



Foster Family Service Newsletter

Good Luck Upon Our Agency



As of 3/1/07 our **Lodi office** will be relocated to Stockton where we will be partners in a **Family Resource Center (FRC)**. The new address is: West Lane Oaks Family Resource Center, 7908 N. West Lane, Suite 201.

The purpose for this move is two-fold. First, we want to be closer to San Joaquin County's Child Protective Services, so that communication as to referrals for placement of children can be increased. And equally, if not more important, is the new standard of child welfare redesign for community service agencies to pool their resources in to an FRC environment. Through co-location of service agencies, families in crisis and possible involvement with Child Protective Services (CPS) can be supported with early intervention services, as

well as having easier access to a multitude of resources to help families already engaged with CPS to actively work their reunification plans.

With our Lodi office move to Stockton we will be co-located with the following agencies: San Joaquin County CPS, Probation and Public Health; community-based job seeking services; domestic violence services; independent living skills (ILP) services; and immigration services. The financial and coordinating entity for this FRC is a non-profit called "Community Partnership for Families." Our move to the West Lane Oaks FRC entitles us to use of their four other sites as well: two in other parts of Stockton, one in Manteca and one in Lodi.

More about FRC's on page 2

March 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

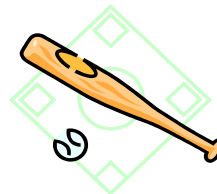
Sue Roberts, MSW

Dave Soper, MA

Steven Shortes

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

Rivercat's Baseball Tickets



Sacramento County, Foster Family Service and other foster care agencies are joining together to kick off Child Abuse Prevention Month by presenting "**Foster Care Recruitment Night with The River Cats**" on Saturday, April 21st, 2007 at 7:05 pm. Save the date and look for more information in your April Newsletter!

"FREE TICKETS" provided by

Foster Family Service

***Pre-game parade, good food, good fun and a great family time!**

***FIREWORKS after the game**

***Fun with the River Cats mascot, Digger!**

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Oroville Getting a Family Resource Center



Many of our readers know that we relocated our Oroville office from where it originated in 2001 to a free-standing building one block off the main street area of downtown Oroville. This new site, also referred to as the Baldwin Building, is under new ownership, and these new owners challenged us when we moved in to expand our services to incorporate some type of community resource center. In the small community of northern Butte County called Paradise is a vibrant FRC that has been recognized as a benchmark throughout California. The two financial and coordinating entities—"Youth For Change" and "Strategies"—have asked if we can use our new location as the site to establish an FRC for

southern Butte County, where the bulk of CPS cases arise.

Thus, over the coming months we will be taking lessons learned from our Lodi FRC collaboration and applying them to the development of an Oroville FRC. Interestingly, the agency "Strategies" that helped develop the FRC in Paradise is also under contract with the Lodi FRC to assist with their program development, as well as with the tracking of data which can demonstrate the value of FRC services.

FFS Sponsored San Francisco Attachment Seminar

On Saturday, February 24th, 2007 we sponsored Heather Forbes and Dr. Brian Post for their 12 hour seminar in San Francisco. These presenters are from Florida, and are championing a new approach for dealing with children's attachment issues. Fundamentally they see that people's behaviors stem from either fear or love, and that children with difficulty attaching to their caregiver(s) are driven by fear. Caregivers—be it biological parents, foster or adoptive parents, or extended relatives—need to recognize that children's disruptive behaviors are driven by their fear-based

trauma, and that it is the caregiver's job to help the child work through their past trauma before they can be open to emotional attachment. We are in the process of acquiring more training information on this model, and will be availing it to our readers in the coming weeks and months. I would like to express my special thanks to our Santa Rosa administrator, Erin Atkins-Guzman, her husband Allen, and to five of our foster parents (Martha Walker, Steve & Anita Abers, Renita Anderson and CJ Jorrisen) for their participation at this wonderful seminar.

Monterey Bay Aquarium—Free To Learn

The "FREE TO LEARN" program at the Monterey Bay Aquarium is designed to provide free admissions to people who cannot otherwise afford to pay the price of admission. At this time we have used 30 tickets, but if there are requests for more, they have assured us they would do their best to meet our needs.

If you have an approximate date in mind and know that you will need tickets, please contact

your FFS worker with your request. Include the number of people in your household that are attending and the date of your trip.



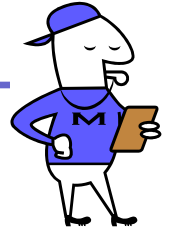
We would love to hear from those of you who enjoyed your free tickets.
info@fosterfamilyservice.org

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

Anthony C., 15 years old, living with *Al & Cindy Davis* is making great strides. Whatever Anthony sets his mind to he accomplishes. He is on the wrestling team at school and is currently ranked 2nd place regionally. **We wish you luck with your next tournament.** He is currently learning to play the

electric guitar for the church band and is involved a play with his foster family through their church. The play is about a war in Iraq and he is a soldier who gets killed. There is a competition between several churches and if they continue to win they will continue to compete in Fairfield and then in

Branson, Missouri. We wish the Davis family luck and would like to thank them for providing Anthony with a loving and stable home where he is learning to reach his life goals. **We are so proud of Anthony!**



Special Foster Parent Trainings

Mardi Juhl will be conducting training for our incoming foster parents in the Placerville office on **Mondays from 5:30-8pm**. The dates are March 5, 12, and 19. The topics are as follows:

March 5 – Licensing

March 12 – The Court System and working with CPS

March 19 – Grief and Loss/Child Development

All current families are invited to attend and will receive training hours, as these can be wonderful “refresher courses.” No childcare will be available.

All Families are invited to attend, as these can be wonderful “Refresher Courses.”

The Welcome Mat Is Out For...

Welcome **Debbie Tillery, MA** to the Sacramento office as the new case carrying Social Worker. Debbie has a Masters Degree in Human Development and several years experience as a social worker. Debbie also brings her training abilities as she currently teaches at the community college for Foster Parents. Debbie has two daughters ages 12 & 18 and is in the process of adopting her 7 year old son. **We are pleased to have Debbie join our FFS Team!**

New Families

The Francis Family Home

The Cholko Family Home

The Jenkins Family Home

The Battista 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.



Foster Family Service Office Numbers:

Sacramento (916) 487-2111

Placerville (530) 621-2110

Lake Tahoe (530) 544-2111

Lodi (209) 334-2111

Santa Rosa (707) 528-2115

Oroville (530) 533-1576

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

Notes From Our Director

As several of our certified families have seen this past month, we are beginning to offer an array of psychological services. During the month of February we provided psychological evaluations to four children in our care, for purposes of better understanding the mental health issues that were putting their placements at risk. We are also offering more counseling services, so that children don't have to be on waiting lists to start counseling through their local county mental health clinics.

In our Agency's 18 year history we have seen several children come and go, some leaving our program as a result of severe emotional disturbances. I entered the field of social work in 1988, and have seen a significant increase in the number of children coming in to foster care with severe trauma. Unfortunately, California legislators have not provided adequate funding increases to keep pace with the need for mental health services to the children and families we serve. To further complicate matters, the new push to redesign California's child welfare system requires that children move quicker than ever through the "system" towards either family reunification or permanency of adoption. In sum, we have considerably more complex cases, yet the last cost-of-living rate increase we received was in 2001.

Our Board of Directors recognizes this challenge, and has authorized me to explore alternate ways in which we can expand our psychological services through the first half of 2007. In addition to joining family resource centers (FRC's), we are contracting with clinical experts such as Dr. Magana (who is on sabbatical from our Board to help us with this project) and Cathy Ciampa (formerly a successful foster parent with us). We are developing an array of approaches, generally referred to as "clinical social work," which will not only include psychological evaluations but also placement assessments, educational interventions, and interventions for the most common behavioral problems that arise during foster and adoption placements. We have faith that the added expense of building these practices will increase our ability to take placements from counties throughout Northern California. We are also starting to explore fundraising and grant opportunities to help fund these clinical social work activities.

If you have not already heard from your social worker, we are encouraging everyone associated with our Agency to write their legislative representatives to encourage a rate increase to foster family agencies. I've provided our staff with templates for this effort, and have been told by a lobbying group we are associated with that letters of 500 or more will get attention. The months of February and March are most critical for this endeavor, so please take some time to pursue this.

John

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

Upcoming Trainings

All Office/All Day Training!

The all-day training we co-sponsored with *Napentheon Homes* in the fall of 2006 was such a success we are putting together another all-day event. Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, June 30th**. We have reserved a large community center in Sacramento for an all-day, **8 hour training event**. **Our new consulting psychologist, Dr. Art Magana, will be speaking, and we also plan on offering a foster parent panel discussion**. Though we have several training subjects identified, we would first like to hear from our families as to areas they would like to learn more about. So please give us your ideas as soon as possible. We will be providing **on-site child care**, as well as **food**, and inviting other agencies to attend this event.

So. Lake Tahoe has a training scheduled on Monday, March 5th. The topic will be: **Community Resources for Children's Mental Health Needs** by Sally Williams & Diana Hankins. This is a **Foster Kinship Care Education** training and will be held at the Boys and Girls Club from **5:30 to 8:30 p.m.** Childcare provided for potty trained children; please RSVP to Leila or Megan.

Placerville has a few trainings listed on page 3 of this newsletter.

Oroville has a training on Tuesday, March 20th at the South Side Community Center/Large Conference Room from **5:30pm – 7:30pm**. The topic will be: **Adoptions**
