



# Resource Guide for Homes with Heart VC Resource Families

## [Businesses with Heart](#)

Businesses with Heart is a program designed to support our caregivers, children and youth with discounts from local businesses. Businesses participating in the program provide a wide variety of discounts on their products and/or services, and some businesses offer mentorships or employment opportunities to youth. Caregivers receive a membership ID card and a listing of participating businesses.

If you have not yet received your information and ID card, please contact Homes with Heart VC at 805-654-3220. Please check our website: [homeswithheartvc.org/bwh](http://homeswithheartvc.org/bwh) for all details on services and discounts for restaurants, dentists, mechanics, recreational activities, furniture, barbershop, and much more! The list of participating businesses is frequently updated; please visit our website for the most up to date information.

Our intent is to provide our families with a wide array of participating businesses and discounts within your community.

If you would like to refer a business, please email: [HomeswithHeartVC@ventura.org](mailto:HomeswithHeartVC@ventura.org)

***Please note that some of the resources listed are limited to Ventura County approved caregivers with Ventura County dependent children placed in their homes. Partnering organizations provide assistance for placement needs, as well as ongoing needs as appropriate. Funds are provided to families to support the children placed in their home, however the following resources can be accessed to help supplement or use in times of need. For clarification, please contact Homes with Heart VC or the Resource Partner directly for guidelines and specifications.***



# Resource Guide for Homes with Heart VC Resource Families

## Necessities & Basic Needs

### [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 assisting seniors and low-income families with basic household repairs, help with yard work or helping a family move based on availability of volunteers. For more information, please call 805-987-0300 or email [action@actionvc.org](mailto:action@actionvc.org) , Website: [www.actionvc.org](http://www.actionvc.org)

### [Catalyst](#)

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 child in care. Please call Sherrie Paul to set up a time to come by 805-901-2814 or email [805sherrie@gmail.com](mailto:805sherrie@gmail.com) Catalyst Church is located at 241 N. Mill St., Santa Paula

### [Child Hope Services](#)

Child Hope Services, Inc. is a Christian faith-based foster and adoptive support organization. They can provide a range of support to families interested in fostering and adopting! Child Hope Services supports and covers resource families and youths in care with the practical resources needed in the critical first moments of placement, along with supporting their long-term practical and relational needs. Whether it be through a HOPE Chest, which includes a week supply of clothing, diapers and toiletries, or through attending one of our ongoing community events, Child Hope wants to make sure that ALL families in the foster care community are cared for. For more information, or to request support, please email us at [Info@childhopeservices.org](mailto:Info@childhopeservices.org) or call 805-419-6182

Please visit [childhopeservices.org](http://childhopeservices.org) and complete an application to be considered for support.

### [Children's Services Auxiliary](#)

The CSA partners with CFS to provide a range of financial supports to Ventura County dependent youths and their families. Families can apply for reimbursements for extracurricular activities, summer camps, computers, clothing, medical expenses, and educational scholarships. Reimbursements can take up to 60 days to be processed. The CSA also hosts the Holiday Toy Store and events throughout the year. Please visit [csavc.org](http://csavc.org) or [HomeswithHeartVC.org](http://HomeswithHeartVC.org) to learn more about the CSA. The reimbursement form can be provided to you by calling 805-654-3220. To submit a reimbursement, please email the form and receipt to [HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org](mailto:HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org). \*\*Please note that request must be made within 90 days of payment/registration.



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## [Defending the Fatherless](#)

Defending the Fatherless is a ministry-based group that collaborates with churches throughout Ventura County. Defending the Fatherless works to support and equip resource and adoptive families through family events, networking, and support groups. They connect families with the love closet and will bring you items upon placement, and provide meals and peer mentors throughout your journey through care. The love closet carries clothing up to 5T, infant care items, cribs, strollers, and other care related items. Contact them at [defendingthefatherless.info@gmail.com](mailto:defendingthefatherless.info@gmail.com), Website: [defendingthefatherless.net](http://defendingthefatherless.net)

## [Heart-to-Heart](#)

Heart-to-Heart, in partnership with Kids & Families Together, donates gently used items to resource families, relative caregivers and children and is located in Ventura. To receive Heart-to-Heart resources, please contact Kids & Families Together at 805-643-1446.

## [iFoster Online Resource Portal](#)

Youth in care, resource families, relative caregivers, and professionals working with any of those groups can access local resources and retail discounts. Resources also include free online tutoring, free cell phones, discounted laptop computers, and discounted orthodontics. Upon registration, participants will be asked to provide the name of someone who can verify their status as a youth in care, parent, or relative caregiver. Visit [ifoster.org](http://ifoster.org) to learn more and to register or call 1-855-936-7837. If you do not have access to a computer, iFoster can register and assist you over the phone!

## [James Storehouse](#)

James Storehouse is a nonprofit that secures donations for resource families and relative caregivers, birth parents and youth in care, teen parents and group homes. Items include furniture, clothing from newborn to teen, toys, diapers, and all baby/child gear including cribs and car seats. James Storehouse also hosts events throughout the year to support children and teens in care such as baby showers for youth in care, monthly life skills classes for teen parents and girls rescued out of trafficking and an annual back to school event. Offices and warehouse are open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM or by appointment. Clients are welcome to drop by or schedule an appointment (preferred) by emailing [jamesstorehouse@gmail.com](mailto:jamesstorehouse@gmail.com). Their phone number is 805-499-7161. Se habla Español. [jamesstorehouse.org](http://jamesstorehouse.org)

They are located at 3543 Old Conejo Rd #105, Newbury Park 91320.

## [Open Hands Ministry](#)

South Coast Fellowship offers a clothing and food pantry. The pantry is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am-11:00pm. Monday and Tuesdays emergencies only 9:00am-11:00am. To set up your first appointment, contact James Kam at (805)658-7223. The pantry is located is 1595 Walter St Ventura, CA 93003. Website: [foodpantries.org](http://foodpantries.org) or [southcoastfellowship](http://southcoastfellowship)



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## [RaisingHOPE, INC](#)

RaisingHOPE provides advocacy, awareness and funds to current and former youth in care in the Ventura County area through community events, mentoring, life skills training and legal services. Funds go directly to helping children with payment for extracurricular activities, orthodontia, textbooks for college and help with transportation, such as bus passes along with anything else that might benefit the youth. For more information on RaisingHOPE, request a mentor or resource assistance please visit [www.raisinghope.org](http://www.raisinghope.org) or contact [info@raisinghope.org](mailto:info@raisinghope.org). You can also call 805-491-KIDZ (5439).

## [Shelter Care Resources](#)

Shelter Care Resources provides materials and resources such as gently used and new clothing, diapers, wipes, car seats and furniture to resource families. [www.sheltercareresources.com](http://www.sheltercareresources.com)  
Email [ShelterCareResourcesOxnard@gmail.com](mailto:ShelterCareResourcesOxnard@gmail.com) for more information. 805-612-7091 Oxnard area.

## [Women, Infants & Children \(WIC\)](#)

WIC is a health and nutritional program for pregnant women and children under the age of 5. Fostering or relative care giving families are eligible to receive WIC for children in their care. WIC provides nutritional education and supplemental foods. Contact 1-800-781-4449 ext. 3 or (805)981-5251  
Website: [WIC](#) for more information or Email: [wic.program@ventura.org](mailto:wic.program@ventura.org)

## [Women of Substance & Men of Honor \(WOSMOH\)](#)

WOSMOH, Inc. addresses the needs of guidance and support for youth by providing rehabilitation & restoration services, Alpha Leadership Development, education on healthy lifestyles and relationships, mentoring courses, scholarships, care items, food and clothing vouchers. Transitional youth in care & Probation youth are provided with Christmas Gift Bags, transitional and after care support, Transitional Housing and referrals for support. Email [helpingyouth@wosmoh.org](mailto:helpingyouth@wosmoh.org) or visit their website at [www.wosmoh.org](http://www.wosmoh.org)

## **Extracurricular Activities/Enrichment Supports**

### [Children's Services Auxiliary](#)

The CSA partners with CFS to provide a range of financial supports to Ventura County dependent youth and their families. Families can apply for reimbursements for extracurricular activities, summer camps, computers, clothing, medical expenses, and educational scholarships. Reimbursements can take up to 60 days to be processed. The CSA also hosts the Holiday Toy Store and events throughout the year. Please visit [www.csavc.org](http://www.csavc.org) or [www.HomeswithHeartVC.org](http://www.HomeswithHeartVC.org) to learn more about the CSA. The reimbursement form can be provided to you by calling 805-654-3220. To submit a reimbursement, please email the form and receipt to [HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org](mailto:HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org). \*\*Please note that request must be made within 90 days of payment/registration.



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## [Conejo Valley Guide](#)

A detailed online calendar of family friendly events, activities, things to do in the Conejo Valley, Thousand Oaks, Newbury Park, Greater Ventura County and surrounding areas. [www.conejovalleyguide.com/events-calendar/](http://www.conejovalleyguide.com/events-calendar/)

## [Oxnard Police Activities League](#)

350 South K Street Oxnard, CA 93030

The Oxnard Police Activities League (PAL) is a citywide, FREE after-school crime prevention program designed to build positive relationships between youth, police officers and the community. Recreational, educational, seasonal sports programs, enrichment and mentoring programs are offered to youth ages 7 to 18, at no cost to participants. Hours of operation are Monday – Friday 3pm - 7pm. Membership to PAL is FREE, but you need to submit an application. For application and Program schedule, visit [www.oxnardpal.org](http://www.oxnardpal.org) or call 805-385-8230.

## [YMCA](#)

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 to homeless and youth in care 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 and Martial arts. The Y will give certificates to Homes with Heart VC for distribution to Resource Families on a first come, first serve basis. Contact at 805-654-3220. The YMCA contact is Amber Stevens at 805.642.2131 ext. 2117.

## **Mentoring**

### [Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ventura County](#)

The Big Brothers Big Sisters program matches volunteers who are over 21 with children in care and probation. The program serves boys ages 8 – 15 and girls, ages 6 – 15. Older than 15 accepted if they are in placement. Matched children can remain in the program until they are 21. A staff member provides support on a monthly basis to the Big, the Little, and the child's guardian. For an application or more information, visit [www.bbsvc.org](http://www.bbsvc.org) or call 805-484-2282. Address: 555 Airport Way Ste.D, Camarillo, CA 93010. Se Habla Español.

### [CASA of Ventura County](#)

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Ventura County believes that every court-dependent abused or neglected child should be safe, have permanence and the opportunity to thrive, and have a strong, compassionate volunteer advocate. CASA recruits, screens, trains, supervises and support volunteers who advocate for children in care appointed by the Juvenile Dependency Court to the CASA program.



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The CASA Advocate is the person who can be counted on to respond to those most basic needs for reassurance, guidance, comfort, representation and advocacy in times of extreme uncertainty, and is the one constant, positive presence in the child’s life until a permanent placement can be secured. Referrals must be made by a social worker. [www.casaofventuracounty.org](http://www.casaofventuracounty.org)

## [RaisingHOPE Mentorship Program](#)

RaisingHOPE’s mentoring program connects trainer, background checked mentors with youth to give a reliable, stable caring adult connection for a lifetime. RaisingHOPE serves all youth in care, but primary focus is on the older youth (pre-teens, teens and non-minor dependents), and also take referrals for youth up to age 25 that are still need of support.

All mentors are screened, trained and evaluated. This program is voluntary for all youth, and youth are screened to ensure the maximum effectiveness of the relationship. Once approved, mentors meet with mentees 2 times per month minimum to build relationships and visit within the community. For more information on the mentorship program, email [mentors@raisingHOPE.org](mailto:mentors@raisingHOPE.org).

## Faith in Motion

Faith in Motion is a unique collaboration between the County of Ventura Children and Family Services and Ventura County faith communities. Faith communities throughout the county are stepping in to provide a range of support to our caregiving families. Families can be connected to a fostering ministry or social program at a congregation within their community. Faith in Motion partners can provide emotional and practical support to caregivers, basic need goods, respite care support, and special holiday events. To be connected with a Faith in Motion congregation in your area, please contact (805)654-3220 or Visit [homeswithheartvc.org/faith-in-motion/](http://homeswithheartvc.org/faith-in-motion/) for more information, to get your congregation involved, or to be connected with a Faith in Motion partner!

## Respite Care

### [Channel Islands Social Services](#)

Approved Resource Families (RFA) are eligible for up to **12** hours of FREE respite care each month. Families caring for **Ventura County dependent children** ages 16 or under, or a child with special needs, are automatically eligible and can contact [Channel Islands Social Services](#) directly at **805-384-0983** to register. If your family is caring for children over 16 or requires more than 12 hours, social workers can request an exception to the basic eligibility. These cases will be reviewed for need, natural support system, and plan for when the short-term exception ends. FFA certified homes are eligible for respite and should contact their agency for more information.



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## Child Care/Child Development

### Child Development Centers

Child Development Inc. operates early care and education that serve children birth through twelve years of age. They offer a variety of infant, preschool and school age programs. They work with school districts to provide before and after school programs, including homework assistance and kindergarten readiness programs to families. CDC also provides preschool programs in Oxnard, Fillmore, Ventura, Thousand Oaks, & Port Hueneme. Children in care are often eligible for priority assignment into a program and subsidized care. Call 805-483-6756 or visit [www.cdcdc.org/programs](http://www.cdcdc.org/programs) Resource parent contact the center of their choice directly, no referral needed.

### Child Development Resources

[Child Development Resources](#) administers a range of childcare programs and provides referrals to community childcare providers. Children in care may receive priority assignment from the wait list and subsidies with verification from their social worker that the child is a court dependent minor. In order to apply, resource parents should complete the following steps:

1. Complete the Centralized Eligibility List Application, which can be downloaded [HERE](#)
2. Homes with Heart VC will provide a letter of verification of the child's dependent status. Please email [HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org](mailto:HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org) to request this verification.
3. Submit application and letter directly to CDR.

### Children's Home Society (CHS)

Children's Home Society provides a variety of services to children and families in California and nationwide — working to improve their quality of life by offering vital informational, educational, and resource services, which include Early Learning and Education Programs, and Family Resource Services. Children in care are often eligible for priority assignment into a program and subsidized care. To access services for childcare, resource families will need to complete and submit an application. They can do this online at [www.CHS-CA.org](http://www.CHS-CA.org), go in to the office at 3585 Maple ST Ste.272, Ventura, CA 93003 or call 805-437-1910 and request an application be mailed. Services provided are based off the child's income, and resource families will need to have a referral letter from their Case Worker to add to the application.

### Easter Seals

The Easter Seals Child Development Center serves children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old. Children in care typically qualify for very low or no cost services. Preschool scheduling is dependent on the family's work or school schedule and will be determined at the time of application. Easter Seals also offers a part time program for children preparing for kindergarten! Contact Easter Seals at 805-647-1141 Ext.3157 or 4622 for more information or to apply and be added to the wait list.



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## [First 5 Neighborhoods for Learning \(NfL\)](#)

First 5 Ventura County has multiple NfL sites that offer parenting support, early literacy activities, and case management for families with children that are 0-5. For more information, go online: [first5ventura.org](http://first5ventura.org) For Specific questions, you can email [assistant@first5ventura.org](mailto:assistant@first5ventura.org) or call 2-1-1.

## Youth Education

[California College Pathways](#): Educational planning website with resources and program information to help youth succeed in college for youth in care. [www.cacollegepathways.org](http://www.cacollegepathways.org)  
Access the Planning Guide at this link: [Foster Youth Educational Planning Guide](#)

[Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program](#): FYSCP works in collaboration with liaisons in each district in the county to ensure that the educational, physical, social and emotional needs of youth in care are identified, to determine gaps in educational and social support services and provide those services, directly or through referrals to collaborative partners. The program also seeks to facilitate the completion and timely transfer of school records, improve students' academic achievement, reduce truancy, dropout rates and delinquent behavior, and provide advocacy to promote the best interest of youths in care throughout the county. Contact the Foster Youth Services Program at 805- 437-1525 [fys@vcoe.org](mailto:fys@vcoe.org) Visit website: [AQUI](#)

[Kids Alliance](#): For information about a child in care's educational rights, please visit: [Kids-Alliance.org](http://Kids-Alliance.org)

## [United Parents Educational Advocacy Program](#)

United Parents Program provides Educational Advocates that assist parents in navigating the complex Special Education and mental health systems by facilitating the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process; 504 Accommodations; and positive behavior supports. To Begin, call our office for a short, fifteen-minute consultation and/or intake at 805-384-1555 or for more information, visit [Unitedparents.org](http://Unitedparents.org)

*Note: If you have concerns about your child's academic performance, behavior in the school setting, or overall development, please contact the child's social worker immediately. Please note that children that are 0-5 are eligible for educational and developmental support programs depending on their needs.*





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## Tutoring

### [Ewcata! Tutoring](#)

Free tutoring for youth in care in all subject areas, kindergarten through college. Embracing the Whole Child Foundation sponsors educational assistance. One-on-one online tutoring only. To schedule a tutoring session contact Lynette Lucas at 714-989-6159 or email [ewcata.wixsite.com](mailto:ewcata.wixsite.com)

### [Project Understanding Tutoring Centers](#)

Tutoring Centers provide extra instruction for students grades K-5 with volunteer tutors in one-to-one interaction. Project Understanding currently has 11 tutoring centers throughout Ventura County, in El Rio, Oxnard, Saticoy and Ventura. Free for all students. Contact 654-3220 for referral sheets and instructions.

For more information, visit [www.projectunderstanding.org/tutoring](http://www.projectunderstanding.org/tutoring) or contact Carol Pillado, Program Manager – 805-652-1326, ext. 303, cell: 805-825-7978 [cpillado@projectunderstanding.org](mailto:cpillado@projectunderstanding.org)

## Independent Living Program and AB12

### [Transitional Age Youth Services](#)

Caregivers of children ages 16-21 can visit [www.HomeswithHeartVC.org/tay](http://www.HomeswithHeartVC.org/tay) to access information about Ventura County's Youth Services Division, Independent Living Program, and AB12 services.

### [Independent Living Coordinator](#)

An Independent Living Coordinator provides assistance to current and former youth in care or probation who are between 16-21 years of age. The ILP Coordinator is available to help current and former youth in care. Call or email **Vincent Sosapavon**, Independent Living Program- In-Care Youth Community Service Coordinator at 805-385-9136 or [Vincent.Sospavon@Ventura.org](mailto:Vincent.Sospavon@Ventura.org)

## Scholarships

### [Joan Gendreau and Fostering the Future Scholarships](#)

Children's Services Auxiliary recognizes the need and awards scholarships to Court Dependent graduating high school students or GED equivalent who are applying to at least one of the following: Vocational/Trade School, Community College, 4-year College and/or applying to the Military after high school or GED completion. One on-line application applies for both scholarships. For more information visit: [www.fosteringthefuture.net/](http://www.fosteringthefuture.net/) or <http://www.csavc.org/> Submit application on: [Scholarship Application](#) or contact Donna Acosta at [fosteringthefuture.net@gmail.com](mailto:fosteringthefuture.net@gmail.com) via email or 805-469-8783.



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## [California Chafee Grant for Foster Youth](#)

May qualify for up to \$5,000 a year to help pay for college, childcare, transportation and rent while you are in school. You can use your Chafee Grant at any eligible California college or university or career or technical school, as well as schools in other states. Must be a current or former youth in care and not have reached your 22nd birthday as of July of the award year. The court must have established your dependency when you were between the ages of 16 and 18. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will verify your eligibility status. Must submit FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application and Chafee Grant Application (for first time applicants). Visit: [chafee.csac.ca.gov](http://chafee.csac.ca.gov)

## [TEACH Fund Scholarship](#)

This scholarship is for graduating high school seniors and graduates under the age of 25 who are or have been in care or a group home in Ventura County, California. To qualify for this scholarship, applicants must be current or emancipated youth in care who will attend or who are currently attending a community college, trade/technical school, or four-year college/university. Financial need is not a requirement, but will be considered. For more information or to apply visit: [vccf.org](http://vccf.org)

## [Foster Care to Success](#)

FC2S collaborates with organizations, foundations, and individuals to deliver scholarships to youth in care across the country. The website lists multiple scholarships available to current and former youth in care. [fc2sucess.org](http://fc2sucess.org)

## **Medical, Mental & Behavioral Health**

**Foster Health Link:** This "electronic health backpack" is a website and mobile app that provides caregivers with health information about the children in their care. Also available through Foster Health Link is the Network of Care; this is a searchable-online database that provides information about medical conditions, medication, mental health, and local services providers. Caregivers will be able to access the current Health Education Passport (HEP) for children in their care in an electronic format by logging onto Foster Health Link from their computers or smart devices. Training on how to use Foster Health Link is available on our website, <http://homeswithheartvc.org/fhl/>. Caregivers will need an email address to be able to access the portal. Please also remember to send an email to [HSA-FHL-Support@ventura.org](mailto:HSA-FHL-Support@ventura.org) so we can add your email to the database!



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**CFS Eligibility Unit:** For questions about your child’s Medi-cal/Gold Coast Health Care Plan benefits, you can contact the officer of the day in the Eligibility unit at 805-654-3444.

**Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care:** Public health nurses provide education and coordination to medical, dental, developmental, and mental health care needs to Ventura County children in out-of-home placement. They work closely with resource parents, social workers, probation officers and others to prevent illness and provide well childcare. You can reach a nurse at 805-654-3444.

**Mental Health Services:** If you have concerns about your child’s emotional health or behavior, and believe that he/she may benefit from a mental health evaluation, please speak to your child’s social worker immediately. Your child will be evaluated and can be referred for evaluation and treatment through the Ventura County child Behavioral Health Subsystem Program and contracted providers. People who need Health Services or who are going through a mental health crisis can call (866)998-2243 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**National Institute of Mental Health:** Online information about child & adolescent mental health can be found at [nimh.nih.gov](http://nimh.nih.gov)

**Tri-Counties Regional Services:** Tri-Counties Regional Center provides a variety of supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities living in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties so that they may live fully and safely as active and independent members of our community. To see a list of services provided click [HERE](#) or call the Oxnard office at (805)485-3177.

## **Braces and Dental Care**

### **iFoster Online Resource Portal**

Youth in care, resource families, relative caregivers, and professionals working with any of those groups can access local resources and retail discounts. Resources also include free online tutoring, free cell phones, discounted laptop computers, and discounted orthodontics.

Upon registration, participants will be asked to provide the name of someone who can verify their status as a youth in care, parent, or relative caregiver. Visit [ifoster.org](http://ifoster.org) to learn more and to register or call 1-855-936-7837. If you do not have access to a computer, iFoster can register and assist you over the phone!



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## In-home Support Programs

**Hair Whisperers:** CFS has a contract with Hair Whisperers for in-home lice removal. Contact Homes with Heart VC at [HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org](mailto:HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org) or 805-654-3220 to request a referral.

***Homes with Heart VC/CFS Staff must refer families.***

**KSSP Support Groups & Kinship PPE Programs:** Support for Resource Families/Relative Caregivers. Contact [jfutvoye@kidsandfamilies.org](mailto:jfutvoye@kidsandfamilies.org) for more information.

**Peer Partner & Educator (PPE) Program:** Channel Islands Social Services provides PPEs (mentors) to new Resource Families. All resource parents are matched to a mentor when they become a resource family. Contact [edith@islandsocialservices.org](mailto:edith@islandsocialservices.org), phone: (805)384-0983 or visit [islandsocialservices.org](http://islandsocialservices.org) for more information.

**Support & Education Training (SET):** In home services for resource parents or relative caregivers who have children with trauma histories in their homes, are struggling with behavioral challenges, or need support and training in connecting with the child. For more info visit: [kidsandfamilies.org](http://kidsandfamilies.org) or contact: **Contact:** 805-643-1446 Ext. 180, or email: [referrals@kidsandfamilies.org](mailto:referrals@kidsandfamilies.org) ***Families can now self-refer by contacting Kids and Families Together directly.***

## LGBTQ+

(Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer/+)

***Homes with Heart VC collaborates with the Diversity Collective Ventura County and The Coalition for Family Harmony to serve the LGBTQ+ community of Ventura County.***

**The Coalition for Family Harmony:** Offers a new [LGBTQ+ Program](#) providing a variety of free services for LGBTQ+ youth who experience bullying, abuse, and violence that may affect them. The mission of the program is to improve access to the Coalition's trauma informed services. Youth ages 12 years and older are provided mental health counseling and a unique clinician-community member led youth group that meets Wednesdays from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Community education and networking events for youth are held through the year, and Teen Dating Violence workshops are available upon request. Referrals to our LGBTQ+ centered community partners can be provided, based on the needs of youth and their caregivers.

The Coalition for Family Harmony is now offering 10 FREE Counseling Sessions for individuals in the LGBTQ+ community, specializing in: sexual assault.



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For more information, call the Coalition for Family Harmony at (805) 983-6014, ext. 106, the crisis hotline for after-hours care, or visit the website at [www.thecoalition.org](http://www.thecoalition.org). 24-hour Bilingual Crisis Hotline: 1-800-300-2181; TTY 805-656-4439 1030 N. Ventura Road, Oxnard

**Diversity Collective Ventura County Community Resource Center:** Offers resources through the HOPE Counseling Center, Rainbow Umbrella, and Free Rapid HIV Testing (anonymous testing on 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month). Other programs: **Thrive program** for meditation, counseling and discussion. **Jest Improv** gathering to come together, crack some jokes and have fun. Pride Prom Ventura county, Aids Walk Ventura County and Ventura county **Pride Parade**. For more information, call 805-644-5428. 2471 Portola Road, Suite 100, Ventura 93003 or to visit their website click [HERE](#)

**LGBTQ+ Program:** Provides crisis support via its walk-in crisis center and 24/7 hotline at (800) 300-2181. LGBTQ+ centered advocacy is provided through the Coalition's Rape Crisis Center, and emergency housing is available for families experiencing domestic violence. General counseling is provided for family members, partners, and caregivers of LGBTQ+ youth, as well.

**Pride Clinic at Santa Paula West:** Drop-in support groups available for

- Transgender and gender non-conforming 18yrs and older: Mondays from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Spanish support group for parents of LGBTQ youth available Mondays from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. by-monthly;
- Support group for parents of transgender boys: Tuesdays 4:30p.m.-5:30p.m.
- Support group for adolescent transgender boys: Tuesdays 4:30p.m.-5:30p.m.

## Training

***Caregivers are required to complete a minimum of 8 hours of continuing education each year, including specific mandatory trainings. Homes with Heart VC encourages a blend of online, in-person, and networking groups to receive these hours. Please retain copies of certificates of completion. To view topics and tracking form, visit [HomeswithHeartVC.org](http://HomeswithHeartVC.org) or call 654-3220.***

**Casa Pacifica Training Institute** - Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families offers training and professional development for resource parents. Topics meet the requirements for initial and ongoing training as required by the county and various agencies. Courses include CPR/AED, first aid, water safety, crisis prevention, problem solving, and a variety of child and youth care topics. Half-day workshops are also available for specialized trainings. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. For more information call (805) 366-4064 or visit [Casa Pacifica Trainings](http://Casa Pacifica Trainings)



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## [Foster & Kinship Care Education \(FKCE\)](#)

A program of Ventura County Community Colleges provides free ongoing education and training to potential and existing resource & kinship care providers to assist them in meeting the needs of the youth in their care. Participants are provided with certificates of attendance to meet the licensing requirements of their licensing agency. For more information:

**Ventura & Oxnard Colleges-** Rhonda Carlson: 805.289.6327 [rcarlson@vcccd.edu](mailto:rcarlson@vcccd.edu)

[Kids and Families Together Training and Support Groups and Workshops:](#) K&FT hosts drop in groups for caregivers to explore a range of topics relevant to foster and adoptive care. Topics include dealing with difficult behaviors, trauma, brain and dysregulation, attachment, therapeutic parenting, playfulness, and co-parenting. Groups are free to caregivers. Call Kids and Families Together at 643-1446 for upcoming dates.

## **Online Training**

- California's Just in Time Training [www.QPIcalifornia.org](http://www.QPIcalifornia.org)
- Foster Training [www.foster-training.com](http://www.foster-training.com)
- Cenpatico U [www.cenpaticoU.com](http://www.cenpaticoU.com)
- Foster Care & Adoptive Community [www.fosterparents.com](http://www.fosterparents.com)
- Foster Parent College [www.fosterparentcollege.com](http://www.fosterparentcollege.com)
- Foster Club [www.fosterclub.com/](http://www.fosterclub.com/) [booster/article/foster-parent-online-training](#)

## **Educational Sites**

- National Childhood Traumatic Stress Network [www.nctsn.org/resources/audiences/parents-caregivers](http://www.nctsn.org/resources/audiences/parents-caregivers)
- Zero to Three [www.zerotothree.org](http://www.zerotothree.org)
- The Institute for Safe Families [www.instituteforsafefamilies.org/materials/amazing-brain](http://www.instituteforsafefamilies.org/materials/amazing-brain)
- Center for Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning [www.csefel.vanderbilt.edu/resources/family.html](http://www.csefel.vanderbilt.edu/resources/family.html)
- Healthy Children [www.healthychildren.org](http://www.healthychildren.org)
- American Academy of Pediatrics Adoption & Foster Care [www.healthychildren.org/english/family-life/family-dynamics/adoption-and-foster-care](http://www.healthychildren.org/english/family-life/family-dynamics/adoption-and-foster-care)

## **Networking & Support Groups**

***Resource Family Networking provides resource families the opportunity to meet and build relationships with other resource parents in their communities. Peer support is critical to your success as a resource family. Networking and Support groups can help you by: Providing monthly training and education opportunities, Expanding your network of resource families for peer support, Sharing of experiences from veteran caregivers, Offering ongoing emotional and moral support, Helping to establish partnerships with other caregivers to share babysitting and facilitate play dates, as well as secure additional options for respite care.***



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**Be sure to “Like” us on Facebook and visit [HomeswithHeartVC.org](http://HomeswithHeartVC.org) to view the most current information on events! \* Please note that meetings are subject to change\***

## **Trauma-Informed Parenting Support Group –Earn Training Hours!**

**Educational:** Resource, Adoptive and Kinship Caregivers in Ventura County have the opportunity to explore a variety of topics in a safe, supportive environment of their peers. 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. Topics include trauma, Brain and Dysregulation, attachment, therapeutic parenting, dealing with difficult behaviors, working with birth families, playfulness and more. Receive training hours that can be applied toward Resource Parent training requirements. Childcare provided by CISS and must be arranged at least 48 hours in advance. Please call to RSVP if you plan to attend a group. Attendance is not required each week.

*Call Rachel Pletcher at 805-643-1446 to register for group.*

**Peer HUB Groups for non-kinship resource families:** Facilitated by FKCE & Channel Islands Social Services to provide you additional training as well as offer opportunities for meeting other caregivers. They offer an East County group, a West County Group and a Spanish language group. Contact Homes with Heart VC at 805-654-3220 or [HomeswithHeartVC@ventura.org](mailto:HomeswithHeartVC@ventura.org) for more info and for upcoming dates.

**PPE HUBs East County:** Location TBD. Contact PPE to RSVP: Gina Sebring (805)861-3775

**PPE HUBs West County:** Location TBD. Contact PPE to RSVP: Sonia Correa (805)907-1028 or Natalie Torres (805)905-1982

**Camarillo:** Defending the Fatherless is a Christian faith based caregiver support network/group. All are welcome. Email [defendingthefatherless.info@gmail.com](mailto:defendingthefatherless.info@gmail.com) or go to [www.defendingthefatherless.net](http://www.defendingthefatherless.net) for more info.

## **Sibling Support Group**

Siblings of Resource, Adoptive and Kinship Youth in Ventura County have the opportunity to explore and share in a safe and supportive environment with peers. This is a closed group where parents participate every third week. There will be guest speakers on topics such as family changes, coping skills and managing stress and worries.

*Call 805-643-1446 x133 to register for a group.*



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## Kinship Parenting For Relative Care Givers

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](mailto:kssp@kidsandfamilies.org)

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

### **Ventura Resource Group**

*1st and 3rd Tuesdays 6:00-8:00pm*

*Kids & Families Together 864 E. Santa Clara St, Ventura*

### **Santa Paula Resource Group (Bilingual Spanish & English)**

*2nd Tuesday of the month 6:00-8:00pm*

*C.A.U.S.E. 115 Dean Drive Ste. C, Santa Paula*

### **Thousand Oaks Resource Group**

*2nd Tuesday of the month 6:30-8:30pm*

*Senior Concerns 401 Hodencamp Rd., Thousand Oaks*

### **Oxnard Resource Group (Bilingual Spanish & English)**

*1<sup>st</sup> (Bilingual) & 3<sup>rd</sup> (Spanish) Wednesday of the month 6:00-8:00pm*

*2201 Jasmine Ave., Sierra Linda Elementary School*

## Resources Specific to Kinship Caregivers

### **LEGAL - [Family Resource Center at the Juvenile Courthouse](#)**

A program of Ventura County's Self Help Legal Access Center. Free walk-in assistance for all areas of Family law, including guardianship assistance, restraining orders, divorce, custody, and support. (805)289-8724 [www.ventura.courts.ca.gov](http://www.ventura.courts.ca.gov)

**[Kids and Families Together](#) provide supports for Kinship caregivers. Please contact KFT for more information and approval. Administration and Kinship Support Center: 805.643.1446**

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

**Counseling Center: 864 Santa Clara Street, Ventura, Ca 93001**





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## **Kids & Families Together Kinship Family Food Pantry**

In Collaboration with Project Understanding, **KINSHIP FAMILIES** may pick up food from Project Understanding on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month. Please contact Noemi Hernandez at KFT for more information. (805) 643-1446 Ext. 125

## **SUPPORT & EDUCATION - Kinship Support Services Program** [www.kidsandfamilies.org](http://www.kidsandfamilies.org)

Provides case management, monthly support groups, resource referrals, and financial assistance (when funds available) to kinship families. Includes in-house referrals for our counseling services

## **Licensing & RFA Information**

**Community Care Licensing:** Visit the CCL website to read Title 22 regulations for resource homes, as well as download forms such as the Unusual Incident Form [www.cclid.ca.gov](http://www.cclid.ca.gov)

**Prudent Parent Standard:** The Prudent Parent Standard grants you the ability to make various parenting decisions that allow for experiences that are more normative for children in care. Visit [www.cclid.ca.gov/PG493.htm](http://www.cclid.ca.gov/PG493.htm) and view 2005-01, 2005-02, 2005-03, and 2006-02.

**Resource Family Approval:** Visit the CDSS website to learn more about the RFA approval process and to review the Written Directives. [www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG3416.htm](http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG3416.htm)

## **Important Phone Numbers**

**Visit:** <http://homeswithheartvc.org/contact-us/> to access staff directions.

Resource Family Approval Manager, Teresa Stanley: 654-3251

Resource Family Recruitment: 654-3220

Resource Family Approval (RFA): 654-3405

Placement: 289-1900

Eligibility Officer of the Day: 654-3444

Adoptions: 240-2700

Youth Services Division: 240-2700

Rx for Kids Public Health Program: 240-2700

Foster Care Nurse: 654-3444

Child Abuse Hotline: 654-3200

General Information Emergency Response & Court Units: 654-3444

General Information Ongoing Units: 240-2700

General Information East County: 955-2290

General Information Family Collaboration and Support: 654-3405

CSA Reimbursements: 654-3220

Field Based Case Aids: 654-3444

ILP Coordinators: 240-2700



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