



# Foster Family Service Newsletter

## May is Foster Parent Appreciation Month

May is National Foster Care Month, the perfect time to thank you for everything you do year round on behalf of California's children and families.

As you know, foster families, relative caregivers, mentors, advocates, social workers and volunteers provide safe, stable and nurturing environments for children and youth in foster care until they can either safely reunite with their parents or establish other life-long family relationships. Your caring commitment is critical for ending the cycles of neglect, abuse or other family crisis issues that often prevent a child from reaching his or her full potential. We truly appreciate your dedication and hope you recognize, as we do, the valuable role you play in building brighter futures for America's next generation.

***Thank you for your continuing support. It is through the positive efforts of people like you that we can Change a Lifetime for a child in need.***

**April 2008**

*Wendy Knutson, Editor*

*The Delora Corporation  
dba  
**Foster Family Service**  
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&  
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**Arthur Magaña, Ph.D.***

## Watch for Your Invitations!

Dinners to be announced for So. Lake Tahoe, Santa Rosa and Oroville. For Sacramento, Stockton and Cameron Park the Annual Appreciation dinner will be Friday May 16 at Doubletree Inn in Sacramento.



All regions watch your mail for updated information, times and locations. We are finalizing reservations now!



A special treat is being scheduled for after the Sacramento Dinner...Karaoke! Practice up, we look forward to you giving it a try.

**So. Lake Tahoe:** to be announced  
**Santa Rosa:** to be announced  
**Oroville:** will continue their Appreciation Dinner tradition at Lakeview on May 21st.  
**Sacramento, Stockton & Cameron Park:** Doubletree May 16th.



## California Law and School Enrollment!

### ***Under California Law AB 490, foster youth have the right to:***

- \* **School Stability:** remain in their original school when they enter foster care or move (if in their best interests);
- \* **Immediate Enrollment:** be immediately enrolled in a new school (even without health/education records);
- \* **Partial Credit:** receive partial or full credit for work completed at other schools (all students have this right);
- \* **Fairness:** not be punished for court-related absences.

### ***Under California Law, schools must:***

- \* **Immediately Enroll** foster youth (even without uniforms, health/education records);
- \* **Transfer Records** to a child's new school within 2 business days;
- \* **Allow** county placing agencies to access students' records.

### **Local education agencies must:**

- \* Designate an AB 490 educational liaison for every district and county office of education to help foster youth directly. See the list below.

## Find your Foster Youth Liaison

### **Butte:**

Lee Wood and Meagan Meloy  
530-532-5745  
lwood@bcoe.org or mmeloy@bcoe.org

### **El Dorado/Alpine:**

Sheila Silan  
530-295-2412  
ssilan@edcoe.org

### **Sacramento:** *by school district @*

[www.sacfys.org/html/liaisons.htm](http://www.sacfys.org/html/liaisons.htm)

Linda Zall, Project Specialist  
916-228-2243  
lzall@scoe.net

### **San Joaquin/Amador:**

Kate Kearnan  
209-468-5954  
kkearnan@sjcoe.net

### **Sonoma:**

Marci Jenkins, Foster Youth Services  
707-524-2707  
mjenkins@scoe.org

### **Yolo:**

Jessica Larsen, Program Specialist  
530-668-3791  
larsen@ycoe.org

### **Other Counties:**

Contact your county office of education or school district directly and ask for "Foster Youth Services" liaison.  
Or try the website:

[www.cde.ca.gov/ls/pf/fy/ab490contacts.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/pf/fy/ab490contacts.asp)

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

**Alexis Evans** in the *Roundtree* CFH made the honor roll and has a 3.5 GPA. **We are all very happy to hear this Alexis!**

The **MacArthur Home** has long been dedicated to their Karate studies. **Dakota** has recently received his Brown Belt. He has worked very

hard for over two years to receive this honor. **Yeah Dakota!** Other members of the family were also promoted: **Lori, Sage, Serenity** to brown stripe and **Kieth** to blue stripe. **Their dedication is inspiring!**



## Welcome New Staff

**Carolyn** – Started in the **Cameron Park** office in late December. She brings FFA and group home experience, as well as psychological testing experience at the doctoral level. Carolyn is quite reserved; she leads with the mindset of what is best for children on her caseload, and will do whatever it takes to reach that goal.

**Londa** – Started in the **Cameron Park** office in late February. She brings almost six years of county CPS experience, having come to FFS to have more direct impact with children and families rather than being constrained by a high caseload.

**Kristine** – Starts in the **Cameron Park** office in mid-April. She comes to FFS from an adoption agency, and looks forward to imparting her skills with families in both the foster care and adoption arenas.

**Janis** – Started in the **Stockton** office at the beginning of March. She comes to FFS as a social worker from another foster care agency that was struggling financially; until her start as a social worker Janis was a foster parent with FFS, but had no children in placement as of 3/1.

## The Welcome Mat Is Out For...

**The Larson Family Home**  
**The Laun 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)

**Lottie and Al Dias** have been FFS Foster Parents since October of 2005. It is with deep sadness that we report our dear friend Lottie passed away March 19th. Lottie had been ill for several years battling severe respiratory disease. She was a dedicated foster mother, always in her kitchen cooking up a batch of cookies for the kids. Lottie, even on her worst day, would be available for her family and children. She enjoyed listening to their daily challenges and always taking time to read to the younger children.

We will all miss her so very much. We hold Al, the children and their family in our daily thoughts and prayers.

*With Love, Shereley, Kathleen, Gina  
and the FFS Team.*

*We would like to send our Congratulations to our long-time associate, **Cathy Ciampa**. Cathy is 1 of 15 mental health professionals in the USA chosen to train other professionals on the updated U.S. Treatment Protocol for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHS). She attended a conference in Chicago at the end of last month to prepare for this honor. **No worries! Cathy will continue to serve as a Therapist to our many FFS children and families.***

### Foster Family Service Office Numbers:

Sacramento (916) 487-2111

Cameron Park (530) 676-6226

Lake Tahoe (530) 544-2111

Stockton (209) 474-1549

Santa Rosa (707) 528-2115

Oroville (530) 533-1576

Jackson /Amador (209) SOON!

## Notes From Our Director

Spring seems to have come quite early this year, and my hope is that children in our care can enjoy this time to be outside and expending energy!

As many of our readers will note, the last two months have been filled with staff contacting each foster home to assure that files are up to date. It seems to be human nature that, whenever we stop being prompted for required paperwork, we tend to stop tracking said requirements. One of my roles is to insist that the social workers and their supervisors occasionally “nag” all our families to get all files in complete order. Please know that this is an essential part of keeping FFS in compliance with state licensing requirements, as well as in line with our own agency policies. Thanks to everyone who has attended to these requests!

On an entirely different note I want to update readers as to our Oroville office efforts with establishing the “Greater Oroville Family Resource Center,” or “GO FRC.” On March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> we participated in a visit from the S.H. Cowell Foundation, a philanthropic organization that is evaluating our efforts for granting monies to help fund our initial three years of GO FRC operations. As readers may recall from past newsletters, the majority of Butte County CPS cases are in the Oroville area, while the majority of CPS services are offered in the Chico area. Our GO FRC is being designed to meet the Oroville CPS service needs, as well as many other community-based needs. I wish to express my appreciation to **Gina Cooke, Kathy Ryan, and Shereley Smith** of our Oroville FFS office for spearheading this exciting new opportunity. Moreover, it is with mixed feelings that I wish **Gina Cooke** a fond farewell, as she and her spouse embark on a new journey, moving to Colorado. Gina has had her home on the market for two years, and was actually beginning to abandon her dream to move to Colorado when her home sold. Gina leaves FFS after nearly ten years of service, having functioned as a social worker in both our Sacramento and Oroville offices as well as coordinated certification efforts for much of the agency during a portion of her tenure. ***Please join me in wishing Gina and her husband, Robert, all the best in their new endeavors!***

*John*

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

## Training Corner

**Everyone is Invited!** If you are interested in the Saturday Training, April 5th at the Cameron Park Headquarters, please RSVP: *Nicole Musil* at 530-676-6226

<b>Cameron Park</b> 2514 Cameo Dr.	<b>Saturday!</b> , April 5, 9:30am-2:30pm: <b>*Foster Care Orientation *Courts *Licensing, The Roll of CCL</b> <b>Thurs, April 10, 6pm-8pm: “The Effects of Dysfunction on Early Childhood Development”</b> <b>Thurs, April 24, 6pm-8pm: “Foster Child Grief and Loss</b>
<b>Sacramento</b>	April, To be announced/ May: Appreciation Dinner
<b>So. Lake Tahoe</b>	April, To be announced/ May: Appreciation Dinner
<b>Stockton</b>	April, To be announced/ May: Appreciation Dinner
<b>Santa Rosa</b>	<b>April 12, 9am-12pm : CPR—location to be announced, please register with Erin</b>
<b>Oroville</b>	<b>April: Tammy Thompson ILP Coordinator, Emancipation</b>