



# the foster NETWORK

October/November 2014

## Annual Foster Parent Conference What All Children Need: Unconditional Commitment

Children and Family Services, in partnership with our local foster family agencies and resource partners, is excited to announce that we will be hosting our annual Fall Conference and Resource Fair for all interested in learning more about the needs of vulnerable children in care.

We all know that stability is a critical component to supporting children in healing from their traumatic experiences. This conference will open a dialog about how we can create stability for children in care and overcome challenges that compromise that stability.

Pat O'Brien, founder of You Gotta Believe!, an acclaimed organization with some of the highest permanency rates in the country, is the keynote speaker. He will speak to us about what he calls "Unconditional Commitment". He will also teach us how to engage our youth and use laughter to connect with children and care for ourselves. For more information on Pat O'Brien and You Gotta Believe!, please visit [yougottabelieve.org](http://yougottabelieve.org).

We will have a facilitated panel discussion of youth who were formerly in care. They will share their insights about the importance of stability and permanency, and the challenges that youth face when they are unable to form stable, long-term relationships with caring adults.

The conference will also include lunch, resource fair, and an engaging childcare program. Interpretation/translation services will be available.

*Saturday, October 25th*  
8:30- 4:00pm with lunch included

*Free Admission!*  
*Free Child Care for all ages*  
**Foster Children: Register with  
Channel Islands Social Services -  
PH: 805-384 -0983**  
**Register all other children through  
Eventbrite**

*Location*  
**500 High Point Dr., Ventura, CA 93003  
(Ventura Missionary Church),  
Willet Center**

*Register*  
**[whataallchildrenneed.eventbrite.com](http://whataallchildrenneed.eventbrite.com)**

### CFS Contacts

Recruitment, Retention, & Support Info Line	654-3220	Children's Health & Disability Prevention Nurse	654-5536
RRS Recruitment & Retention Specialist	654-5582	General Info Emergency Response Units	654-3444
RRS Manager	654-5594	General Info Ongoing Unit	240-2700
Licensing	955-2290	General Info East County	955-2290
Relative Approval	654-3422	General Information Central Programs	654-3405
Placement	654-3211	Children's Service Auxiliary Case Aid	289-1926
Adoptions	385-9158	Field Based Case Aides	289-1989 or 654-3449
Youth Services Division	385-9146	ILP Coordinators	385-9114 or 385-9143
Rx for Kids Public Health Program	981-5373	Eligibility Officer of the Day	654-3409

# Connecting with Birth Families During the Holidays

Believe it or not, the holiday season is just around the corner! Spending holidays apart can be very difficult for the children and their birth families. This time of year presents itself as an important time for supporting children's connections to their birth families! Please be sure to talk to the child's social worker about how to best support those connections in an appropriate manner.

## Here are just a few ideas:

- *Send along a photo of your child in his/her Halloween costume to the next visit with his/her parents.*
- *Work with your child to create holiday cards or homemade gifts that he/she can give to family members.*
- *If a sibling set has been separated, connect with the other caregivers to facilitate a special holiday meal or visit.*
- *Ask the child what he/she did in the past to celebrate the holidays and try to integrate some of his/her family rituals into your own celebrations.*
- *Allow for extra phone calls during the holidays to help ease the grief of being apart.*

Some foster parents have fear or concern about engaging the child's parents. If you need support, please contact our RRS team. We want to help you find a way for meaningful engagement, as the children in your care seek to remain connected with their parents.



## ***iFoster Kinship & Foster Navigator***

The iFoster Kinship and Foster Navigator is a new, online resource portal that is available to local foster caregivers, kinship caregivers (formal and informal), organizations supporting foster and/or kinship caregivers, and transitionaged youth. The Ventura County portal includes local partners who can offer support and resource linkage to youth and caregivers, local and national retail discounts, and free services to support youth and families. Just a few examples of accessible resources include free online tutoring and homework help through **Live Homework Help**, discounted driver's training through **Driversed.com**, and low cost orthodontics through **Smiles Change Lives**. To register, visit [ifoster.org](http://ifoster.org) and complete the short registration process. If you have questions about registering, you can contact iFoster directly at **855-936-7837**.

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

Is a child in your care struggling with attachment difficulties? Are you concerned that this child is not thriving in your care? Kids & Families Together offers the Support, Education, & Training program, an 18 week clinical intervention to address underlying attachment difficulties that may be impacting the child's behavior. This program can help you understand the reasons behind your child's challenges, build on the connection you have already formed, and offer you positive solutions to addressing behavior challenges. If you are interested in being referred, please contact your child's county social worker or a member of the Recruitment, Retention, & Support Team.

## ***Peer Partner & Educator (PPE) Program***

Kids & Families Together offers both a foster parent and kinship caregiver Peer Partner & Educator program. These programs seek to utilize successful caregivers as guides and educators for new foster parents and kinship caregivers. The PPE programs provide education & support services that aid in accessing resources, as well as emotional support through a Ventura County Collaborative. PPEs work closely with caregivers in the first 6 months of a child(ren) being placed, but remain available to offer support during your entire time as a caregiver in Ventura County. If you are a new foster parent and haven't been matched with a PPE or can't remember who your assigned PPE is, you can contact Carrie McAuliffe at [cmcauliffe@kidsandfamilies.org](mailto:cmcauliffe@kidsandfamilies.org). If you are a kinship caregiver, you can contact Jeni Futvoye at [jfutvoye@kidsandfamilies.org](mailto:jfutvoye@kidsandfamilies.org).

# What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

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

## Attachment Parenting Series

**Wednesday, October 1st (through Oct. 29th)**  
**6:00pm -9:00pm (5 Wednesday Evenings),**  
**71 Day Road, Ventura, Large Training Room**

Have you been frustrated with your child's poor response to traditional discipline? Traditional discipline methods rely on a solid attachment, so perhaps your child's compromised attachment history is to blame. Attachment Parenting is uniquely based on the following framework: attachment needs to come first; meeting needs is the path to attachment and attachment yields motivation. This 15 hour workshop series is an interactive curriculum that engages all your senses, and is facilitated by Stephanie Main-Bell, M.A. It will help you shift your thinking and learn different ways of addressing the parent/child relationship, all based on connection. Expect to have fun while you learn. For more information or to pre-register email [rcarlson@vcccd.edu](mailto:rcarlson@vcccd.edu).

## Empowered to Connect Parent Training

**Friday, October 3rd, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm,**  
**1322 Las Posas Road, Camarillo**

Empowered to Connect Parent Training sponsored by Camarillo Community Church. This 9 week training is taught from a Christian perspective and is designed as a learning experience for adoptive and foster parents. This training will equip parents with empower you with tools to meet those needs, build trust and help your children heal and grow. There is a materials fee of \$50 and childcare will be available with advance registration. Contact Julie Carroll at **(805) 797-0863** or [juliecarroll4@gmail.com](mailto:juliecarroll4@gmail.com).

## Child Development Resource hosts "Celebrating the Child"

**Sunday, October 5th, 11:00 am-4:00 pm, Camarillo**  
**Ranch House, 201 Camarillo Ranch Road, Camarillo**

Free Activities, entertainment, food and more! Tickets are limited. Please call **(805) 485-7878 ext 1365** to request yours!

## Ventura School District Story Fest

**Saturday, October 11th, 9:00 am-2:00 pm,**  
**255 W. Stanley Avenue, Ventura**

This free event features story-telling, book giveaways, musical activities, Truckfest (an opportunity for children to get up close and touch trucks and a fire engine), and plenty of fun. The event is presented by the Ventura Educational Partnership and Ventura Neighborhoods for Learning.

## Camarillo Foster Parent Networking: "Foster Talk"

**Tuesday, October 14th, 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](http://defendingthefatherless.net). Please note that meetings will be held the 3rd Tuesday of the month until January. This networking group offers a Christian perspective. All are welcome.

## Help your Appointee (or foster child) Finance and Prepare for College

**Thursday, October 16th, 10am-12pm or 6 pm-8pm, Location given at time of registration**

This training is sponsored by the CASA of Ventura County. To register, email [Bernadette@casaofventuracounty.org](mailto:Bernadette@casaofventuracounty.org) or call **(805) 389-3120**.

## Ventura Foster Parent Networking

**Wednesday, October 22nd, 10:00 am-12:00pm, 500**  
**High Point Dr., Ventura (Ventura Missionary 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 shared. Please RSVP to Debbie Flowers at [debbieflowers@vcccd.edu](mailto:debbieflowers@vcccd.edu).



Ventura County Children & Family Services

# What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

## What All Children Need: Unconditional Commitment

*Saturday, October 25th, 8:30am - 4:00pm,  
500 High Point Dr., Ventura (Ventura Missionary Church)*

Join CFS and our partners in a daylong conference with Pat O'Brien, founder of You Gotta Believe! Mr. O'Brien will address what it means to make an unconditional commitment to children, and how to overcome barriers to making that commitment. He will also be speaking on the importance of laughter in the face of great challenge. The conference will also include a resource fair, catered lunch and a panel discussion. Childcare will be provided. 6 training credit hours provided. Register at [whatalchildrenneed.eventbrite.com](http://whatalchildrenneed.eventbrite.com)

## The Great Pumpkin Roll

*Saturday, October 25th, 2:45pm - 7:00pm,  
1851 Terrace Dr. Ventura  
(Home of Supervisor Steve Bennett and his wife, Leslie)*

Please join Supervisor Bennett and his wife for an afternoon of pumpkin carving, pumpkin bowling and pumpkin catapulting. Sup. Bennett and his wife will also be providing drinks and a main course for dinner. Families are asked to bring a side dish. This event has limited capacity so please RSVP early to [cruz.benitez@ventura.org](mailto:cruz.benitez@ventura.org).

## Ventura Foster Parent Networking

*Tuesday, October 28th, 6:00pm - 8:00pm, 500 High Point Dr., Ventura (Ventura Missionary 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 shared. Please RSVP to Debbie Flowers at [debbieflores@vcccd.edu](mailto:debbieflores@vcccd.edu).

## Juvenile Dependency Team Discussion Panel

*Thursday, October 30th, 6:00pm - 8:30pm,  
Location given at time of registration*

This training is sponsored by the CASA of Ventura County. To register, email [Bernadette@casaofventuracounty.org](mailto:Bernadette@casaofventuracounty.org) or call (805) 389-3120.

## Road to Independence

*Saturday, November 1st, 8:30am - 12:30pm,  
1722 S. Lewis Road Camarillo*

Casa Pacifica's Coaching Independence in Transitional Youth (CITY) program will be hosting a pretend city for transitional age youth ages 14-18 in the Casa Pacifica gymnasium. The event will occur November 1, 2014. It will begin at 8:30AM and end at 1:30PM. There will be eighteen booths for you to participate in, including a courthouse, apartment rentals, grocery store, survival station, bank, credit counseling, education, employment, health care, social services, transitional housing, transportation, and many more. There will be prizes and a raffle along with lunch served. Come and learn what's waiting for you out in the adult world. For questions, contact Ray Franco at (805) 366-4141.

## Foster Parent Forum

*Thursday, November 6, 2014, 6:30pm - 8:30pm  
Pepper Tree Room, 855 Partridge Drive*

Join Deputy Director Judy Webber for her Fall Foster Parent Forum. This is an opportunity for foster and relative caregivers to learn more about upcoming changes, information sharing and new resources within Children and Family Services. Be part of the conversation to address quality parenting and improved partnership between CFS and caregivers. Registration is limited to 25 participants. Advanced reservations required. Please email [rcarlson@vcccd.edu](mailto:rcarlson@vcccd.edu). Childcare is available by contacting Channel Islands Social Services at 984-0983 by October 31st!



# What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

## Fostering Families Film Series sponsored by Ventura FKCE

*Saturday, November 8th, time TBD, 500 High Point Drive,  
Ventura (Ventura Missionary Church), Willet Room*

Join us, our FFA partners, and the FKCE program as we screen another film about the foster care system. After the film, we will have a guided discussion about issues raised by the film. Light snacks and movie goodies will be provided. Childcare will be provided to families who RSVP directly to Channel Islands Social Services at **(805) 384-0983**. To RSVP to this event, please contact Rhonda Carlson at [rcarlson@vcccd.edu](mailto:rcarlson@vcccd.edu). More information about the film and time will be sent to you closer to the event.

## Ventura Foster Parent Networking

*Wednesday, November 19th, 10:00am - 12:00pm,  
500 High Point Dr., Ventura (Ventura Missionary 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 shared. Please RSVP to Debbie Flowers at [debbieflowers@vcccd.edu](mailto:debbieflowers@vcccd.edu).

## Mental Health Advocacy

*Thursday, November 20th, 10:00 am-12:00  
pm Location given at time of registration*

This training is sponsored by the CASA of Ventura County. To register, email [Bernadette@casaofventuracounty.org](mailto:Bernadette@casaofventuracounty.org) or call **(805) 389-3120**.

## Ventura Foster Parent Networking

*Tuesday, November 25th, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm, 500 High  
Point Dr., Ventura (Ventura Missionary 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 shared. Please RSVP to Debbie Flowers at [debbieflowers@vcccd.edu](mailto:debbieflowers@vcccd.edu).

## TEACH and Other Scholarship Opportunities for Foster Youth (West County)

*Date/time TBD, likely late November/ Early December*

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 2014. Please join us for a light dinner and a presentation. Contact Rhonda Carlson at [rcarlson@vcccd.edu](mailto:rcarlson@vcccd.edu) for more information or to RSVP.

## 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 [eventbrite.com/o/casa-pacifica-centers-for-children-and-families-254246353](http://eventbrite.com/o/casa-pacifica-centers-for-children-and-families-254246353).

## 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](mailto: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 June:* A total of **1,244** cases were open with CFS.  
**42** new cases were referred and 46 cases were closed.  
**287** children were in foster care placements.  
**124** children remained in group homes or at Casa Pacifica.  
**357** children were in kinship/relative care placements.  
We welcomed **5** 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 info!



## ***Discounted Sports Activities!***

Platinum Sports Center is now offering discounted rates for foster children to participate in programs at their all-in-one sports facility. Beginning immediately, they are offering a monthly tuition fee of \$50. The regular price is \$80. Additionally, Platinum is offering to waive the registration fee altogether. The regular registration fee is \$45 per year (September – September). To be eligible for this special rate, you must present your AGENCY – FOSTER PARENTS AGREEMENT to the front reception, upon your first visit to register your child(ren). This special rate is per person and per program. You may not fax this form or email it. It must be provided in person.

***Platinum Sports Center***  
160 W. Cochran St. Simi Valley, CA 93065  
805.527.6662 • [platinumsportscenterus.com](http://platinumsportscenterus.com)

## ***Free Teddy Bear Giveaway Sponsored by Aspiranet***

Aspiranet has a limited amount of Prayers of Grace Teddy Bears with Grace & The Brown Bear Prayer Books. Please call Juana at **805-289-0120** if you would like to pick one up for a child in your care!



# November is National Adoption Month!

This year's theme is "Promoting & Supporting Sibling Connections." Sibling relationships are an important piece of stability in children's lives, especially during their time in foster care and post-adoption. In 2014, we have finalized 62 adoptions thus far! CFS wants to thank all of our adoptive families for giving children a forever home. To celebrate adoption month, CFS and our adoptions team will be hosting a variety of events. These include special recognition at the Board of Supervisors meeting, a special adoption day ceremony, and an adoption-focused fair. Please contact one of our adoption supervisors for more information. You can contact Emilia Pineda at 805-385-9153 or Martha Carrillo at 805-385-9154.



## Channel Islands Social Services Respite Care Program

Respite care is an important component to self-care. Families caring for children ages 9 and under or a child with special needs are automatically eligible for up to 12 hours of free childcare each month! To register, contact Channel Islands Social Services directly at 805-384-0983. Respite care providers can care for up to 4 children, including your own biological children. **Here are a few helpful reminders about the Respite Program:**

**Multiple caregivers** - If CISS has referred one of their respite caregivers to you and their availability has changed and/or you need a referral for a second or backup person, please contact Danielle Gallo at 805-384-0983 x853 or at [Danielle@IslandSocialServices.org](mailto:Danielle@IslandSocialServices.org). Channel Islands Social Services are always recruiting caregivers to meet the growing need, so please refer interested people to Danielle. The program pays \$13/hr plus mileage reimbursement. Foster parents are eligible.

**Changes in placements** - If you have had any changes in placements, CISS needs a simple 2 page form on file for each child in care. You can find that on CISS website's forms page or by clicking [here](#). It can be scanned and emailed over to Danielle Gallo or faxed at 805-384-0986. Please note this is required.

**Ages** - Families with children over age 9, or those who require more than 12 hours/month for a few months, should first contact their County Social Worker who can review and approve these requests on an individualized basis. They will contact CISS on your behalf to approve an increase.

### Useful Links

#### County of Ventura Foster Parents

[www.vchsa.org/foster](http://www.vchsa.org/foster)

#### 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/)

#### 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/)

#### Arrow Child & Family Ministries

[www.arrow.org/](http://www.arrow.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

#### Foster Care & Adoptive Community

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

#### Department of Washington Social and Health Services

[www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/onGoingVid.asp](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/onGoingVid.asp)

#### Foster Parent College

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

#### Florida's Just in Time Training

[www.jitfl.cbcs.usf.edu/](http://www.jitfl.cbcs.usf.edu/)

#### Foster Club

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