

Holiday 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 more important than ever for the children in foster care. The holidays often 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 find comfort. Some things you can do to help your child are:

- Remember that children in foster care may poignantly feel out of place and unwelcome within your home during the holidays. The internal message of being unwanted is pronounced at this time of year. Find new ways to incorporate them into your family traditions and help them to voice to these very normal and painful feelings.
- 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. Parents long to hear their child's voice and will appreciate your care for them.

And finally, remember this is also a time when many children deeply miss their birth families and worry about them. Reassure them if you can about the safety and care of their birth family, and invite them to talk about their parents and their feelings. This is an important time to remind children in care that there is enough room in their hearts to love and care for everyone in their lives. Thank you, as always, for being a Home with Heart!

Warmly, Elizabeth
Foster VC Kids Program Manager

For more information on the complexities of the holidays for our youth, please visit:
<http://nc.casaforchildren.org/files/public/community/volunteers/HelpYouthInFC-Holidays.pdf>

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

QPI Corner

What is RFA Again?

We have received inquiries from foster parents about the Resource Family Approval process and the impact upon existing (non RFA) foster and relative caregivers.

On March 1st, 2016, Ventura County implemented the Resource Family Approval (RFA) Program. RFA is a new family-friendly and child-centered caregiver approval process that combines elements of the current foster parent licensing, relative approval, and approvals for adoption and guardianship processes and replaces those processes. RFA:

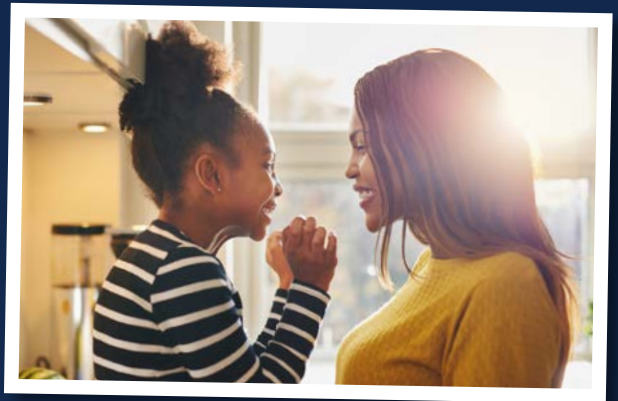
- Is streamlined and eliminates the duplication of existing processes between foster care, relative approval and adoptions services.
- Unifies approval standards for all caregivers, regardless of the child's case plan.
- Includes a comprehensive psychosocial assessment, home environment check, and training for all families, including relatives to ensure quality care.
- Prepares families to better meet the needs of vulnerable children in the foster care system.
- Allows seamless transition to permanency for children who need adoption and forever families.

What does this mean for existing Foster and Relative Caregivers?

At this time, the State of California has given counties until December 31, 2019 to convert all existing caregivers into Resource Families. The state is still identifying the steps for this process. As soon as we have additional information for our existing caregivers, we will update you. No changes are required to our foster and relative homes at this time. Please call us if you have questions! 805-654-3220.

Call for Action for Co-Parents!

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



ACTIVITIES FOR WINTER BREAK

~Betty C., CSC

1. Take a walk and collect leaves and pine cones.
2. Go fly a kite.
3. Make some glow in the dark, slime or goop. Recipes and instructions can be found on YouTube.
4. Make some treats for the birds. Take a pine cone and roll it in peanut butter. Then roll it in bird seed and hang it up for the birds. You can also string popcorn and roll in peanut butter and bird seed.
5. Make cookies with someone you love.
6. Play board games.
7. Make some origami stars or animals. You can find instructions on YouTube.
8. Make some holiday gifts. You can get some ideas on Pinterest and/or YouTube.
9. Go out to see holiday decorations.
10. Go to the movies. There are some great deals, like 1\$ Tuesdays at the Regency Theaters.
11. Read a book together. Write a book together.
12. Collect some food items to bring to the local Food Bank.
13. Scavenger hunt.
14. Take a family photo. Make it silly.
15. Field trip to a museum, aquarium, or zoo.
16. Lip sync and make a music video with your friends.
17. Make a collage of your hopes and dreams.
18. Write a note to someone and fill it with compliments.
19. Visit a farmers market and try something new.
20. Make a list of what is going well in your life give thanks.

Nurses Corner – Holiday Safety Guide

With the holidays just around the corner, here are some reminders to keep your family safe this season.

Tree Safety- Make sure your tree is well supported so will not tip over. Decorate your tree so that breakable ornaments, and those with hooks are out of the reach of children. Be sure to turn off the lights on your tree if you will not be home and blow out candles before you leave the room. If you have a live tree, check daily to see it has water as it can very quickly dry out and become a fire hazard, especially with the Christmas lights on. Caution should be taken with young children around the Christmas tree. The needles on the tree are potential choking hazards, and can cause painful cuts and scratches to the inside of a child's mouth and throat if they are accidentally swallowed. Check that artificial trees are labeled as fire resistant and all electrical wiring to make sure there are no breaks, frays, or loose connections. Be sure not to overload electrical outlets. Check your smoke detectors to be sure they are working, and have an emergency plan, so all family members know what to do in case of a fire.

Toy Safety- The greatest risk for kids with toys is choking. Keep in mind that any object that can fit inside the mouth of a baby or toddler can pose a choking risk, so is too small for them to play with. Take care to immediately clean up wrapping paper, ribbons, and packaging materials. Also be sure to keep batteries, especially the small button batteries, out of reach of small children. Not only do these present a choking risk, but if swallowed can release harmful chemicals into your child's system. Fabric toys should be flame resistant or flame retardant. Avoid older hand-me-down toys, which may not adhere to current safety standards. Make sure to give age-appropriate toys for safety. Lead-free paint should be used on painted toys.

Preventing Accidental Poisoning - poinsettias, mistletoe berries, holly berries, and Jerusalem cherry plants, often used during the holidays are potentially poisonous so should be kept out of reach. Alcohol poisoning is also a risk for children. Quickly discard empty and partly empty drink cups. Even small amounts of alcohol can be dangerous for a small child. Keep the Poison Control number in or by your phone - (800) 222-1222 in case of accidental ingestion of toxic substances.

We wish your family a safe and joyous holiday, and thank you for all you do!





Kudos Corner

Leah B. My fiancé and I adopted 5 children back in 2014 and it has been the greatest experience ever since. Another great experience was interacting with CFS worker Ms. Leah B. yesterday. We are in the process of hopefully purchasing a home and I was in need for additional documentation from the county with regards to AAP funds on short notice for the bank. Leah was the most professional, kind, and helpful individual I have ever dealt with when dealing with county services. She was very patient and listened while I tried to explain just what I was looking for. She said she would help and asked for additional info and would call me back...well at that point I figured I was sunk...call back? Okay. Well, she called back and happily explained what she had found and the process we would need to follow to get what I was after. I was elated to no end...she even suggested she could possibly have the forms electronically sent to me so I could forward them if need soonest. I said YES! Perfect. The forms were just what I was looking for.

I still do not know the outcome yet if the documentation was what the bank needed but none the less, I wanted you to know I think you have a prize when it comes to Leah. Her positive attitude, willingness to listen and work with me, and she was available when I had to call back was more than a positive experience...it was a great one. Please take a moment and pass on my sincere thanks and appreciation for all she did for me. I was going in thinking I would get very little, if anything, and ended up receiving more than I had hoped for. - Michael M.

Sandy C. I wanted to send a big kudos to Sandy for going above and beyond as a foster parent. She cares for children that are medically fragile which typically result in them having higher and different needs than most children; however Sandy handles it with grace. Sandy does this while still caring for 2 children of her own. Now, Sandy is adding another member to her household, a three month old. Thank you for all that you do and showing these children unconditional support! – Janelle M.

Natalie T. Emergency Shelter Resource Parent, Natalie, has been instrumental in assisting in the transition of children from shelter care to a longer term resource family home. She organizes visitation between the children and their new family, offers support and respite care, and she is sure to attend and even recommend Family Team Meetings to be sure that the children's needs are conveyed and met by the new resource family home. Way to go Natalie! –Sheri M.

Charo and Christina P. Kudos to this family for stepping up and doing an amazing job caring for a child with special medical needs. Thanks for all of your coordination and commitment to this child at a pivotal time in their life! - Betty C.

Chris and Lindsey S. Kudos to the Sunderlin Family! Their very first placement was two siblings and they made the transition for the kids to live with relatives a wonderful and caring exchange. They helped the kids say "Goodbye" to their friends that they had met while staying with their foster family and supported the transition to their family by maintaining a relationship with the kids. Now, those kids have more people in their lives that care about them. Way to go. –Betty C.

Christina R. 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

RJA, KJT and CFS! I just wanted to share this positive story with you. Sandy H. had wanted to foster for some time but was somewhat hesitant because of the negative things she had heard. She decided to do it anyway and said she has had the best experience working with the county and has been so impressed at how they work and is so excited that as soon as her adoption is finalized she is going to foster to adopt another child. Her friend has also noticed her experience and she is also getting ready to begin the process of getting licensed to start fostering our children. This was a great reminder as to why we are here and love what we do. Had to pass the positive story your way to let you know you guys are awesome and to keep up the great attitude and job. – Sonia C., Foster Peer Partner Educator

Vicki K. Huge KUDOS to Vicki K! Vicki has been a huge asset to the Placement Team in 2016! Oftentimes, a placement is needed for short term until a relative can be approved, an ICPC can be completed, or a "best match" can be found. Vicki always comes through in a pinch and will take our youth often at the last minute. Though she has chosen to maintain short-term placements, she always works with us and will extend herself to meet our needs if at all possible. – Brian H.

Call for Kudos!

We know that excellent partnership between caregivers, bio parents, community resources and social workers happen 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!!

Come Visit Us!

THE OXNARD Tamale Festival

December 3, 2016,

9:00am – 6:30pm

Plaza Park, Downtown Oxnard

Come join the City of Oxnard Recreation and Community Services Division as they present the 9th Annual Oxnard Tamale Festival. Set right along the route of the annual Oxnard Christmas Parade, the event captures well the spirit of the holidays through a variety of food and arts & crafts vendors, live music and a fun-filled kid's zone. Foster VC Kids will have an informational booth. Come by and say hello! There will be an assortment of vendors, entertainment, and children's activities. The festival is family-friendly, free to attend, has good food and great music.

Places We've Been

The Foster VC Kids CSC's have been making their way around the Ventura County, spreading the word about the need for loving homes for our Foster kiddos!

Make sure you come say hello at our upcoming events, and pick up a reusable shopping bag!
Don't forget to let us know if you know of any events we should be a part of.



Jaci and Ana at Make a Difference Day at Plaza Park

Jaci, Janelle, Elise and Ana at the Latino Business Expo



The Holiday Happenings Nook

Children's Services Auxilliary 2016 Holiday Toy Store

The Ventura County Children's Services Auxilliary is pleased to extend an invitation to participate in the 2016 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 Monday, December 19, 2016. 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
4. 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 or make pick-up arrangements with the issuing social worker. Vouchers must be presented at the toy store. **Please bring your own bag.**

Winter CAMPS Funding Available: Funds are available for Winter and Specialized Camps (such as Art, Dance, Swimming, Skiing, and Surfing). Submit Reimbursement Request and a copy of receipt to hsa-cfs-resources@ventura.org. Guidelines and Form can be found here or on FosterVCKids.org in our Resources page. For any questions, call 805-654-3220.



Saturday, December 3rd, James Storehouse is co-hosting a Cozy Christmas Party in partnership with Kids and Families Together. Kids newborn to teen will get to visit with Santa, pick out new jammies, slippers, blanket, stuffed animal, and book. Each child will also get to pick out a special Christmas gift. There will be holiday crafts and snacks for all! Contact jamesstorehouse@gmail.com for more information.

Sunday, December 4th, 3:30pm-9:00pm (Westlake Village), Calvary Community church is hosting a Star of Wonder Outdoor Festival for where they will also do a Foster Youth Clothing Distribution for kids, birth to 25 years old from 3:30 – 4:45pm. Join them afterwards for now sledding, a petting zoo, and smores by the fire pit while listening to the Christmas story. Please RSVP with size, age and gender of children attending to Patricia Kawamoto at kenkawa@sbcglobal.net



Friday, December 16th, 6:30pm-9:30pm (Santa Paula), Catalyst Kids is hosting a Cookie Decorating Party for kids, Ages birth through 5th grade. Parents can go on a date, go shopping, go anywhere while Catalyst takes care of the kids! Please bring a plate of cookies to decorate or decorating supplies. RSVP with number of kids, ages, and whether you'll be bringing cookies or supplies to Jennie Cooksey at 4cookseyclan@att.net



Income Tax Information Request by Foster/Kinship/Resource Parents Protocol

- 1.** Caregivers requesting child information for incomes tax purposes shall be referred to the Foster VC Kids Team for assistance. They can be reached by emailing FosterVCKids@ventura.org or by calling 805-654-3220.
- 2.** Foster VC Kids Team will verify
 - Eligibility: That the child whose information is being requested for tax purposes has been in the home of the requestor for six months and one day, or more. This will be verified by pulling a placement report in CWS/CMS.
 - Identity: Only the Foster or Kinship parent can receive this information in person with personal Identification.
 - Signature of Agreement: "Foster or Kinship parent must sign a "Request for Information form, agreeing to keep the child's information (SSN, Birth date, specific dates of care) confidential.
- 3.** Foster VCKids Team shall prepare "Request for Information" form letter on County Letterhead
- 4.** Foster VC Kids Team will provide the foster/kinship parent with the "Request for Information" form letter after verifying their identity and obtaining their signature on the form. Foster VC Kids will complete the "Office Use" box with the requested information.
- 5.** Foster/kinship caregivers will be given the form letter with the requested information and a copy shall be retained for the licensing file.
- 6.** Foster VC Kids does not provide tax advice and cannot answer specific tax related questions.



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 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.



Love Does Bags is a Faith In Motion partner that provides bags to our kiddo's entering in to foster care which contain clothing, personal essentials and comfort items. We visited the warehouse while Director, Sonia Walker and several amazing volunteers were gearing up to put together these bags with lots of love and joy. Thank you Love Does Bags!!

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, CA 93060

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.

James Storehouse: has a warehouse full of new and like-new clothes (girl and boy) from newborn to teen. They also have diapers, wipes, baby gear, school supplies, accessories and shoes. Drop by their warehouse (or set up an appointment) Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays from 9-2:00. They can be reached by email or phone at jamesstorehouse@gmail.com at 805 499-7161. The warehouse is located at 3541 Old Conejo Rd. #117, Newbury Park.

Defending the Fatherless: provides a love closet with gently used and new items for foster and adoptive families. They are happy to bring you items upon placement or to help you set up your home as you become a foster parent. They also have cribs, toddler beds, strollers, car seats and various infant items as well as backpacks. Contact Karen at defendingthefatherless.info@gmail.com.

Child Hope Services: exists to provide financial assistance, clothing and additional resources to foster and adoptive families, before, during and after placement contact them at www.childhopeservices.org

Rachael's Closet: provides new and gently used second hand clothing, toys and baby supplies as well as larger items to foster families and foster teens from a store front location in downtown Ventura. Please call to schedule an appointment. (805)501-4273

Heart To Heart: provides second hand clothing as well as larger items to foster families. Call to make an appointment. (805)500-3173

Children's Services Auxiliary: provides funding for medical and dental expenses, youth sports scholarships, school activities, youth classes, special clothing needs, music lessons and a yearly holiday toy store. Contact RDS at 654-3220 or visit their website at www.csavc.org to learn more.

THINGS TO *Think* ABOUT

Online Safety for Tweens and Teens

Monitoring social media use and amount of screen time is something to balance in many households. Internet safety and appropriate “rules” for internet use vary by age, maturity of the children and your own family values. Here are a few ideas that can help you out:

1. Talk with your kids – Be open, talk often, stay calm.
2. Educate yourself – Research things you don’t understand such as apps, and websites.
3. Use parental controls when appropriate.
4. Set ground rules- Family contracts could come in useful here.
5. Encourage a good digital reputation – ‘Friend’ your kids on social media.
6. Be a good digital role model – Curb your own digital bad habits and keep it positive!

For more information on Online Safety, check out these [ARTICLES](#), this list of [RULES](#) or more about [NET LITERACY](#).

THE SCHOOL ZONE



Dear FYS, I am the foster parent of a 12th grader. She doesn’t know what she wants to do when she “grows up.”
What should we be doing now in order to have her ready for college or trade school next year? - Anxious Parent

Dear Anxious,

It’s a great time of year to ask that question! Current seniors in high school have several steps to take, right now, to ensure they will hit the ground running next fall when school starts!

The first thing ALL seniors need to do – right now – is apply for financial aid for college. Whether the student thinks they will start college or not, please help them complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The application is free, and it will not count against them if they complete the application but do not end up enrolling in school next year. New this year, the application window opens October 1 instead of January 1, and the earlier students apply, the more money they will likely receive. Students in foster care do not have to report income from their parents, so only their own income from a job will count. In order to fill out the application, they will need any personal W-2s from 2015, their social security number, and other basic information. The application can be found here: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>. Make sure they indicate that they are in foster care, as that will qualify them as “independent” of their parents’ income. Next, they should fill out the simple application for the Chafee grant, which is additional financial aid for foster youth who have an open case at any point after their 16th birthday (and until age 22). California just enacted legislation that significantly expanded the monies available through Chafee, and we are now expecting that nearly all students who are eligible will be awarded this grant. Chafee provides up to \$5,000 in addition to the funds that come through the FAFSA application. The Chafee application can be found here: <https://www.chafee.csac.ca.gov/>. All of the community colleges offer financial aid workshops and a foster youth liaison in the financial aid office if you need further assistance.

Since your daughter is not applying to a four-year university, she does not have to worry about a hard deadline to apply for college. However, it’s good to know that there are many steps involved in attending a community college. First, she will need to apply to the college (<http://home.cccapply.org/>), and then follow the matriculation process. As an example, the Ventura College matriculation process can be found here: <http://www.venturacollege.edu/departments/student-services/matriculation>. These steps can be completed during her senior year.

Finally, if your daughter does not end up attending community college, she may want to consider one of the numerous career technical programs available through Adult Education programs. As an example, Oxnard Adult Ed offers these programs: <http://www.oxnardadulted.us/programs/cte/>. While there are fees associated with these programs, they are significantly less than that of private trade schools, and they offer the same level of education and industry certifications. Also, the Children’s Auxiliary may be able to offset some of the cost.

If you have further questions or need personal assistance, please contact the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program at (805) 437-1525.

*If you have a question regarding foster youth and education, please, write in! Send any questions you may have to Crystal.Stratton@Ventura.org.

What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

Specialty Training for Resource Families (West County)

Saturday, January 21, 10:00am-1:00pm

Register online at www.casapacifica.org/training

Join us for one or more in this series at any location. Course highlights include: Half-day workshops designed for foster, adoptive, relative caregivers & those who care about children in our local community. Course Highlights include: Adverse Childhood Experiences, Relational Safety, Significance & Mattering, Positive Youth Development Character Strengths, Communication Pitfalls, Trauma & Self-Care and Much More! All foster/resource families are welcome to attend at no cost, but registration is required.

Contact Darlene Navarro:

dnavarro@casapacifica.org or 805-366-4046

Sponsor: Ventura College: Casa Pacifica

Supporting Emerging Adults Networking Group (rotates around county)

Facilitators: Rhonda Carlson & Laura Welbourn

Friday, December date TBD

Please RSVP for 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 from 18-21 years old. 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. If you are one of the many care givers out there in the situation of supporting young adults who have "aged out" of most resources, 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: November- Handling the Holidays

Participants will receive credit for 2 hours of training upon completion of each class. Please RSVP to rcarlson@vcccd.edu or call Rhonda at 289-6181

Sponsor: Ventura College FKCE

Foster Parent Network Training (East County)

November Topic: Eating Issues

Trainer: Joseph Rohmann, La Ventana Treatment Center

& Facilitators: Wendy Homan & Iris Braswell

Friday, December 9th 9:00-11:00am, Topic TBD

Cornerstone Church 2080 Winifred St., Simi Valley

An opportunity to receive updated information as to changes related to foster care and network with other foster parents who are geographically related. Specific topics will be addressed each month and friendships will be made and resources revealed. Participants will receive credit for 2 hours of training upon completion of the class.

Please RSVP to Wendy Homan at homanwendy@aol.com or Debbie Flowers @ Debbieflowers@vcccd.edu

Sponsor: Oxnard College FKCE



Foster 
VC Kids

Ventura County Children & Family Services

What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

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

Presenter: Rhonda Carlson

*Thursday, December 15th 6:30-8:00pm,
arrive at 6:15 for pizza*

*Day Road Center @ Ventura College, 71 Day Road,
Ventura-Computer Lab*

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 scholarships available to Ventura County foster youth who plan to attend college or vocational training in the Fall of 2017. Limited space available! Participants will receive credit for 1.5 hours of training upon completion of the class.

Please RSVP to rcarlson@vcccd.edu

Sponsors: Ventura College FKCE & Ventura County Office of Education

CPR & FIRST AID Recertification Training

*First Aid Recertification, Friday December 2nd
4:30-6:30pm (East County)*

*CPR Recertification, Friday December 9th
4:30-6:30pm (West County)*

Participants must already possess a valid CPR and/or First Aid card and need a RENEWAL of their current card. Priority goes to Foster & Kinship parents in Ventura County. Pre-registration is REQUIRED.

Please register with debbieflowers@vcccd.edu or rcarlson@vcccd.edu. Sponsor: Oxnard & Ventura College FKCE



Resource Parent Networking and Support Groups

Ventura Resource Group

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

Santa Paula Resource Group (Bilingual Spanish & English)

2nd Tuesday of the month 6:00-8:00pm
First 5 Neighborhood for Learning
217 10th St Santa Paula

Oxnard Resource Group (In English & Spanish)

Postponed until further notice

Camarillo Resource Group

Last Thursday of the month 6:00-8:00pm
5251 Verdugo Rd. Suite G., Camarillo,
Channel Island Social Services

Thousand Oaks Resource Group

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

Simi Valley Resource Group

3rd Wednesday of the month 6:00-8:00pm
3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley
Senior Center, Simi Valley

Ojai Resource Group

4th Tuesday of the month 6:00-8:00pm
105 E Topa Topa St., Ojai Valley Wesleyan Church, Ojai

For more information on the above classes
or to RSVP you may call or email:
Debbie Flowers at Oxnard College 678-5144 or
Rhonda Carlson at Ventura College 289-6181
debbieflowers@vcccd.edu or rcarlson@vcccd.edu

Foster Care Snapshot:

The Critical Need Continues...

In the Month of September:

There were **864** children in care
298 children were in foster home placements (County & FFA)
364 children were in kinship/relative care placements
102 children were in guardian homes
2 finalized adoptions (**87** Fiscal year to date)
58 children remained in group homes
31.2% of siblings are separated from each other

This year: We welcomed **78** 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