



# Foster Family Service Newsletter

## FFS Placerville Moving to Cameron Park

While we will miss the nostalgia of our original, long-standing FFS location in Placerville, we are happy to announce we are moving to a more centralized location in Cameron Park. Over 60% of our "Placerville office" families are in the ever-growing Cameron Park/Shingle Springs area.

The second week in June will be spent packing and unpacking boxes at the Foster Family Service Headquarters. The new location at 2514 Cameo Rd. is just off Hwy 50 at the Cambridge exit. It is a newly renovated building visible from the highway, and we expect this to catch the eye of many foster families to be! The new location will be near

schools, parks and the library.

Though this is a smaller space, we look forward to our new offices, new visit room and outdoor meeting area complete with barbeque and outside heat!



*June 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*

## Saturday Training June 30th

Everyone is invited to this 8 hour training at Sacramento's Howe Park. If you need training hours this is the place to get them. **FFS will be providing lunch and childcare.**

We have a great line up of presenters including:

**Jimmie Sasaki**, Parent Involvement

Program Specialist with Stockton Unified School District. His topic is "Resiliency in Foster Youth" attendees in the past say he is excellent!

**Dr. Art Magaña**, FFS consulting Psychologist will also be speaking on Prudent Parent Standards.

**More info on page 4.**

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# Breaking News: Possible Foster Care Rate Increase

On Friday, 5/25/07 we received news from the CA Coalition of Foster Family Agencies as to a possible cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA). Part of a May 21, 2007 report of Subcommittee #1 on Health and Human Services includes recommendations for an across-the-board 5% COLA and it has been approved by the CA State Senate and

Assembly! Foster care agencies hadn't heard about this because it was not handled as a bill, but simply as part of State budget negotiations. This COLA proposal still has to get through the Budget Negotiation Committee and the Governor, and it is an unknown as to whether or not it will be approved.



## *Annual Foster Parent Appreciation Dinners*

With May being National Foster Care Month we were pleased to see so many families attend our annual Foster Parent Appreciation Dinners. As of this writing the families from Santa Rosa have not yet had their event, but I trust it will be equally positive. This year's largest dinner was held at the Double Tree Inn of Sacramento, and families attended from our service areas in S. Lake Tahoe, Placerville, Stockton, and Sacramento. Over one hundred people participated. This year's Oroville dinner was held at the Lake View Restaurant in Oroville, where all but one family was present.

This year we had the pleasure of recognizing three exceptional foster families who have been with the Agency for a very long time, and cared for staggering numbers of children. The families are as follows:

- i. **Herman & Sheila Keys**, who have been certified with FFS since 8/18/91 and fostered 79 children
- ii. **Ted & Tania Baldwin**, who have been certified with FFS since 6/15/91 and fostered 52 children
- iii. **Kim Dillon**, who has been certified with FFS since 8/12/94 and fostered 21 children.

This year we attempted two things differently: honoring each family with an award in recognition for their contributions to foster children, and striving to hold only one dinner in the central location of Sacramento. Initial feedback from families is that the awards were a positive change from past giveaways and raffles. However, feedback has been mixed as to having only one dinner for the entire Agency. Since this annual event is all about recognizing our foster parents we will be glad to abandon the notion of one central event, if that is the pervasive thinking. But our Executive Director, John, would like everyone to consider this: Because we have families from across Northern CA, it could be a nice opportunity for them all to come together once a year to meet one another, to celebrate their individual and collective contributions, and to get a sense of the Agency as a whole. Everyone's input between now and May 2008 is encouraged, so that we can host future events that best fit our family's wants.



*Thank You All!*

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

**Vincent L. and Josh K.** have enrolled in swim lessons and enjoying their class very much! Just in time for summer swimming in Lake Tahoe!

**Andy S., Aaron B., and Natasha B.** have all earned their Black and Yellow Stripe for Kenpo Jiu Jitsu Karate! They have all learned to fold their uniforms and their basic defensive moves. **Keep up the good work Aaron, Andy and Natasha!**

**Andrew H.**'s teacher has sent several positive notes home regarding Andrew improved behav-

ior at school! **We are so proud of you Andrew!**

Congratulations to **Greg H.** who graduated high school on March 31st and has enrolled in college. **We are PROUD of you Greg!**

Congratulations to **Steffani C.** on her recent graduation from high school. Steffani worked hard for this and we admire her dedication. **Way to go Steffani!**

We are all excited for **Courtney A.** who just graduated high school

and will be competing in the Miss Amador County Pageant. **Best Wishes Courtney!**

The new Cameron Park office would like to send a **Special Thank You** to **Shirley B.** and **Tianna K.** for their help packing the old office and visit room for the move to Cameron Park.

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mail Your Good News to:   |                          |
| <a href="mailto:wendyk@fosterfamilyservice.org">wendyk@fosterfamilyservice.org</a>  |                          |

## Networking Can Give You Some Much Needed Time Alone

When attending FFS functions don't forget to network. Introduce yourself and get to know the foster parents in your area. Use these contacts not only for moral support, but for babysitting and respite.

Trading babysitting is the best way to get that much needed night out, even if it's only for an hour or two. How about:

- Visiting a local farmers market
- Have a sunset dinner

- Talk over iced coffee
- Take a nature hike
- Enjoy a moonlit stroll
- Treat yourself to desert
- **See a non-animated movie!**



## The Welcome Mat Is Out For...

**The Thomas Family Home**

**The Alberts Family Home**

**The Woods 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](http://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

For those of you who have been with Foster Family Service for any length of time you will certainly recognize the name

**Lee Henderson.** Lee started the Agency from his kitchen in 1989, with the first homes in S. Lake Tahoe. Over time Lee expanded from the Agency's headquarters of El Dorado County to seventeen Northern CA counties and six offices. In addition to foster care, Lee oversaw the development of the three Southpoint Group Homes, the Hand-In-Hand Mentoring Program, and the initial drafting of the Agency's adoption program. In 2004 Lee began his transition to retirement, but remained active in the Agency's leadership until recently. As of 7/1/07 Lee will officially be in retirement. Lee has been a pioneer in foster care by creating an Agency that is first and foremost focused on children and family, with an exceptionally ethical business framework that ensures half of all revenue is forwarded directly to foster families and the children in their care. With the cost of doing business going ever higher year after year (at least 20% since the Agency's last rate increase in 2001), Lee's vision of sustaining the highest possible reimbursement rate to foster families continues on. Please join me in thanking Lee for his courage and foresight to build Foster Family Service. Anyone who wishes to send he and his wife, Marilyn, a note please send them to me at our Agency headquarters in Placerville and we'll assure the notes are forwarded to Lee's home.

On a separate note, I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing many of our foster parents at this year's Appreciation Dinners. Not only is it a pleasure to get to know these wonderful people, I am humbled by their commitment to the special needs children they care for day-in and day-out. As I mentioned at this year's dinners, Agency-wide we are at an all-time low for critical incidents requiring reporting to Community Care Licensing, even though we are seeing some of the most challenging children in placement. What this indicates to me is that our foster families are showing remarkable skill, patience, and an openness to parenting special needs children in ways ordinary families can't.

As the summer begins please take time to reflect on the high caliber work the Agency delivers as a professional team, first envisioned by Lee Henderson and currently carried out by each foster parent and their social worker.

*John*

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

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## Upcoming Trainings

**Oroville:** June training will be a BBQ at Feather River Park Catch A Dream; we will also be talking informally about starting up Butte County Foster Parent Association

**So. Lake Tahoe:** June 18 from 6-8 at the Tahoe office – Licensing Training with Dawn Eunice, LPA with CCL.

## Saturday Training in Sacramento

Response to the all-day training event last fall was very positive, so we are sponsoring another event scheduled from **9:30 am to 5:30 pm on Saturday, 6/30/07**. The specific hours were chosen so that attendees would get **8 hours of core foster care training** towards their annual requirement of 12 hours. The event will be held at the Howe Park in Sacramento, and we'll be providing on-site child care and food for everyone—**AT NO CHARGE!** The content schedule will be as follows:

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 9:30 am – 10 am | Check-In  |
| 10 am – 12 pm   | Resiliency of Foster Children, presented by Jimmie Sasaki of San Joaquin County's Division of Child Welfare |
| 12 pm – 1 pm    | Lunch   |
| 1 pm – 3 pm     | CCL Prudent Parent Standards, presented by Art Magaña   |
| 3 pm – 5 pm     | Foster Parent Panel, presented by several of our foster parents from across the Agency                      |
| 5 pm – 5:30 pm  | Wrap-Up   |

**Lunch and Childcare will be provided!**

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