



the foster
NETWORK

December/January

'Tis the Season!

The Children's Services Auxiliary is an important resource to Ventura County's foster youth. Throughout the year they provide financial and material support to children and their caregivers to enhance healthy, positive social-emotional and physical development. For information about their reimbursement programs, please contact **Elisa Carreno** at **805.289.1926**.

Holiday Toy Store

In partnership with Children & Family Services, the CSA organizes a county wide toy drive effort that enables them to host a holiday store. Foster parents & relative caregivers are offered the opportunity to do free holiday shopping for the youth in their care! This year the holiday toy store will be open to families with court-dependent children in their care on December 14th and December 18th through December 22nd. **In order to enter the toy store, you will need a voucher that can be obtained from your children's social worker.** You will be assigned a shopping day and time when you are given your voucher. Please contact the Children's Services Auxiliary at **805.654.3245** for questions regarding the Holiday Toy Store or if you have been unable to connect with your child(ren)'s social worker to obtain a voucher.

Holiday Celebration on December 6th!

The CSA will also be hosting a holiday party for children and their families on Saturday, December 6th from 11 am to 1 pm at the Elks Lodge in Oxnard! This celebration includes lunch, arts and crafts, giveaways, and a photo with Santa. You should have received a flyer with all the details! For more information and to RSVP, contact **Victoria Camacho** on the Children's Services Auxiliary line at **805.654.3245**.

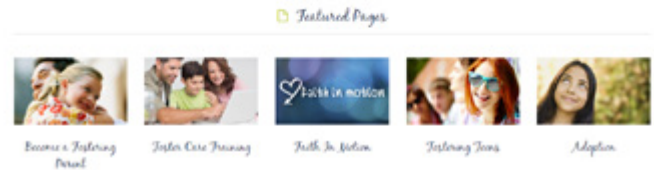


CFS Contacts

Recruitment, Retention, & Support Info Line	654-3220	General Info Emergency Response Units	654-3444
RDS Manager	654-5594	General Info Ongoing Unit	240-2700
Licensing	955-2274	General Info East County	955-2290
Relative Approval	654-3214	General Information Central Programs	654-3405
Placement	654-3211 or 654-3212	Children's Services Auxiliary (CSA)	654-3245
Adoptions	385-9158	CSA Reimbursements Case Aide	289-1926
Youth Services Division	385-9146	Field Based Case Aides	654-3449
Rx for Kids Public Health Program	981-5373	ILP Coordinators	385-9114
Children's Health & Disability Prevention Nurse	654-5536	Eligibility Officer of the Day	654-3409

Foster VC Kids

You may have noticed that foster care in Ventura County has recently adopted a new logo! Our new efforts extend much deeper than this new logo. The Foster VC Kids team is embarking upon a new educational and marketing campaign to raise more awareness about the critical need for more high quality foster homes. It is our hope that our community will become educated about what foster care is all about and how quality care impacts us all. This new effort also includes continuing to improve and develop support for all caregivers, growing our caregiver support team with the addition of new staff, and increase communication between the agency, our partners, and our caregivers. As part of this effort we will be launching a new website that will include information for prospective foster parents, will provide easy access to resource partners in the community, and has been designed to be a one-stop shop of information about all things foster care. So stay tuned for the new fostervckids.org which is coming soon!



Ventura County Children & Family Services

Notes from our Nurses

Although there has been a lot of news lately regarding the Ebola Virus, Enterovirus D68 or EV-D68 has been much more common and problematic. EV-D68 is a non-polio enterovirus that can cause mild to severe respiratory illness. Although there have been reports of EV-D68 every year, this year the number of reported cases has been much higher than in previous years. Almost all of the confirmed cases have been among children, many of whom had asthma or a history of wheezing.

Symptoms can range from mild to severe and can include fever, runny nose, sneezing, cough, body and muscle aches to wheezing and difficulty breathing especially in children with a history of asthma. The virus is found in respiratory secretions and is spread when an infected person coughs, sneezes or touches a surface that is then touched by others.



Parents and care providers should seek medical attention immediately for children who are having any difficulty breathing (wheezing, difficulty speaking or eating, blueness around the lips), particularly if the child suffers from asthma. There is no specific treatment for EV-D68 nor is there a vaccine to prevent it.

The best way to prevent transmission of enteroviruses is to:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid kissing, hugging and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or shirt sleeve, not your hands
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick

Additional information on EV-D68 can be found on the CDC website
www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/ev-d68.html

Supporting Children during the Holidays

The holidays can be a challenging time for children who are separated from their families. While the care you provide them is critical in helping them heal, the holidays can serve as a reminder for the losses the child has suffered. Here are some tips to support you in helping the child maintain ties to his birth family:

- *Invite* the child to pick a special side dish for holiday meals that may represent something he had as part of his celebrations with his birth family.
- *Work* with your child's social worker to connect with the birth family about having a gift or card from them during gift giving celebrations.
- *Ask* children about customs or rituals they would like to observe in your home.
- *Share* holiday photos of the child with birth families.
- *Bake* holiday cookies or other goodies for the child to take to visits with family members.
- *Allow* for extra phone calls and letter writing between children and their families.
- *Ask* your child if they would like to get her family members a gift and encourage homemade gifts from the child.



Foster Youth School Enrollment

When enrolling a foster child in school, please remember to let the registrar know that you are enrolling a foster child. Schools are offered additional funds when they serve foster youth and informing the school you are caring for a child in the foster care system will allow schools to better meet the needs of foster youth in the educational setting. For any challenges with enrollment or accessing specialized services, please contact the Ventura County Office of Education's Foster Youth Services team at 805.437.1525 or fys@vcoe.org.



Kudos Corner

We love to spread the word about the amazing care our foster and relative caregivers offer to children during extremely difficult times. Social Worker Melyssa Markloff recently shared this story about a foster family she has been working with:

“ [These foster parents] have been absolutely fantastic. They currently have placement of one of my clients and we are moving forward with a recommendation of adoption for them. However, in recent weeks Family Finding located [relatives] who are interested in a relationship with the child. [This family has] been open to having those relationships and have actually put the family at ease! The [relative] called to say how he was so happy to be able to know that his nephew was in a ‘good home with great people.’ [The family is] even working with the [relative] to have a “meet and greet” where he will meet his [the child] for the first time. The [foster family has] gone above and beyond to have familial connections for this child. I am so happy I was able to work with them and hope we can have more positive experiences like this one. I am truly blown away by their commitment to this child and their complete dedication to permanency while not cutting off any biological connections. ”

RDS is growing!

The RDS team added three new Recruitment, Development, & Support Specialists in October! Our newest team members are:

Tami Barnett has worked the last 10 years as a lawyer in Child Welfare & Family Law. She is also the founding director of Hope4Kids, a local non-profit which raises funds for children in foster care through an annual race in Ventura County. Last year, Hope4Kids raised \$40,000 to support resources for foster children and caregivers. She departs from her legal career in order to focus upon her passion for identifying and securing resources and support for children in care and recruiting quality caregivers. Tami can be reached at **805.289.1950** or **tami.barnett@ventura.org**.

Cynthia Hutchison formerly worked as a Health Policy Project Director with Ventura County Public Health. Cynthia now joins us from Sacramento, where she worked as the Sacramento County Child Protective Services Community Liaison and Volunteer Coordinator with the Child Abuse Prevention Center. In these roles, Cynthia provided outreach and support to foster caregivers and recruited, trained and managed volunteers for community outreach and education activities regarding the needs of children in foster care. Cynthia also worked as an FKCE trainer through the America River College, developing and facilitating courses on behavioral management and child rearing practices with children in foster care. Cynthia is also an experience foster caregiver. Cynthia can be reached at **805.289.1983** or **Cynthia.hutchison@ventura.org**.

Vicky Gonzales is a local Ventura County resident and joins RDS from Ventura County Public Health where she worked as a Community Services Coordinator responsible for coordinating the county's \$500k Center for Disease Control's Community Transformation Grant. Vicky is highly successful in engaging partners and coalitions to address health disparities through the county, training and recruiting community members in partnership activities, and mobilizing community members for advocacy, education, community building and empowerment activities. Vicky served as the Executive Director of the Coalition for Community Development, serving specifically the needs of the La Colonia Neighborhood in Oxnard. Vicky also brings knowledge as an experienced foster caregiver, and is bilingual in English and Spanish. She can be reached at **805.289.1956** or **Victoria.gonzales@ventura.org**.

Tax Time

As a foster or relative caregiver, you are eligible to claim the children in your care on your income taxes if they have been with your for at least 6 months and 1 day. You will be asked to sign an acknowledgment that you are receiving confidential information that will only be used for income tax purposes. Please remember that the RDS team members are not tax experts and cannot offer consultation or support in answering tax related questions. Please contact **Elisa.carreno@ventura.org** or at **805.289.1926** for verification of the dates a child was in your care and his/her social security number.

Attention Kinship Caregivers

Kinship caregivers are eligible to participate in a study to help the county and iFoster evaluate how well the portal is working for our caregivers. Caregivers that decide to participate will receive a total of \$75 in gift cards for completing three surveys. Families that opt in to complete the surveys will also be entered into a drawing for a trip to Disneyland (up to 5 family members). Visit iFoster.org to register and participate in the study. Please contact **Nisaa Kirtman** at **415.682.3017** for more information about the study!



Filling in the Gaps Resource Corner

James Store House

James Store House is a local non-profit that can provide material goods to caregivers and transition age youth in the foster care system. Hollow Hills Elementary School has recently hosted a clothing drive and provided new and gently used clothes to James Store House. Clothing is available in all sizes. If you have a child in your care that needs new clothes, please visit James Store House at 3541 Old Conejo Road, #117, Newbury Park, CA 91320 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am-2pm or contact them at jamesstorehouse@gmail.com to schedule an alternative time.

Utility Assistance

Did you know that you might be eligible for a lower rate on your gas and electric bill through the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) and Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) programs? If you or someone in your home is benefiting from the following programs you may be eligible: Medi-Cal / Medicaid, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), CalWORKs (TANF) or Tribal TANF, CalFresh (Food Stamps), National School Lunch Program (NSLP), or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Families may receive up to 20% off their gas bills through So Cal Gas and up to 30% off your Edison bill! Home owner and renters that receive utility bills through their landlords are eligible. For information on the Edison FERA program and to download an application, visit Edison FERA Program or call **800.447.6620**. For information on the So Cal Gas CARE program visit So Cal Gas CARE program or call **877.238.0092** (English) or **800.342.4545** (Español).

First Aid & CPR Recertification

Is your First Aid and/or CPR about to expire? Did you know that in order to remain in compliance with your licensing requirements you need to have current First Aid & CPR certifications? If yours are about to expire, you may contact Jason_lee5@vcccd.edu for information about recertification classes in the East County. RDS is hopeful that there will be increased opportunities for recertification classes in the West County so stay tuned for updates!

Welcome Back Team Decision Making/Family Meetings!

We are excited to bring back Team Decision Making (TDM)/ Family Meetings to Ventura County, as part of our commitment to the Quality Parenting Initiative. The purpose is to bring together families, caregivers, service providers and Children and Family Services Staff (CFS) to work as a team to come to an agreement on the placement of the child and/or to make a Safety/Action Plan to protect the child and preserve or reunify the family. TDM/Family Meetings offer all parties connected with the child(children) to come together to participate in the decision making process and function as a critical partnership of care.

TDM/Family Meetings are based on the belief that children need a family, families need strong nurturing communities, and Children and Family Services can best help families by partnering with their communities.

Over the next couple of months, Children and Family Services staff and community partners will be providing training to Caregivers, CFS staff and service providers on the benefits of TDM/family meetings. See our **"What's Goin' On"** training schedule for upcoming TDM overview dates. If you think your family can benefit from a TDM/Family Meeting, please contact your social worker or one of our RDS staff. For more information about TDMs, please visit vcportal.ventura.org/HSA/docs/brochures/pdf/TeamDecisionmaking.pdf.

Aspiranet is Moving!

Stay tuned for a holiday open house at 5284 Adolfo Rd., Suite 100, Camarillo, 93010.



What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

Opportunities to *learn, grow,* AND receive training credit!

CSA Holiday Party

*Saturday, December 6th 11:00 am -1:00pm
801 South A Street, Oxnard*

Join the CSA in ringing in the Holidays. The CSA will provide lunch, arts and crafts, and other entertainment! Please RSVP by November 29th. Contact the Children's Services Auxiliary at **805.654.3245** or email csa@ventura.org to RSVP or for more information.

Communication Foster Parent Training with Arrow Child & Family Ministries

*Saturday, December 6th, 8:30 am-11:30 am
4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., West Wing
Conference Room, Camarillo*

Arrow Child & Family Ministries has opened their training opportunities to all current caregivers! Please contact Julie Carroll at **805.482.1756 ext. 1756** or julie.carroll@arrow.org for more information or to RSVP.

Separation, Grief, & Loss Foster Parent Training with Arrow Child & Family Ministries

*Saturday, December 6th, 12:30 pm-3:30 pm
4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., West Wing
Conference Room, Camarillo*

Part of being a fostering parent is fostering a loving connection with the child in your care. It can be very painful when a child returns to their parents or to another family member, even for the best of reasons. Arrow Child & Family Ministries has opened their training opportunities to all current caregivers and will be addressing grief and loss involved in foster parenting. Please contact **Julie Carroll** at **805.482.1756 ext. 1756** or julie.carroll@arrow.org for more information or to RSVP.

TEACH and Other Scholarship Opportunities for Foster Youth

*Monday, December 8th 6:30-8:00pm
Ventura County Office of Education
5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo*

Current or former foster youth have unique scholarship opportunities available just for them! This informational session for care providers and youth will provide information about the TEACH scholarship and other VCCF scholarships available to Ventura County foster youth who plan to attend college or vocational training in the Fall of 2015. Please join us at 6pm for a light dinner (you MUST pre-register). RSVP to rcarlson@vcccd.edu



Foster 

VC Kids

Ventura County Children & Family Services

What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

Child Maltreatment Foster Parent Training with Arrow Child & Family Ministries

Monday, December 8th, 6:00 pm-9:00 pm, 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., West Wing Conference Room, Camarillo

Children in foster care have experienced different degrees of maltreatment, pain and loss. Learn more about being a trauma informed parent. Arrow Child & Family Ministries has opened their training opportunities to all current caregivers! Please contact **Julie Carroll** at **805.482.1756 ext. 1756** or **julie.carroll@arrow.org** for more information or to RSVP.

Positive Moments

*Monday, December 8th, 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Moorpark College Fountain Hall*

Take a look into the little moments, actions, and gestures that can make a big impact on foster youth. Exploring own behaviors can create an awareness of the effect we have on others both positive and negative and lead us change ourselves for the better through the experience. Please RSVP to Wendy Homan at **homanwendy@aol.com**.

Connecting & Correcting Foster Parent Training with Arrow Child & Family Ministries

*Wednesday, December 10th, 6:00 pm -9:00 pm
4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., West Wing
Conference Room, Camarillo*

Arrow Child & Family Ministries has opened their training opportunities to all current caregivers! Please contact Julie Carroll at **805.482.1756 ext. 1756** or **julie.carroll@arrow.org** for more information or to RSVP.

CSA Holiday Toy Store Foster Shopping Days

*Sunday, December 14th 1:00pm- 4:00pm pm
or December 18th- December 20th 5:00 pm-8:00 pm
or December 21st 1:00 pm- 4:00 pm
or December 22nd 5:00 pm- 8:00 pm*

Families caring for court-dependent children can receive a voucher from their child's social worker to shop at the holiday toy store. Families will be assigned a specific shopping day. For more information, call the Children's Services Auxiliary at **805.654.3245**.

Movie Time "Healthy Touch" Foster Parent Training with Arrow Child & Family Ministries

*Monday, December 15th, 12:00 pm-1:00 pm
4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., West Wing
Conference Room, Camarillo*

Arrow Child & Family Ministries has opened their training opportunities to all current caregivers! Please contact Julie Carroll at **805.482.1756 ext. 1756** or **julie.carroll@arrow.org** for more information or to RSVP.

Baby Basics

*Monday, December 15th, 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Mariana's in Simi Valley (RSVP for directions please)*

Participants will discuss developmental needs and characteristics of infants; identify variations on those needs depending on the special needs of the at-risk infant; explore ways of addressing the needs of the infant that will support secure attachment and developmental growth; and learn methods of self-care to better support family health during the infancy stage. Please RSVP to **Jason_lee5@vcccd.edu**. Facilitator: Mariana Abarta



What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

East County Foster Parent Networking

Friday, December 12th, 9:00am – 11:00am
2080 Winifred St., Simi Valley (Cornerstone Church)

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. Please RSVP to Facilitator **Wendy Homan** at homanwendy@aol.com

Regulations & Documentation Foster Parent Training with Arrow Child & Family Ministries

Wednesday, December 17th, 6:00 pm-9:00 pm
4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., West Wing
Conference Room, Camarillo

Arrow Child & Family Ministries has opened their training opportunities to all current caregivers! Please contact Julie Carroll at **805.482.1756 ext. 1756** or julie.carroll@arrow.org for more information or to RSVP.

Camarillo Foster Parent Networking "Foster Talk"

Tuesday, December 16th, 9:30 am-11:00 am
1313 Avenida de Aprisa, Camarillo

A "mom's morning" to network and meet with other foster parents, receive support and information about navigating the child welfare system. Sponsored by Defending the Fatherless and Calvary Nexus. For more info, visit defendingthefatherless.net. Please note there will be no meeting in January. This networking group offers a Christian perspective. All are welcome.

The Art of Communication

Thursday, December 18th, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm
RSVP for location

Join the CASA team for a presentation on the art of communication. Contact Bernadette to RSVP or for more info Bernadette@casaoventuracounty.org.

Bring it to the Table

Thursday, December 19th, 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Moorpark College Fountain Hall

A round table, town hall style, workshop bringing seasoned and new foster parents together to discuss new issues and solve old problems. We will also chat about new policies, techniques and services available to our providers. Please RSVP to **Wendy Homan** at homanwendy@aol.com.

Behavior Support Management Foster Parent Training with Arrow Child & Family Ministries

Monday, December 22nd, 6:00 pm-9:00 pm, 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., West Wing Conference Room, Camarillo

Arrow Child & Family Ministries has opened their training opportunities to all current caregivers! Please contact Julie Carroll at **805.482.1756 ext. 1756** or julie.carroll@arrow.org for more information or to RSVP.



What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

FAFSA and Chafee: Understanding Financial Aid available to Foster Youth

Thursday, January 8th 6:30-8:00pm (arrive at 6pm for pizza- you MUST pre-register)

Current or former foster youth have a lot of financial aid available to them simply by filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) This informational session for care providers and youth (current high school seniors, graduates or college students) will provide information and hand-on help in filling the forms that will help youth pay for college in the Fall of 2015. Pre-registration is required by January 6th so that parking permits can be arranged. RSVP to rcarlson@vcccd.edu

East County Foster Parent Networking

Friday, January 9th, 9:00am – 11:00am
2080 Winifred St., Simi Valley (Cornerstone Church)

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. This month's meeting will include a presentation and training on our new roll out of the Team Decision Making (TDM) process. Please RSVP to Facilitator **Wendy Homan** at homanwendy@aol.com

Baby Basics

Monday, January 12th, 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Mariana's in Simi Valley (RSVP for directions please)

Participants will discuss developmental needs and characteristics of infants; identify variations on those needs depending on the special needs of the at-risk infant; explore ways of addressing the needs of the infant that will support secure attachment and developmental growth; and learn methods of self-care to better support family health during the infancy stage. Facilitator: Mariana Abarta. Please RSVP to Jason_lee5@vcccd.edu.

VCFPA General Membership Meeting

Thursday, January 15th, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm
Location TBD

The Ventura County Foster Parent Association holds bi-monthly meetings with topical discussion and training opportunities on the 3rd Thursday of the odd numbered months. Please contact them at **805.285.3790** or rick@vcfpa.com for more information and the location of the upcoming meeting. January's meeting will include a presentation and discussion about TDMs.

Balancing Love and Discipline

Thursday, January 21st, 6:30 pm-9:00pm
71 Day Road Ventura, Large Training Room

Participants will discuss developmental needs and characteristics of infants; identify variations on those needs depending on the special needs of the at-risk infant; explore ways of addressing the needs of the infant that will support secure attachment and developmental growth; and learn methods of self-care to better support family health during the infancy stage. Facilitator: Mariana Abarta. Please RSVP to Jason_lee5@vcccd.edu.

West County Foster Parent Networking

Tuesday, January 27th, 6:00pm – 8:00 pm, location TBD

An opportunity to receive updated information as to changes related to foster care, receive support from your foster parent peers, and earn training hours! This month's meeting will include a presentation and training on our new roll out of the Team Decision Making (TDM) process. Please RSVP to **Angelina** at Angelina.mccormick-soll@ventura.org.

West County Foster Parent Networking

Wednesday, January 28th, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, location TBD

An opportunity to receive updated information as to changes related to foster care, receive support from your foster parent peers, and earn training hours! This month's meeting will include a presentation and training on our new roll out of the Team Decision Making (TDM) process. Please RSVP to **Cynthia** at cynthia.hutchison@ventura.org. Contact Channel Islands Social Services at **805.384.0983** to register for childcare.

Professional Foster Parents

Thursday, January 29th, 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Moorpark College Fountain Hall

This class is designed to aid in the refinement of foster parents to be seen and respected as professionals. Tips are given on how to manage the process of foster parenting. This training will also help Foster Parents in becoming familiar with the role of a foster parent, the role of the Social worker, the benefits of teamwork and effective communication within the foster care system. Please RSVP to **Wendy Homan** at homanwendy@aol.com. Contact Channel Islands Social Services at **805.384.0983** to register for childcare.

What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

Foster Care and College Series

A series of classes involving presentations about the FAFSA and career counseling with Moorpark College staff and a presentation about resources available to foster youth pursuing a college education with Devon Werble of the John Burton Foundation. Please contact **Jason Lee** at Jason_lee5@vcccd.edu for more details.

Handling Power Struggles

2.5 hour workshop – January or February

Day Road Center, 71 Day Road Ventura, Large Training Room

Power struggles happen every day in every home, between children and parents, siblings, spouses, co-workers and at work. It is the main misbehavior of childhood that we never stop doing into adulthood. Learn how to recognize and disengage from a power struggle and learn the eight steps to take to disengage when you are in the midst of one. Also learn how to lessen or prevent power struggles in the future. These methods are appropriate for use with children of all ages, even those who come in “adult” bodies! If you are interested in attending this class series, please contact **Rhonda Carlson** at rcarlson@vcccd.edu to provide input on dates & locations. Trainer: Stephanie Main-Bell, M.A.

Positive Discipline for Preschoolers

6 weeks for 2 hours each- 12 hours

total (late January, early Feb)

West County Location TBD

Caring for young children is one of the most difficult tasks an adult will ever face. No matter how much you love your child, there will be moments filled with frustration, anger, even desperation. And of course, there will be many questions. Join long-time parenting instructor, Stephanie Main Bell, as she guides you through the Positive Discipline curriculum that has been helping millions of parents for many years. Each participant/couple will receive the book Positive Discipline for Preschoolers by Jane Nelson. Throughout the course you will learn how to use kind and firm methods to raise a child who is responsible, respectful and resourceful. You will be given practical solutions to things such as potty training, sleeping, and tantrums. If you are interested in attending this class series, please contact Rhonda Carlson at rcarlson@vcccd.edu to provide input on dates & locations. Trainer: Stephanie (Main) Bell, MA

Free Training at Casa Pacifica

Casa Pacifica hosts free training for caregivers of children in foster care. To view the most updated event listings, visit www.eventbrite.com/o/casa-pacific-centers-for-children-and-families-254246353.

Upcoming Informational Sessions for Prospective Foster Parents

In-person at 855 Partridge Dr. Ventura: Tuesday January 6th , 6:00 pm-8:00 pm and Tuesday January 27th , 6:00 pm-8:00 pm Online at www.vchsa.org/foster

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

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

Oxnard Resource Group

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

Ventura Resource Group

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

Simi Valley Resource Group

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

Thousand Oaks Resource Group

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

Foster Care Snapshot:

The Critical Need Continues...

In the Month of August: A total of **1,242** cases were open with CFS.
36 new cases were referred and **35** cases were closed.
320 children were in foster care placements.
110 children remained in group homes or at Casa Pacifica.
353 children were in kinship/relative care placements.
We welcomed **3** new foster homes into the CFS family!

Please help us spread the word about the need for quality foster homes! Remember, foster parents are eligible to receive an incentive of **\$100** for referring a family once they complete the licensing process and an additional **\$100** once a child is placed in the new foster family's home! Contact your licensing analyst for more information!



Useful Links

County of Ventura Foster Parents

www.vchsa.org/foster

iFoster

www.ifoster.org

CFS Independent Living Program

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

Children's Services Auxiliary

www.csavc.org

CASA: Court Appointed Special Advocates

www.casaofventuracounty.org/

Channel Islands Social Services

www.islandsocialservices.org/

California Youth Connection

www.cal-youthconn.org/

Kids & Families Together

www.kidsandfamilies.org/

VC Foster Parent Association

www.vcfpa.com/

Dark to Dawn

www.darktodawn.org/

James Storehouse

www.jamesstorehouse.org/

Women of Substance, Men of Honor

www.wosmohinc.com/

Interface Children & Family Services

www.icfs.org

Aspiranet

www.aspiranet.org/

Arrow Child & Family Ministries

www.arrow.org/

Casa Pacifica

www.casapacifica.org/

Koinonia Family Services

www.kfh.org/

National Foster Parent Association

www.nfpaonline.org/

TEACh Fund Scholarship

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

VC Office of Education Foster Care Services

www.vcoe.org/spes/FosterYouthServices.aspx

Neighborhoods for Learning

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

Child Development Resources

www.childdevelopmentresources.org/

Rainbow Connection Family Resource Center

www.rainbowconnectionfrc.weebly.com/

Macaroni Kid

www.camarillo.macaronikid.com/

Parent Click

www.ventura-ca.parentclick.com/

On-Line Training Resources

Foster Care & Adoptive Community

www.fosterparents.com/

Department of Washington Social and Health Services

www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/onGoingVid.asp

Foster Parent College

www.fosterparentcollege.com/

Florida's Just in Time Training

www.jitfl.cbcs.usf.edu/

Foster Club

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