



Foster Family Service Newsletter

August 2007

Family Picnic Time!

It's time to watch the mail for your area Picnic invitations. As most of you know, every year each office hosts a family picnic. This is a time for our foster families to get to know each other. The kids have a great time playing, parents can seize the opportunity to meet and share experiences... and there is a lot to be learned from experience! **Check page 2's Training Corner for more.**



Wendy Knutson , Editor

*The Delora Corporation
dba
Foster Family Service
Lic#097003903
&
**Adoptions by
Foster Family Service**
Lic#347003522*

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

Board of Directors

*Arthur Magaña, Ph.D.
On Sabbatical*

Barbara Hoffman

Dave Soper, MA

Steven Shortes

Bill Hughes, MA

Kathe Hughes, MS

Margaret Bertschi, MA

Clothing Allowance Facts

With schools getting ready to start back up this is a good time to revisit clothing allowances and how they are processed. Checks for clothing allowances come directly to Foster Family Service from counties for each child in placement. FFS does not take any part of this money, but rather, cuts a new check to the foster family in the **s a m e a m o u n t w e r e c e i v e d .** State regulations mandate at least \$100 for each child in foster care once per year. Unfortunately, even with this in place each county sets their own clothing allowance rates for children of various ages. Such discrepancies can be challenging when foster families have more than one child from different counties, and one child gets considerably more than the other. In addition to the annual clothing allowance issued by counties, regulations



also stipulate that the monthly foster care reimbursement families receive should be used as follows: \$35 per month for clothing, and \$20 per month for general allowance.

Save and Record Those Receipts!



We are seeing a new trend with counties asking for the money to be returned if it is not used in 60 days. We have also had several requests for receipts as proof the money was spent on clothing for the child. FFS has always required the money to be spent on clothing and the receipts to be logged in the home files and copies to your worker, but be prepared for your FFS worker to request copies more often now that we will have to provide them on a regular basis to some counties.

Adoption News



After 3+ years with the **Weber Family, Jonathon and Desaray** were happy to sign their names "Weber" at the family's adoption July 25th.



The **Hahn Family** of Stockton are proud to announce the adoption of **Sammy** on July 30th. Sammy has already been a part of the Hahn Family for years.



*Congratulations to all the
New Families!*

A Special Thanks

from the Tahoe Staff to the Agency for the generosity and support given to our families who were affected by the recent wildfire.

Training Corner

Temporary home for trainings from page 4– see page 4 to meet our Board of Directors!

Cameron Park	August 30th, 6:30-8:30 "Back to School" with Sheila Silan - how to get your kids back on track for school, setting up communication with teachers, etc. Picnic = to be announced!
Sacramento	Picnic! Saturday, September 15 from 11am to 3pm at the Alvarez Home for a Swim-BBQ Party! Bring your towels. Watch the mail for your invitations.
So. Lake Tahoe	Picnic! Thursday, August 23 at 5:00 p.m. We will be going to the beach again – Pope Beach to be exact - for some fun in the sun! YEAH! Main dish and drinks will be provided. See you then! This will be a good time to see Leila off, so we hope everyone can make it. Foster Kinship Care Education is providing a training on Reactive Attachment Disorder on Monday, August 6th from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Al Tahoe Elementary. As always, on site child care is provided for potty trained children.
Stockton	Saturday, August 25 there will be a Pool Party at the Young Home. Invitations will be sent in early August.
Santa Rosa	To be announced/ Watch the mail for your invitations! (Erin was on vacation at press time!)
Oroville	August 4th at Palermo Park/Pool 11am-3pm. August 22nd Foster Parent Training, So Side Community Center. Gina & Kathleen will be presenting on <u>Understanding Children's Sexual Behaviors.</u>

Office News

Oroville Office News: Many of our parents are taking leisurely weekend camping trips and enjoying good old hot dogs, hamburgers, and of course yummy s'mores! **Lucky Kids!**

South Lake Tahoe Office News: Leila Rosner started her new part time schedule in July. She will be leaving the agency to be a stay at home mom and her last day of work will be August 29. Leila, you will be leaving behind a wonderful



legacy in Tahoe. You have been a joy to work with as a co-worker and for your families as well. You will surely be missed! We wish you, Bryan, and the yet unnamed Baby Rosner well!

In September, we are excited to announce that Megan Ciampa will be the full-time social worker for Tahoe. We have been impressed with Megan's ability and competence as a social worker since she began with us last fall, and feel so lucky to have her!

Cameron Park News: We are getting settled in to our new office. After 17 years in Placerville we couldn't believe the amount of stuff that needed sorting! We have made good use of the park down the street for supervised visits, and we are also enjoying our new back porch and BBQ. We feel very fortunate to be residing in a newly remodeled, beautiful building owned by Mother Lode Insurance. The owner, Steve Shortes, is also one of our Board of Directors, and is committed to supporting our work.

* Everyone! Sierra College on North Shore still has **two scholarships** available for this fall. If a foster youth has a high school cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 they will be given this scholarship with no questions asked.

Honorable Mentions

One of our new families, the Resendes, own **All My Children Consignment Store (530.676.3632)** in Shingle Springs. They have a wonderful selection of gently used items for sale, as well as give-away items for many foster placement needs. Bonnie & Danny have supplied emergency clothing for our agency for years and we are happy to have them!

Placerville Self Storage (530.622.8668) has donated considerable storage to our Agency. If you or someone you know needs storage, please refer them. 1st month rent discounts may also be avail-

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

The **DeJong Family** is having fun in the sun at Great America and then stopping off at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

The **Davis Family** is having a fabulous time in Orlando at Walt Disney World.

A special thank you goes out to **Isabelle Holguin** for helping out with the transition to adoption for her foster son, Andrew H., whom she cared for very much. Isabelle, you were amazingly supportive

during that time and thanks for your involvement and willingness to help.

Christian I. of the *Hankins CFH* has raised a hog for the Amador County Fair. We are told his showmanship is excellent. Mariah L. raised a goat and also did a great job in the show ring. Both went home with ribbons. **Nice Job Christian and Mariah!**

Danny A. of the *Clingman CFH* has been showing off his pitching skills this baseball season. We

hear he is one of the top players on the team and has been teaching his little brother **Christian C.** to 'play ball' too.

A Big Thank You to the Boys and Girls Club of El Dorado County for sponsoring 3 of our families on **Whitewater Wednesday!** The **Hubers, McArthurs** and **Wells** had a great time on their whitewater rafting trip down the So. Fork of the American River.




Chocolate Éclair Cake

*Our Placerville/
Cameron Park office has
a favorite party cake
that has been passed to
us from a long time fos-
ter family,
The Hammerstads.
Thanks Carolyn!*

Ingredients:
1 box graham crackers
2 3oz boxes vanilla pudding
3 ½ cups milk
12 oz container Cool Whip

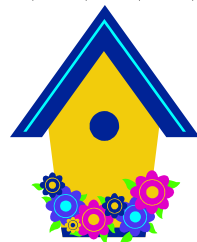
Mix pudding, milk and cool whip. Line 13x9 cake pan with graham crackers. Pour half of pudding mixture on top and spread evenly. Layer crackers and pudding again. Top with final layer of crackers. Frost with chocolate (tip: heat frosting slightly for easier application)

Let sit overnight and enjoy!



The Welcome Mat Is Out For...

The Resendes Family Home
The Younge Family Home
The Marin 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
Cameron Park (530) 676-6226
Lake Tahoe (530) 544-2111
Stockton (209) 644-8631
Santa Rosa (707) 528-2115
Oroville (530) 533-1576

Notes From Our Director In California all foster care agencies must operate on a not-for-profit basis. The most essential criteria required of non-profit organizations is their Board of Directors. Our Agency is officially incorporated under the name of "The Delora Corporation," which is the mother's name of the founder, Lee Henderson. Under the heading of Delora is 'Foster Family Service' and 'Adoptions by Foster Family Service.' Our seven member Board is the legal authority over the entire corporation, and they are responsible for hiring an Executive Director (John Johnson), approving Agency policies, reviewing incident reports, and assuring adequate financial resources to meet business operations.

We would like to take this opportunity to share the following information about each Board member:

President: Mr. Dave Soper, M.A. resides in Placerville with his wife, Nancy. He is recently retired from a career in education, where he has held numerous positions ranging from teaching to administration. Mr. Soper has a life-long commitment to serving children and families, and abundantly shares his experience and skills as our Board's leader.

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary/Treasurer: Mrs. Barbara Hoffman resides in Castro Valley with her husband, Bob. She retired two years ago from the position as Secretary for the Emergency Department & Trauma at Eden Medical Center, where she handled policies and procedures, disaster preparedness, union contracts, and quality assurance. Mrs. Hoffman has been on our Board for seventeen years, and remains deeply committed to our dedicated foster parents and "kids come first" focus, and brings personal experience as having adopted her daughter.

Member At-Large: Mr. Stephen Shortes resides in Placerville with his wife, Leslyn, and dog, Maggie. He has two bachelor of science degrees: one in business finance and one in theology, and has used this knowledge to build a successful business named Mother Lode Insurance. Mr. Shortes is also a Deacon in his church, and volunteers as a chaplain for local emergency responders. He sits on several local Boards, and insures most of the local non-profit human service organizations. Mr. Shortes has been on our Board for nearly two years, and is committed to supporting our continued emphasis on professionalism and service to children and families. He also brings personal experience as having adopted a son.

On Sabbatical: Dr. Art Magaña, Ph.D. resides in Carmichael with his wife, Sharilyn, and daughter. Dr. Magana has nearly thirty years experience in the foster care field, and completed his doctoral studies researching the effects of visits with biological relatives on foster children. He currently provides psychological consultation to our Agency, and as such is on sabbatical from the Board in order to avoid a potential conflict of interest. Dr. Magaña has served on our Board in various capacities for several years, and continues to be deeply committed to having our program be the best foster care agency in the entire State of California.

New Member: Mrs. Kathe Hughes, M.S. resides in Cameron Park with her husband and co-Board member, Bill. Mrs. Hughes is retired from Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance where she held a variety of positions ranging from social worker to program manager over a period of more than thirty years. She has also been an instructor for ten years with U.C. Davis Center for Human Services. Mrs. Hughes is pleased to have just joined the Board, and looks forward to helping develop supports and on-going services for children emancipating from foster care.

New Member: Mr. Bill Hughes, M.A. resides in Cameron Park with his wife, Kathe, listed above. Mr. Hughes recently retired from the Sacramento City Unified School District where he held positions ranging from Business Instructor to School Counselor and Administrator. He has also been an Adjunct Assistant Professor in Career Counseling and Continuing Education, as well as a Trainer for the CA Youth Authority, CA State Department of Corrections, and Job Corps. Mr. Hughes is impressed with the professionalism and compassion he has seen with the foster parents met thus far, and looks forward to helping with legislative advocacy for foster care issues.

New Member: Ms. Margaret Bertschi, M.A. resides in Sacramento. Ms. Bertschi has twenty two years of professional experience ranging from Level 14 group home work to facilitating counseling for sexual abuse offenders and counseling minors in the CA Youth Authority. Last year Ms. Bertschi retired from our Agency as the Assistant Director. She was instrumental in establishing our Sacramento office in the early 1990's, created and oversaw our certification process for new foster parents, and wrote our entire policy & procedure manual. She sees our Agency as part of her extended family, and is committed to assuring continued emphasis on honesty and integrity of our services.

The Training Corner has been temporarily moved to **page 2** so we would have room to introduce our Board of Directors. **Check it out!**