

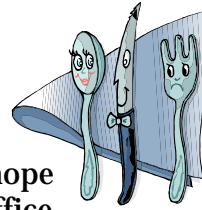


Foster Family Service Newsletter

Appreciation Dinner in May!

May is Foster Parent Appreciation Month. As is the Agency custom, we will be hosting a celebration dinner. New this year we will be hosting this event in only one central location, rather than three separate events. We have reserved a lovely community center in Sacramento, near the Arden Fair Mall and major freeways for everyone to come together. This

year's event will be on Friday, May 18th, from 6 to 8:30. We hope that bringing all six office locations together will afford families the opportunity to establish contacts throughout the Agency's service area. We really look forward to celebrating our Agency's greatest resource: our foster families!



April 2007

Wendy Knutson , Editor

*The Delora Corporation
dba
Foster Family Service
&
**Adoptions by
Foster Family Service***

**Executive Director
John Johnson M.S.W.,
Psy.D**

Board of Directors

*Arthur Magaña, Ph.D.
On Sabbatical*

Barbara Hoffman

Sue Roberts, MSW

Dave Soper, MA

Steven Shortes

**Consultant to the Board
Lee Henderson, MA**

Alternatives to Lashing Out at Your Child

Try any of these simple alternatives to lashing out. You will feel better and so will your child.

- *Take a deep breath...and another. Then remember you are the adult.
- *Close your eyes and imagine you're hearing what your child is about to hear.
- *Press you lips together and count to 10...or better yet, to 20.
- *Put your child in a time-out. (Remember this rule: one minute for each year of age!)
- *Put yourself in a time-out. (Think about why you are angry: is it your child or something else?)
- *Phone a friend, social worker or foster parent.
- *If there is a qualified adult who can watch the children, go outside and take a walk.
- *Take a hot bath or splash cold water on your face.
- *Hug a pillow.
- *Turn on some music. Maybe even sing along.
- *Pick up a pencil and write down as many helpful words as you can think of. Save the list.

Reprint from Prevent Child Abuse America site: 1-800-CHILDREN

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Compliance Corner



As an important reminder to us all: Please remember that all Agency staff and foster parents are expected, in all situations, to provide the highest level of care and supervision possible to the children in our care. Regardless of a foster child's age, they cannot be left unsupervised at home, at school, or any other location without an authorized adult or child care worker. If a situation were to ever arise where a foster child's whereabouts is unknown—even for a brief period of time—foster parents must immediately notify the Agency, as well as take diligent steps to engage assistance in locating the child.

Placerville Alum Deployed

This past month the Placerville office was happy to hear from former foster youth Michael N. (in Iraq). Michael was injured several weeks ago when his Hummvee was hit by a roadside bomb. He is out of the hospital and working in an office for the time being, but he looks forward to returning to his unit in the 10th Mountain Infantry Division.

***Best Wishes to you Michael!
We are sending Prayers and
Positive Thoughts to you and
all the Troops.***

Adoption Congratulations!

Congratulations to the family that the Placerville office has always called The Riffey Family! Pat Riffey has signed adoption papers this past month for the four siblings in her home. You have always been an “official” family in our eyes.

Congratulations Riffeys!

Agency Cell Phone Use



For **both safety and budget reasons** we want to emphasize that cell phones should not be used while driving. We urge our social workers and certified families to keep their cell phone usage to a minimum, i.e. for communicating the basics such as running late, car trouble, or verifying appointments. Text messaging and gaming are both fun, but can quickly run monthly service charges through the roof.

If families need to reach their social worker while she/he is out of the office, please keep your calls brief, or better yet: leave a voice message for them to return your call once they have stopped their vehicle.

WELCOME!

- What do you do to “break the ice” on that first visit to your home?
- Fresh cookies or popcorn?
- A family board game?
- A partially completed puzzle?
- Share your ideas at:
wendyk@fosterfamilyservice.org

We Are Proud To Say... We Have Great Kids & Great Parents Too!

Andrew H., in the *Holguin CFH*, continues to show great improvement in his behavior and maturity at school, home and the Boys and Girls Club! Andrew, we can't tell you how proud we are of you! **You are a bright star!**

Richard D., in the *Hamp-*

ton CFH, just received his report card and has a 3.8 GPA. He has worked very hard for this, and Mike is very proud of him for this accomplishment. Richard says his goal for next term is a 4.0! **Your hard work will get you far Richard!**

The entire *Estes/Ramos*

Household went to Oregon last month and spent time on the beach with extended family members. They also went to Ms. Estes' parents farm for a visit. **Everyone had a great time.**



Mail Your Good News to:

wendyk@fosterfamilyservice.org



Tutoring Available

E-Mail

Thank You to everyone for your patience while we get our new Email server up and running. We have really grown to rely on it and shared in your frustration while it was down.

Many Thanks!

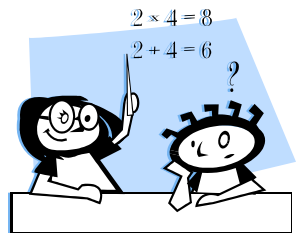
Oroville Foster Family Service through the **Butte County Office Of Education** is now offering after school tutoring for our foster children. Day one begins Thursday, March 15th. We have set up two computer work stations for the children to use for assignments.

El Dorado County Office

Of Education is still offering

after school tutoring to children in their county.

Many County Offices of Education have Foster Care Liaisons dedicated to Foster Children's educational success.



The Welcome Mat Is Out For...

The Battista Family Home

The Malone Family Home

We are always interested in certifying new homes. If you know of anyone who may be interested have them call their local office.

Potential Foster Parents can call one of our offices or find a Pre-Application at our website:

www.fosterfamilyservice.org



Foster Family Service Office Numbers:

Sacramento (916) 487-2111

Placerville (530) 621-2110

Lake Tahoe (530) 544-2111

Stockton (209) 644-8631

Santa Rosa (707) 528-2115

Oroville (530) 533-1576

Notes From Our Director

During the month of March I had the opportunity to participate in a meeting with a certified family and their social worker as to the family's difficulty availing time for weekly home visits with their Agency social worker. In our discussion I realized that families who have been with us for many years may not have understood that our program license requires weekly face-to-face contact with foster children. More specifically, our license requires that anything less than weekly visits necessitate pre-approval by both the county and Community Care Licensing. If the family described above is any indication, I assume that other long-time families may not have known of this requirement.

The following is an excerpt from our original "Program Statement" written by the Agency's founder, Lee Henderson, which is still the cornerstone of our foster care program:

Foster Family Service foster homes are considered the core of the Agency's program and are selected for qualities which will provide a child with every opportunity to overcome problems which have prevented healthy growth. Foster Family Service will provide the following services for foster parents:

1. A fair reimbursement for the care of foster children.
2. Weekly personal contact with the Agency social worker to provide support, direction and encouragement.
3. Assistance with transportation.
4. Specialized training and support groups, emphasizing the mutual development of skills such as knowledge of childhood theory, recognition of behavioral, emotional and physical problems and effective parenting.
5. Crisis intervention assistance by the social worker and via a 24-hour emergency response telephone service.

John C. Johnson, M.S.W., Psy.D., Executive Director

Training Information

Oroville has a Foster And Adoptive Care Inquiry Meeting the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

There will be a presentation/introduction meeting for those wanting to become foster or/and adoptive parents. This will be held at their new office: 2185 Baldwin Ave. in Oroville. 530-533-1576

This is a great opportunity for our existing FFS Foster Parents to refer their friends that may be interested.

Foster Family Service Foster Parents who successfully recruit new homes or if we conduct a 'meet & greet' with a potential family you referred. This is a great program and many of you have already received over **\$300** from a single referral!

\$35 for the CFH when they refer a potential family and we conduct an initial 'meet & greet.'

\$100 for the CFH that refers a new family, and that family takes their first placement.

\$200 for the CFH, when the new family they referred has a placement for six months.
