



# the foster NETWORK

## SPRING

### Manager’s Reflection and Farewell

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve alongside you over the last 5 years. It is with mixed emotions that I have accepted a promotional position with Behavioral Health to oversee quality improvement of mental health services. I am excited for this new opportunity to focus upon improving how children and families access timely, quality driven mental health services. This is critical for children and families who have experienced layers of trauma. It is also critical that our foster and relative caregivers are integral in the healing process.

I am grateful to the many caregivers who have stepped forward to care for children. Over the last 5 years, I have had the honor to work with a team of caregivers, staff and community partners who have contributed to significant strides in improving our Child Welfare practices in Ventura County. Some highlights from my time here include: 1) Better practices in information sharing between social workers and caregivers through updating the Needs and Services Plan 2) Greater and more timely communication and supports for caregivers through expanding our Caregiver Support Team and Peer Partner Educators program 3) Improved Placement process so that we work more closely with families to identify the best match for children and reduce the number of sibling separations and congregate care placements 4) New Business with Heart program so that caregivers have access to discounts for goods and services and youth have new job growth opportunities 6) Faith in Motion campaign to bring faith communities together who are able to offer supports for our families and to recruit families from within 7) Foster VC Kids web and social media platforms to provide caregivers immediate access to information and resources 8) Creation of the 21st Century Resource Family Pre-Service training, now a leading state model in quality care training 9) Establishment of the QPI Caregiver Advisory Team, comprised of over 20 caregivers, birth parents and Child Welfare staff, who together identify needed system changes and quality improvements for our families and our children. I am grateful for the vision they have established for Ventura County and 10) The development of 56 community resource partners to support our families.

We still have many improvements in how we respect our caregivers, share information through a team approach and engage our families to ensure the highest quality care. We shall not stop here! Thank you for your gracious commitment to children and their families.

*Elizabeth Thasiah*

### CFS Contacts

Recruitment, Development & Support Info Line	654-3220	Children’s Health & Disability Prevention Nurse	240-2700
RDS Manager	654-5594	General Info Emergency Response Units	654-3444
Licensing	654-3405	General Info Ongoing Unit	240-2700
Relative Approval	654-3405	General Info East County	955-2290
Placement Vacancy Line	289-1900	General Information Family Collaboration & Support	654-3405
Placement Coordinators	654-3216, 654-3217, or 654-3211	CSA Reimbursements	654-3220
Adoptions	240-2700	Field Based Case Aids	654-3444
Youth Services Division	240-2700	ILP Coordinators	240-2700
Rx for Kids Public Health Program	289- 9308	Eligibility Officer of the Day	654-3409

# Introducing CAATS

Children and Family Services (CFS) and Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) have partnered to introduce a new program, Children's Accelerated Access to Treatment Services (CAATS). Currently, children entering care receive a mental health screening, which determines if further assessment and treatment are necessary; after that, they are re-screened every 6 months or if a problem occurs ('Key Event') to ensure that mental health needs are addressed. The new program has received special funding from the Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63) and has been designated as an "Innovative Project" – we are excited to be the only county in California currently initiating this program!

The idea is simple: ALL children entering dependency, regardless of age or program (Family Maintenance, Family Reunification, or Permanency Planning) will be referred for a full assessment by VCBH and offered short-term therapy. Intervention services may be extended based on the needs of the child. CAATS will operate on a model of expedited access and treatment: CFS will submit a referral within 5 days of the Detention Hearing for ALL children; VCBH will arrange the Assessment within the next 5 days; and treatment will begin within 5 days after the completed Assessment.

Here is how you can help: As a Caregiver, we need you to be responsive to VCBH when they contact you to start the assessment. The assessment and therapy will occur in your

# QPI Corner

home (you don't have to go anywhere). Please discuss the specifics about the start of the child's therapy with the clinician and the assigned social worker. Caregivers will maintain regular contact with the clinician/therapist regarding the child's needs or observed behaviors or other concerns that may need to be addressed and will participate as determined in the treatment plan. The CAATS project honors the trauma models that show that children experience trauma, not only from child abuse or neglect that has occurred in their household but also the continuing trauma of being separated from their family and even siblings. We know that our very presence and interventions with the family, as helpful and necessary as they may be, can be part of the ripple effect of trauma that continues for children. Early intervention activities can help strengthen the child and stabilize the placement and family.

Your role as the primary Caregiver to the child and member of the Children and Family Services team makes your input, cooperation and participation invaluable to promoting the child's physical and mental wellness as well as stability in your home. Thank you for your continued commitment to the children we serve.

## Featured Resource Partners: James Storehouse & Rest for Less Mattress

At the recent Board of Supervisors meeting held February 27th, we were honored to recognize Businesses with Heart Partner - Rest for Less Mattress and Furniture, owner Anthony Smith. When Anthony was asked if he would be able to help our families that were affected by the Thomas Fires, his response was unconditional..... "How many beds do you need and when do you need them".

Anthony provided our non-profit partner James Storehouse with 16 brand new beds, who in turn were able to assist our families. Thank you Rest for Less and James Storehouse, you were there when our families needed support! Please visit Rest for Less and as a Businesses with Heart Partner Anthony offers a 10% discount. [www.restforlessmattress.com](http://www.restforlessmattress.com)





Keeping

# YOUR APPROVAL IN GOOD STANDING!

Here are some of the top tips for keeping your approval in good standing.

- 1. Incident Reports** – By reporting unusual incidents, you not only help out the Social Workers and Children, you protect your home and family! All reports must be made within 24 hours of the incident, and the written report must be sent to the RFA worker and it is encouraged that you send it to the child's social worker as well. Click [HERE](#) to download the form!
- 2. Seek Permission to cut your foster child's hair from the social worker.** - This one simple move can make all the difference to the child's parent, and the child.
- 3. Understand children's personal rights.** You can view it here: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/entres/forms/English/LIC613B.PDF>
- 4. Plan ahead to comply with all annual training requirements** - 8 hours of training per year, covering specific topics. For the topics and tracking log, click [HERE](#).
- 5. Report any changes related to your approval status or household such as relocation, marital status, and any adults in the home prior to moving in for clearances to your RFA Worker and child's Social Worker.**
- 6. Maintain a valid CPR and First Aid certification at all times.** Visit our [events page](#) to see when classes are held.
- 7. Remember that if you have had a child in the home turn 18, you will need to have him/her complete a background check and TB test. This does not apply to a foster youth in the home.**
- 8. Home environment** – Whether a child is placed in your home or not, your home needs to meet all Written Directives criteria, at all times. Here's a cheat sheet to help you with this!

## Do Your Own Home Evaluation

Check to ensure that your home is in compliance with our resource family approval written directives (Section 11, pg. 49-70)

### KITCHEN AREA

- Telephone shall be accessible at all times
- Post emergency numbers in a prominent location
- Faucets used by a child deliver hot water at a safe temperature
- Disposal of waste shall be in a manner that will not permit the transmission of disease, odors or create a nuisance
- Storage areas for Poisons shall be locked
- Kitchen knives shall be made inaccessible to a child who is not of sufficient age and maturity
- Medications requiring refrigeration shall be made inaccessible (depending on age of child)

### LIVING ROOM, DINNING ROOM & DEN

- Ensure the safety of a child in homes that have fireplaces, open-face heaters or woodstoves
- Maintain a safe and comfortable temperature at all times

### BATHROOM AREAS

- Prescription and non-prescription medications shall be stored where inaccessible
- Cleaning solutions shall be stored where inaccessible

### BEDROOMS

- No more than four children per bedroom and one child per bed
- No bedroom can used as a general passageway to another room
- Comfortable mattress, linens, blankets, and pillows are clean and all in good repair
- Bunk beds shall have railings on both sides of the upper tier (children under age 6 not allowed on top bunk)

- Provide each infant with a safe and sturdy bassinet (up to 3 months) or crib – (NO DROP DOWN SIDES) and car seat (MUST comply with state regulations- regarding infant's weight and height).
- Portable or permanent closet and drawer space to accommodate the child's clothing and personal belongings
- Provide lighting as necessary in all rooms of the home to ensure comfort and safety

### HALLWAYS

- All outdoor and indoor passageway, stairways, inclines, ramps, and open porches shall be free of obstruction
- Functioning smoke detector & carbon monoxide detectors installed in hallway(s) in sleeping area shall be audible in each bedroom

### OUTDOOR AREAS

- Window and window screens are in good repair
- Bodies of water (i.e. pools, spas, hot tubs) are made inaccessible to a child under age 10
- Yard or outdoor activity space shall be free from hazards that endanger the health and safety of a child

### MISC.

- Security window bars shall have a safety release device
- Firearms and other dangerous weapons shall be locked
- Ammunition shall be stored and locked separately from firearms
- Maintain first kit appropriate to the needs of a child
- Carpet, floors, and walls are clean at all times

**HOME SHALL BE CLEAN, SAFE, SANITARY & IN GOOD REPAIR AT ALL TIMES**

Got questions, hints, or your own tips? We would love to hear them!





# THE SCHOOL Zone

Instead of our usual Q&A format for “Ask FYS” this quarter, we wanted to share some information on a new data sharing system now available through the California Department of Education. The California School Dashboard ([www.caschooldashboard.org](http://www.caschooldashboard.org)) is an online tool designed to help communities across the state access important information about K–12 schools and districts. The Dashboard features easy-to-read reports on multiple measures of school success. The Dashboard is just one step in a series of changes that have raised the bar for student learning, transformed testing, and increased the focus on equity. Because of statewide advocacy and resulting legislation, foster youth are now included as a distinct subgroup of students in the data. The Dashboard serves as an evaluation rubric for the “Local Control Accountability Plan” developed by each district that spells out the goals and services specific to foster youth as well as other subgroups and all students. You can view foster student performance by school or by district. Schools must have at least 30 foster students enrolled and districts must have at least 15 foster students enrolled to show performance data, to protect student privacy. You can view indicators, such as chronic absenteeism, suspension rate, graduation rate, and academic assessment, for each student group or the entire student body. You will also see whether schools/districts are showing improvement over time.

To see an example, click on the dashboard link above. Type in the name of the district your child(ren) attend and click “search.” Select the district from the menu and you will see the home page. Click on one of the indicators, such as “suspension rate.” If your district has 15 or more foster youth enrolled, you will be able to then select “foster youth” from the menu. You will then see the status and the change for all indicators available for foster youth the semester/year you select. Also try clicking on the “Five-by-Five Placement Report” link at the top of the “Status and Change Report” tab. Find the Foster Youth subgroup on that grid, and you will see where this group lands on the grid. You can see different grids for the various indicators, selected from the drop-down menu on top. If foster youth fall within a red box, their status is “very low.” You can also then click on “View Detailed Data” on the top right-hand corner, and see detailed data on that indicator.

The ability to see foster youth data on a local, regional, and state-wide level is new, as is the accountability schools now face to improve foster youth indicators and outcomes. Districts will be addressing areas in need of improvement on their “Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)” each year. Districts are required to solicit stakeholder input, which includes all of you! Your voice is critical in ensuring that the children in your care are receiving the appropriate supports and services through their school district. Districts hold LCAP meetings on a regular basis throughout the year, as each year the plan is modified and updated. Your participation is highly encouraged. Contact the Foster Youth Liaison in your district to find out the meeting schedule. - FYSCP

***For assistance with this or any other school-related question or concern, please contact the Foster Youth Services at (805) 437-1525 or [fys@vcoe.org](mailto:fys@vcoe.org).***



## National Foster Care Month 2018

May is Foster Care Month and we want to celebrate our families! Caregivers will be recognized at the Board of Supervisors Meeting in May. CFS Family Collaboration and Support will be holding a special appreciation event directly afterwards with Children's Services Auxiliary with snacks, drinks, and toy giveaways!

We will provide more information and mail out invitations closer to the event.

Ventura County Foster Parent Association will be hosting their annual Foster Parent Appreciation event in May along with their annual Community Faire. More details to follow, and all details will be posted on the VCFPA website event page and Facebook page.

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 [www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth](http://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth) to find resources and information to help ensure that their future is bright.



## Come Visit Us

The Foster VC Kids Caregiver Support Specialists 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 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.



**Save the Date!** – March 3rd – Health Fair and AIDS Walk 5k: The Diversity Collective Ventura County is excited to announce our fourth annual Health Fair at Plaza Park in Ventura on Saturday, March 3rd from 9 am to 1 pm, in conjunction with the 2018 AIDS Walk Ventura 5K. Proceeds from this year's walk will stay local for education and prevention programs. The Free Health Fair will include informational booths that will provide free health screenings for rapid HIV testing and blood pressure.

## Did You Know?

**Take our new and improved satisfaction survey!** Your experience is important to us and your feedback makes a difference. Please take a moment to complete our satisfaction survey at [www.fostervckids.org](http://www.fostervckids.org)! The survey is a perfect way to share both positive and constructive feedback, and can be taken anonymously, if you prefer. You can complete this survey any time you have feedback on what's working well, what you are worried about, or when you have an idea for improvements!

*Please click here to complete our Foster VC Kids Satisfaction Survey!*



Ventura County Children & Family Services

# Nurses Corner

## By Julie Anne De Santi, RN, BSN, Public Health Nurse

*Dental problems can start early!* Many caregivers and parents may be surprised to learn that tooth decay can begin as early as 1 year of age. In fact, tooth decay is one of the top chronic infectious diseases among children in the U.S. Remember, that dental and medical appointments are a great way to co-parent and keep the parent involved in the child's care! Talk to your social worker about inviting the parent along for these check-ups! The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends the following:

- Take the baby to the dentist by 12 months of age in order to establish a dental home for the child. Early exams and preventative care are helpful in preventing dental problems.
- Typically, a dental checkup is recommended every 6 months in order to help prevent cavities and other issues. Nevertheless, your child's dentist can recommend how often the child should visit.
- Before teeth erupt, clean a baby's gums with a soft infant toothbrush or cloth and water. Once teeth begin to appear, begin brushing twice daily using fluoridated toothpaste and a soft, age appropriate toothbrush. For a child less than 2 years old, use only a tiny "smear" of toothpaste and for children 2-5 years old, use a "pea-size" amount of toothpaste and help the child with their tooth brushing. Remind children not to swallow, but to spit out excess toothpaste after brushing.
- Ensure that the child has a balanced diet including fruits, vegetables, breads, cereals, milk and dairy products and meat, fish and eggs. Avoid giving children sugars and starches in their diet.
- Pacifiers and thumb sucking typically only become a problem if they persist for long periods of time. Thumb sucking is very normal for babies and many stop by around age two. However, if a child is still sucking his or her thumb past the age of three, a professional evaluation is recommended. The dentist will be able to offer advice regarding a prolonged thumb sucking habit.
- Don't let children fall asleep with a bottle containing anything except water. Try to wean children from using a bottle by 12-14 months of age. Only offer fruit juice in a cup with meals or with snacks.
- Speak to the child's dentist about the right amount of fluoride for your child and whether or not the child may need a fluoride supplement.
- If a child participates in physical activities, including sports, protect the child's teeth with a mouth guard. Consult the child's dentist regarding which type of mouth guard is appropriate for the child.
- Children should visit the dentist regularly so that the dentist can suggest an individualized plan of brushing, flossing and other treatments for caregivers and parents to supervise and teach their children. Home interventions, routine dental visits and a balanced diet will help to give the child a lifetime of healthy habits!





# Kudos CORNER

## ROBERT E.

I would love to give Kudos to my social worker Robert E. He's been a great social worker. He answers my questions, listens to my concerns, and updates me when necessary. I'm super grateful for him and the support he has been for our family.

- Rochelle H.

## MARTHA M.

I'd like to say Thank You to Martha M. for expanding her license and going above and beyond to care for a teen girl in her home while she transitioned to a higher level of care. She was able to provide this care at the spur of the moment and developed a great relationship with the teen, who stated that the family's home is truly a home filled with love, respect and support like a true family should be. By the end of her stay with Martha, she asked if she could keep in contact with them which the family readily agreed to. Thank you to the entire family for not only providing a home for the youth, but for embracing and supporting her at this difficult time in her life.

- Ana N.

## HEATHER L.

I would like to give Kudos to Heather L. She has been transporting and monitoring visits for us for almost a year. Her kindness and compassion has made visits easier for our Foster daughter. We really appreciate Heather and the support she has given our family!

- Rochelle H.

## NATALIE & FERNANDO T.

Kudos to Natalie and Fernando T. because not only are they a shelter home for our children, but they make every child- no matter how difficult- feel welcomed and loved, and most of all supported. These parents are great advocates, not only for the kids and their needs, but their biological families as well. With Natalie's ongoing support as a PPE our current resources families are able to grow and succeed and provide good quality care. She is a true asset to our multidisciplinary team and plays a key role in our success.

- Ana N.

## Before & After School Care in Ventura County

There are many resources available on the Foster VC Kids website, including a list of before and after school programs and daycares in Ventura County. Click [HERE](#) to see the updated printable PDF, along with great ideas of what to consider when choosing an after school program.



## 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](mailto:Crystal.Stratton@ventura.org) to share the love!!

# What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

## Hope4Kids Festival & Run

**Date: Saturday, April 28**

**Time: 8am to 2pm**

**Location: Lake Sherwood, Thousand Oaks**

RaisingHOPE's 6th Annual HOPE4Kids Festival & Run is coming up on April 28th. Funds raised by this event go directly to assist foster youth and former foster youth in paying for any needs that are not otherwise covered. To date, they have assisted hundreds of youth with anesthesia for dental work, textbooks for college, extracurricular activities and more!

The FREE festival includes a silent auction, Kidzone, performances, vendor booths and foster gallery featuring profiles of children in need of homes. Many organizations that serve children, families and resource families in the foster care system will have booths at this event including Foster VC Kids! You can also register to run or walk our 5K/10K/Kids Mile Fun Run.

Participants receive:

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

Sign up to run, walk, volunteer or donate at [www.raisinghope.org/HOPE4Kids](http://www.raisinghope.org/HOPE4Kids). Or for more information about event sponsorship please email [info@raisinghope.org](mailto:info@raisinghope.org) or call 805-491-KIDZ. [www.raisinghope.org](http://www.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!

## Teen Reach Adventure Camp

**Ages 12-15**

**Girls Camp July 28-30 | Boys Camp August 3-5**

We are excited to offer Teen Reach Adventure Camp again in 2018. These weekend camps are for kids ages 12-15 who reside in the foster system. Our goal is to provide a fun and safe camp experience, giving every camper an exciting weekend full of positive memories and encouragement, while offering foster families needed respite. These camps are action-packed with activities including hiking, swimming, archery, BB guns, woodworking, and art. We do not charge foster families for their child to attend camp, relying instead on donations and volunteers. The dates for Girls Camp are July 28-30, while the Boys Camp will be August 3-5. If a foster parent wants to sign a child up to attend camp, they can contact our child placement coordinator Karen at [kkozielca@gmail.com](mailto:kkozielca@gmail.com). Any other questions can be directed towards me at [nickmehlephoto@gmail.com](mailto:nickmehlephoto@gmail.com).

## The Channel Islands Boating Center Youth Watersports Camp

**Age Requirements- 9-13 (Kayaking) 9-15 (Sailing)**

**12-15 (Stand up paddle board/windsurfing)**

**Sessions M-F June 18 to August 3 (No camp 4th of July)**

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.



# What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

## The Channel Islands Boating Center

**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 <http://www.ciboating.org/rates-and-registration/> Contact the CIBC staff with any questions 805-437-3710 or email [Jennifer.maravola@csuci.edu](mailto:Jennifer.maravola@csuci.edu)

## ComfortZone Camp

*Ages 7-17*

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

*Ages 7-11*

RFK of Ventura is part of the nation's leading network of camps for children of abuse, abandonment, and neglect. RFK is a residential summer camp where, for one full week, children (ages 7 to 11) in foster care from throughout Ventura & Los Angeles County can experience wholesome affection, undivided attention, and unconditional love. Royal Family campers enjoy hiking, swimming, horseback riding, zip-lining, rock-wall climbing, bug- & lizard-catching, bike riding, skateboarding, canoeing, fishing, singing, dancing, participating in skits, roasting marshmallows around a campfire, hearing Bible stories, arts & crafts, and sports and other outdoor games. For more information about sending a child to camp, please email Lyz Klopman, Child Placement Coordinator, at [lyzklopman@verizon.net](mailto:lyzklopman@verizon.net) with the guardian's name and phone number as well as the child's name and birthdate. For more information about volunteering at camp or to make a contribution in support of camp, please email Ken Klopman, Camp Director, at [rffkventura@verizon.net](mailto:rffkventura@verizon.net).

# Attention!

## All Graduating High School Students!

**Starting April 1st...** 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 \$300 will be given to any recipient. Children's Services Auxiliary handed out over \$18,000 in scholarships in 2017.

If you need additional information about our Scholarship programs, please contact Leeann Mesa via email. Please complete the application and the essay and submit via email to Leeann Mesa at [csa@csavc.org](mailto:csa@csavc.org) -Visit our website at <http://www.csavc.org/scholarships.html> for more details.

# Businesses with HEART

Ventura County Children & Family Services

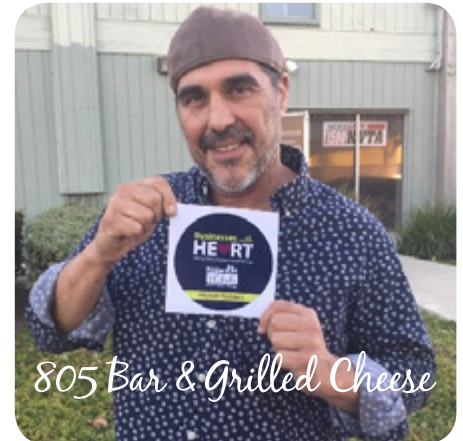
*Welcome our newest Business with Heart partners!*

## **Chipotle-** [www.chipotle.com](http://www.chipotle.com)

Offers employment to youth ages 16+, and families. Visit their website to fill out an on-line application. Employment opportunities on-going at all Ventura County Chipotle locations, be sure to mention Foster VC Kids! Also, look for a quarterly email with a special BOGO (buy one get one free offer), simply print the flyer, or bring in your Business with Heart membership card.

## **805 Bar and Grilled Cheese-** [www.805barandgrilledcheese.com](http://www.805barandgrilledcheese.com)

1575 Spinnaker, Ventura. Come visit the beautiful Ventura Harbor and say hi to Andreas the owner! Enjoy 10% off your entire family meal and foster children and youth receive a FREE grilled cheese!



## **For Ever My Dahhhlin-** [www.forevermydahhhlin.com](http://www.forevermydahhhlin.com)

Owner Louie Fonseca has a blooming heart! He is offering 20% off his flower arrangements, plus free deliver within Ventura County! Internships available to youth age 16+ interested in learning the flower industry, includes flower arranging and special events. Located in Oxnard. 805-516-9810.

## **Boy Scouts of America.**

We currently have two Cities available for those interested in taking part in scouting. For more detailed information on discounts, meeting times and locations please contact: Port Hueneme – John Larson, 805-415-6929, hlaron7@icloud.com. Camarillo – Chad Hilderbrand, 805-535-5992, chadhildebrandgencontractor@gmail.com

## **White Lotus Realationship Coaching.** [www.whitelotusrelationships.com](http://www.whitelotusrelationships.com)

Owner Christie Batt offers: Life skills coaching on a discounted sliding scale, located in Agoura Hills. 818-424-8860

**You should have received your Businesses with Heart card and discount guide in the mail by now! You can now use this card to access a range of discounts in Ventura County!** Visit [www.fostervckids.org](http://www.fostervckids.org) for a complete list of our Business with Heart Partners. If you know of a business that would like to become a Businesses with Heart Partner or want to share a story of how this support has benefited you and the children you are caring for! Please email Jaci Johnson at [jaci.johnson@ventura.org](mailto:jaci.johnson@ventura.org).



# •••• RESOURCE EVENTS ••••

## *Prom & Graduation Dress Events!*

Email to make an appointment: jamesstorehouse@gmail.com

**March 10th** Special event for all teen girls, ages 12-aged out. Come pick out a prom or spring dress, get your hair and makeup professionally done, flash tattoos, art station, yoga, food and MORE! **April 3rd**, 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!

## *Spring Fling*

**March 24th**

<http://www.kidsandfamilies.org/>

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

## *Empowered to Connect*

**Fri & Sat- April 13 & 14 2018, 9am – 5pm both days Camarillo**  
**Register on Eventbrite [HERE](#) or call 805-654-3220**

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. This free conference will be hosted by TBRI Trainer, Julie Carroll with Bethany Family Services. Child Care is available up to 12 years of age. Lunch will be provided both days to those who register.

## *James Storehouse Boutique*

Free Boutique and Warehouse are open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am to 2pm, just email jamesstorehouse@gmail.com for an appointment. Children are welcome, Spanish translator always available.

## *Stronger Families Safer Kids 5k*

**Saturday, April 21 – 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo**

The Partnership for Safe Families will be hosting their annual 5k with a special kids only 1k. Kids 1k will begin at 8:45am, 5k will begin at 9am. Register at [www.partnershipforsafefamilies.org](http://www.partnershipforsafefamilies.org) or call 805-535-4489.

## *Clothing Distribution for Foster Youth*

**May 12th 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 [pmkawamoto@gmail.com](mailto:pmkawamoto@gmail.com)

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

Kinship care is the full or part-time parenting of children by grandparents or other relatives. These training groups will explore the practical issues related to parenting a second generation and provide tools and support to help you get and keep your bearing along the way. No RSVP needed- Walk-ins welcome! Training hour certificates provided upon request. For further information, email [aacosta@kidsandfamilies.org](mailto:aacosta@kidsandfamilies.org)  
*Sponsors: Ventura College FKCE, Oxnard College FKCE and Kids & Families Together*

### **Ventura Resource Group**

1st & 3rd Tuesdays 6:00-8:00pm

Kids & Families Together 864 E. Santa Clara, Ventura

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

2nd Tuesdays of the month 6:00-8:00pm

First 5 Neighborhood for Learning

115 Dean Drive Ste B, Santa Paula

### **Thousand Oaks Resource Group**

2nd Tuesdays 6:30-8:30pm

401 Hodencamp Rd., Senior Concerns, Thousand Oaks

*For more information on the above classes or to RSVP you may call or email*

*Debbie Flowers at Oxnard College 678-5144*

*or Carlson at Ventura College 289-6181*

*[debbieflowers@vccd.edu](mailto:debbieflowers@vccd.edu) or [rcarlson@vccd.edu](mailto:rcarlson@vccd.edu)*



# •••• RESOURCE EVENTS ••••

## *The Good, The Bad and Your Reality:*

**A Healthy Visitation Model (Ventura)  
March 15th 7pm-9pm  
Mission Church, 2875 Elba Street, Ventura**

Come hear a panel of experts discuss Family Interactions and the Healthy Visitation model: The good, the bad and your reality. You will receive many tips for successful family visits with plenty of time for questions and answers with the panel.

Limited, free child care is available and provided by Channel Islands Social Services. Register by calling 805-384-0983. Participants will receive a certificate for 2 hours of training upon completion the class.

For information, contact Wendy at 805-807-4410 or Stephanie at 805-904-7035. Sponsor: VC Foster Parent Association

## *Mandated Reporter Training*

**NOW A REQUIRED TRAINING FOR ALL RESOURCE FAMILIES!  
March 29, 2018 1:00pm-3:30pm  
Location will be sent out with reminder email.**

For Professionals who are mandated reporters in the fields of Health, Mental Health, Education, Social Services, Justice, Law Enforcement, Faith, and Childcare. Participants will learn how to recognize respond to and report child, dependent adult, and elder abuse and gain knowledge of prevention resources in our community. No cost, with materials & certificates provided.

Email any questions to [jfortega@partnershipforsafefamilies.org](mailto:jfortega@partnershipforsafefamilies.org)  
Go to The Partnership for Safe Families and Communities website for links to register <http://www.partnershipforsafefamilies.org/events--5k.html>

## *Hold Me Tight, Let Me Go (Ventura)*

**March 30th – 31st  
Friday (Parents only) 6pm-9:30pm  
Saturday (Parents & Teens) 9am-4:30pm  
Kids & Families Together 864 E. Santa Clara St., Ventura**

For teens (ages 13-19) with “annoying parents who don’t understand. For parents with “moody” teens who won’t listen. In this group you will:

- Improve communication
- Deepen and enhance trust and emotional safety
- Change frustrating and painful cycles within your family
- Understand your teens’ feelings and relationship needs for both closeness and distance

For questions or to register for the training, contact Rachel Ashleman at 805-643-1446, ext. 106 or email [rashleman@kidsandfamilies.org](mailto:rashleman@kidsandfamilies.org) (**This workshop is FREE for foster, adoptive and kinship caregivers!**)

## *Support, Education & Training (SET) (Ventura)*

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

Families can self-refer to this \*In-Home Training\* and receive some of your hours of required training on the following topics:

- Teaming
- Trauma
- Teen Issues

For questions or to self-refer, please contact Nuvia Macia, In-Home Coordinator at 805-643-1446, ext. 116 or email [nmacias@kidsandfamilies.org](mailto:nmacias@kidsandfamilies.org)

## *Foster Parent Network Training (East County)*

**Topic: Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC):  
Awareness & Identification Facilitator: Iris Braswell  
Friday, March 2nd 9:00-noon  
(Please note extended time & includes lunch)  
Cornerstone Church- 2080 Winifred St., Simi Valley**

If you live with, work with, or care about children, this training is for you! Human trafficking is a horrible crime impacting young people in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Many children do not receive help because they are misidentified or not recognized at all. This training will help participants understand the psychological and social dynamics, life events, and contributing factors that can lead to the sexual exploitation of a child. Participants will learn how to recognize risks and warning signs associated with young people in out-of-home care. Participants will receive a certificate for 3 hours of training upon completion the class. Meets Foster VC Kids criteria for “CSEC Awareness.” Please RSVP to Rhonda at [rcarlson@vcccd.edu](mailto:rcarlson@vcccd.edu) Childcare is available, please contact Iris.

Sponsor: Oxnard College & Ventura College FKCE  
Trainer: James Carlson, MFT

## *FKCE Annual Conference Caring for Yourself*

**“A Day of Healing Together: Restore ~ Renew ~ Replenish”  
Save the Date: Saturday March 10, 2018 9:30-2:30  
Poinsettia Pavilion, Ventura  
Details & registration process to follow, please watch for a follow-up email**



# •••• RESOURCE EVENTS ••••

## *CPR & First Aid Recertification Training*

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. There is NO childcare available at these trainings.

### **CPR Recertification**

Friday, February 2nd 4:30-6:30pm (East County)

### **First Aid Recertification**

Friday, February 9th 4:30-6:30pm (West County)

### **First Aid Recertification**

Friday, March 2nd 4:30-6:30pm (East County)

### **CPR Recertification**

Friday, March 9th 4:30-6:30pm (West County)

Register with [debbieflowers@vcccd.edu](mailto:debbieflowers@vcccd.edu) or [rcarlson@vcccd.edu](mailto:rcarlson@vcccd.edu)  
Sponsors: Oxnard & Ventura College FKCE

**\*\* College of the Canyons**, located in Santa Clarita also hosts Foster and Kinship Care Education classes. These workshops are FREE for ALL foster and resource families, College Students, Educators and anyone interested in parenting classes. These classes are available for B, D, or F rate renewal. Parking classes are needed for all classes, and passes will be emailed to registered participants.

You can register online <http://www.canyons.edu/Departments/ECE/Pages/Foster-and-Kinship-Care.aspx>  
OR Email [mimi.leach@canyons.edu](mailto:mimi.leach@canyons.edu)

**These workshops are for adults only, childcare is not provided**

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

## *Networking & Support Groups*

**Resource 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](http://www.fostervckids.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:** Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Caregivers in Ventura County have the opportunity to explore a variety of topics in a safe, supportive environment of their peers. 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. Child care provided by CISS and must be arranged at least 48 hours in advance. Please call to RSVP if you plan on attending a group. Attendance is not required each week.

### **Thursdays 6:00-8:00pm, May 3rd – June 21st** **Kids & Families Together**

**864 E. Santa Clara Street, Ventura, CA 93001**

Call Amy at 805-643-1446 ext. 133 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. Please check our Foster VC Kids Facebook for meetings dates, times, and locations!

### **PPE HUBs East County**

**ALL Required Training Topics - Lighthouse Church Newbury Park**

**Feb 8th 6-8pm Mandated reporting**

**April 12th 6-8pm Teaming**

*Free Meals and childcare available along with CSA on site to hand out toys for Foster Families to refurbish/add toys needed at home. Contact PPE to RSVP: Liz Thiele (805)861-3196 or Leann Mesa (805)905-9267*

### **PPE HUB's West County**

**English and Spanish– Ventura CFS Office**

**March 29th 6-8pm Substance Exposed Infants**

**May 31st 6-8pm Fiesta Day!**

*Free Meals and childcare available along with CSA on site to hand out toys for Foster Families to refurbish/add toys needed at home. Contact PPE to RSVP: Sonia Correa (805)907-1028 or Natalie Torres (805)905-1982*

Contact Foster VC Kids at 805-654-3220 or [fostervckids@ventura.org](mailto: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 [defendingthefatherless.info@gmail.com](mailto:defendingthefatherless.info@gmail.com) or go to [www.defendingthefatherless.net](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/>.



### Thomas Fire/Disaster Relief Resources

CFS is continuing to identify community partners offering support to families and children directly impacted. Please click the link to access information and resources for families affected by the Thomas Fire: [www.fostervckids.org/thomas-fire-donations](http://www.fostervckids.org/thomas-fire-donations)

## CASA of Ventura County Trainings

CASA of Ventura County offers several Initial Training Sessions for new volunteers each year, including evening only sessions, Saturday only sessions, morning classes, and a combination in-person and online training (Flex Training). Choose a session that works with your schedule. Email [Janet@casaofventuracounty.org](mailto:Janet@casaofventuracounty.org) for more information or visit this [LINK](#).



March 8 (Thurs) 6-9 pm	The Secret Formula – Focus on working with children and youth to be able to recognize and share their feelings. Based on the book called, “The Secret Formula” by Diane Diaz Gomez	Diane Gomez
March 15 (Thu.) 6 – 8 pm	College and Vocational Career Pathways	Judi Gould and Margaret
March 29 (Thu.) 6 - 8 pm	Juvenile Dependency Panel	Various Presenters
May 17 (Thu.) 6 - 8 pm	Gangs 101	TBD
May 24 (Thu.) 6 - 8 pm	Juvenile Dependency Panel – Gain valuable information regarding Dependency Court. Come and meet representatives from various agencies.	Various Presenters

*Child Hope Services* has been able to provide large boxes of diapers monthly to Resource families that are actively fostering babies and toddlers upon receiving proof of placement, as well as providing gift for children’s birthday’s and adoption days. Child Hope is honored to provide these resources due to generous donations from partners!





# Foster Care Snapshot:

*The Critical Need Continues...*

*In the Month of December:*

There were **798** children in care

**231** children were in foster home placements (County and FFA)

**394** children were in kinship/relative care placements

**89** children were in guardian homes

**\* 130 finalized adoptions in 2017!**

**33** children remained in group homes/shelter care

**28.8%** of siblings are separated from each other;

**18.1%** are placed with some, but not all siblings

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

### Foster VC Kids

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

### iFoster

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

### CFS Independent Living Program

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

### Children's Services Auxiliary

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

### CASA: Court Appointed Special Advocates

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

### Channel Islands Social Services

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

### California Youth Connection

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

### Hope 4 Kids Festival & Run

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

### Kids & Families Together

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

### VC Foster Parent Association

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

### Dark to Dawn

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

### James Storehouse

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

### Women of Substance, Men of Honor

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

### Interface Children & Family Services

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

### Aspiranet

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

### Casa Pacifica

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

### Koinonia Family Services

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

### National Foster Parent Association

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

### TEACH Fund Scholarship

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

### VC Office of Education Foster Care Services

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

### Neighborhoods for Learning

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

### Child Development Resources

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

### Rainbow Connection Family Resource Center

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

### Macaroni Kid

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

### Parent Click

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

## On-Line Training Resources

### California Just in Time Training

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

### Cenpatico U

<http://www.cenpaticoU.com>

### Foster Care & Adoptive Community

<http://fosterparents.com/>

### Foster Parent College <http://www.fosterparentcollege.com/>

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

### Foster Club

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

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