implemented these strategies in her home and will offer tips and suggestions from her own experience. *Participants will receive credit for 2 hours of training upon completion of the class.* Please RSVP to Rhonda Carlson at rcarlson@vcccd.edu Sponsor: Ventura College FKCE

The Partnership Meeting (Camarillo)

Speaker: Sofya Bagdasaryan

April 5th 10am-12pm

VCCF Building, 4100 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo

This Town Hall meeting will hold a focus group regarding child maltreatment. For more information, call 805-535-4489.

Adult & pediatric CPR & First Aid *Recertification* Classes (East & West Counties)

All classes start at 4:30pm and end at 6:30pm

First Aid – Apr 7th

James' Storehouse 3541 Old Conejo Rd. #117, Newbury Park, 91320

First Aid – May 12th

Day Road Center at Ventura College, 71 Day Rd, Ventura, 93003

CPR – Apr 14th

Day Road Center at Ventura College, 71 Day Rd, Ventura, 93003

CPR – May 5th

James' Storehouse 3541 Old Conejo Rd. #117, Newbury Park, 91320

To register, please contact your local FKCE office:

Email rcarlson@vcccd.edu or debbieflowers@vcccd.edu or call 805-678-5144 or 805-289-6181. All Ventura County Foster Caregivers are welcome at no charge. Hosted by FKCE

Trauma Training Workshops

Trainer: Dianne Nicholas, LMFT

Short workshops designed to teach knowledge, skills and values about working with children who are in the child welfare system and who have experienced traumatic events – Multiple Locations, dates and times. Pre-registration is required. RSVP by e-mailing Blair.Brillante@ventura.org or for more information, call 805-654-3220.

Identify Trauma-Related Needs of Children and Families

Ventura – April 13th, 3:30-4:45pm, April 19th, 3:30-4:45pm

Oxnard – April 5th, 8:30-9:45am, April 26th, 3:30-4:45pm

Simi Valley – April 11th, 8:30-9:45am

Enhance Child Well-Being and Resilience

Ventura – May 11th, 3:30-4:45pm, May 17th, 3:30-4:45pm

Oxnard – May 10th, 8:30-9:45am, May 24th, 3:30-4:45pm

Simi Valley – May 9th, 8:30-9:45am

What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

CASA In-Service Trainings

CASA has opened all of their trainings to our community and professional partners. All trainings are free and held at the Casa Pacifica office at 975 Flynn Road, Camarillo 93012

Working With Traumatized Children

Trainer: Janet Baron
Wednesday, April 12, 6-8pm
Training Room 2

Incarcerated Families

Trainer: Marggie Valentine
Thursday, April 20, 6-8pm
Training Room 2
Learn how families cope and thrive with an incarcerated family member

CSEC 101

Trainer: CASA Staff and Advocate
Wednesday, April 26, 6-9pm

Juvenile Dependency Team

Trainer: Various Presenters
Thursday, May 11, 6-8pm
Training Room 2
Hear from a discussion panel and learn about the roles and responsibilities of a Juvenile Dependency Team.

Foster Children's Relationship with Food

Trainer: Teri Lisagor
Thursday, May 18, 6-8pm
Training Room 2

To register, please call the office at 805-389-3120 or email Janet Barron at janet@casaofventuracounty.org.
All Ventura County Foster Caregivers are welcome at no charge.
Hosted by *CASA of Ventura County*

Human Trafficking 101 (Simi Valley)

Trainer: Shar Busch
April 22nd 10am-12pm
Forever Found is hosting this upcoming training which will benefit foster parents to learn how to identify the signs of human trafficking and help survivors. You are the key to stopping the cycle. The free training will be held at Life & Annuity Masters, 159 Parrot Lane, Simi Valley, 93065. To register or for more information, email vicki@foreverfound.org.

Resource Parent **Networking and Support Groups**

*Foster Parent Networking provides foster parents the opportunity to meet and build relationships with other foster parents in their communities. Be sure to "Like" us on Facebook and visit www.fostervckids.org to view the most current information on events! * Please note that meetings are subject to change**

Simi Valley: Provided through the Ventura and Oxnard FKCE programs and meets the 2nd Friday of the Month at Cornerstone Church. Contact for rcarlson@vcccd.edu or DebbieFlowers@vcccd.edu. more information.

Ventura: Foster VC Kids hosts monthly evening networking on the last Wednesday of the month from 6-8 pm at Ventura Missionary Church. Contact Foster VC Kids at 805-654-3220 or fostervckids@ventura.org for more info and for upcoming dates.

Spanish: Foster VC Kids hosts meetings the last Wednesday of the month from 6-8 pm at Ventura Missionary Church. Contact Foster VC Kids at 805-654-3220 or fostervckids@ventura.org for more info and for upcoming dates.

Camarillo: Defending the Fatherless is a Christian faith based caregiver support network/group. All are welcome. Email defendingthefatheless.info@gmail.com or go to <http://www.defendingthefatherless.net/> for more info.

Educational: Kids and Families Together hosts a support group on a range of topics provided in a safe and supportive environment, while strengthening their therapeutic parenting skills. Groups meet periodically. Contact Karina at 805-643-1446, ext. 118 for the latest information.

Ventura County Foster Parent Association (VCFPA): The VCFPA offers support, training and resources to Ventura County foster, adoptive, and relative caregivers. They hold monthly membership meetings bi-monthly. For information on the association and meetings dates/times/locations, visit <http://www.vcfpa.com/>.

What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

Hold Me Tight Couples Workshop

(8 sessions) (Camarillo)

July 11th – August 29th 6pm-8pm

(This workshop is FREE and you'll receive training hours!)

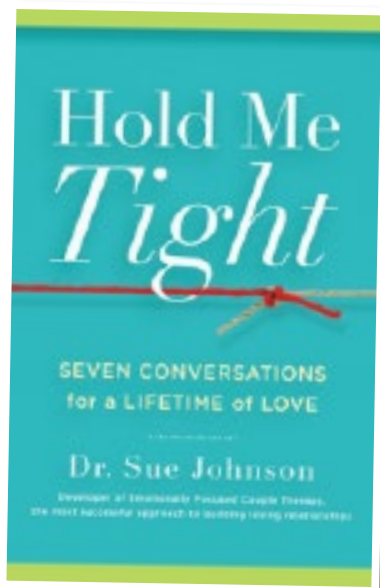
Kids and Families Camarillo Office 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., Suite P

Are you ready to strengthen your relationship with your partner and in turn, benefit your children and their future relationships?

The goals of this group are to: 1) identify and change frustrating and painful cycles couples get caught in, 2) improve communication, 3) help couples make sense of their own and their partner's emotions and relationship needs, 4) begin to heal and forgive past relationship hurts, and 5) deepen and enhance trust, emotional safety, and physical intimacy.

Research has shown that when partners are securely attached, they find it easier to be good parents. They also model healthy relationships for their children and tend to have children who are also securely attached. Securely attached children are happier, more socially competent, more resilient to stress, and more likely to form healthy relationships in the future.

To register for the next group, please contact Rachel Ashleman, LMFT at 805.643.1446, ext. 106.



For Relative Caregivers

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- Walk-ins welcome! Training hour certificates provided upon request.

For further information, email kssp@kidsandfamilies.org

Sponsors: Ventura College FKCE, Oxnard College FKCE and Kids & Families Together

Camarillo: last Thursday of the month, 6-8pm at 5251 Verdugo Rd. Suite G., Camarillo, Channel Island Social Services

Oxnard: (Spanish) 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6-8:00pm at 910 S. E St., Driffil Elementary School

Santa Paula: (Bilingual) 4th Tuesday of the month 6-8pm at 214 10th Street, First 5 Neighborhood for Learning

Simi Valley: 3rd Wednesday, 6-8pm at 3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley Senior Center

Ventura: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6-8pm at 856 E. Thompson Blvd, Kids & Families Together Center

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

Ojai: 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30-8:30pm at 105 E. Topa Topa St., Ojai Valley Wesleyan Church

Foster Care Snapshot:

The Critical Need Continues...



In the Month of December:

There were **791** children in care

271 children were in foster home placements (County & FFA)

317 children were in kinship/relative care placements

98 children were in guardian homes

9 finalized adoptions (**122** Calendar year-to-date)

65 children remained in group homes/shelter care

31.3% of siblings are separated from each other

18.3% are placed with some, but not all siblings

We welcomed **9** 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

Arrow Child & Family Ministries

www.arrow.org

Aspiranet

www.aspiranet.org

California Youth Connection

www.calyouthconn.org

Casa Pacifica

www.casapacifica.org

CASA: Court Appointed Special Advocates

www.casaofventuracounty.org

CFS Independent Living Program

www.ventura.org/ilp-youth/ilp-youth

Channel Islands Social Services

www.islandsocialservices.org

Child Development Resources

www.childdevelopmentresources.org

Child Hope Services

www.childhopeservices.org

Children's Services Auxiliary

www.csavc.org

Dark to Dawn

www.darktodawn.org

Foster VC Kids

www.fostervckids.org

iFoster

www.ifoster.org

Interface Children & Family Services

<http://icfs.org>

James Storehouse

www.jamesstorehouse.org

Kids & Families Together

www.kidsandfamilies.org

Koinonia Family Services

www.kfh.org

Macaroni Kid

www.camarillo.macaronikid.com

National Foster Parent Association

<http://nfpaonline.org>

Neighborhoods for Learning

www.first5ventura.org/parents-caregivers/neighborhoods-for-learning

Parent Click

www.ventura-ca.parentclick.com

QPI California

www.qpicalifornia.com

Rainbow Connection Family Resource Center

www.rainbowconnectionfrc.weebly.com

Raising HOPE/HOPE4Kids

www.raisinghope.org

TEACH Fund Scholarship

www.vccf.org/scholarship/tech/index.shtml

VC Foster Parent Association

www.vcfpa.com

Ventura County Office of Education Foster Youth Services

www.vcoe.org/spes/FosterYouthServices.aspx

Women of Substance, Men of Honor

www.wosmohinc.com

On-Line Training Resources

California Just in Time Training

www.qpicalifornia.org/justintime.shtml

Cenpatico U

www.cenpaticoU.com

Foster Care & Adoptive Community

www.fosterparents.com

Foster Club

www.fosterclub.com/_booster/article/foster-parent-online-training

Foster Parent College

www.fosterparentcollege.com