



Foster Family Service Newsletter

Attention Teens!

Make sure you participate in an **Independent Living Program**, and take advantage of all the services such as the Transitional Housing Placement Program. Twenty-two counties have this program which allows some foster youth 17 or older to learn self sufficiency skills while living in an apartment in the community and being supervised by the youth's case worker and a care provider. In ILP, you can learn valuable skills

that you will need when you emancipate and have access to many financial incentives and special programs. If you don't participate in ILP, you may miss out on services that can help you **get a computer, earn money, find jobs and housing, or scholarship opportunities** for school. **ASK YOUR SOCIAL WORKER for more info.**

Free Stuff!

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Wendy Knutson , Editor

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

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**Amy Riffey
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Useful Websites!

www.caseyfamilyservices.org or **www.casey.org**, Casey Family Services: Casey is a trusted name in Foster Care and with Foster Youth, these sites are full of reliable resources.

www.ffa.org, Foster Family-based Treatment Association: For those of you who want to learn more about treatment foster care this an excellent source

www.nfpainc.org, National Foster Parent Association: Our agency is a member and we find some very useful information on this site. Check out the Scholarships! These are also available for your birth children.

www.fosterclub.com, FosterClub: This site is geared for Foster Children, but you will find a link here for the Grown-Ups too.

Check out our website at **www.fosterfamilyservice.org**



**YEAR OF
THE RAT**



Kids in Cars

The California Highway Patrol has supplied us with these rules for transporting a child in a vehicle. Please read them over and save this page for future reference.

If you are ever unsure of the rules, please contact the CHP, CHP website or call your social worker for help.

PARENTS...

Praise good behavior and accomplishments.

Ask a trusted friend or family member for assistance. Schedule regular breaks for yourself

Relax. When angry, count to ten or take five minutes to cool down.

Enjoy time with your child. Turn off the TV. Play a game, do an activity, take a walk.

Nurture your child's judgment; let him or her make choices and decisions when appropriate.

Talk to your child about your family's values and important rules. Be consistent.

Stop misbehavior by distracting the child with a positive activity.

4 STEPS FOR KIDS

Cite parent/guardian for each child who is not properly restrained in the rear seat unless the child is six years or older or weighs 60 pounds or more

Step 1 REAR-FACING SEATS

- Newborns and infants up to 20-35 pounds.
- Babies must ride rear-facing until one year of age AND at least 20 pounds.
- Seat can never be forward facing.



Step 2 FORWARD FACING SEATS

- Children over one year of age AND at least 20 pounds.
- Face forward only.
- Most can be converted to a belt positioning booster after child reaches 40 pounds.



Step 3 BOOSTER SEATS

- For children over 40 pounds.
- Must be used with lap and shoulder belts.
- Lap belt fits low and tight across hips.
- Shoulder belt crosses the collar bone and center of chest.



Step 4 SEAT BELT

- Age 6 or older or over 60 pounds.
- Must be in the back seat unless exempt.
- NHTSA recommends all children 12 and under should be in the back seat.



A portion of fines collected for these citations are used to provide education and child restraints to low income families



UC DAVIS
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

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

Michael Nunez, now 20 years old, made it home for the Holidays after two tours in Iraq. **Marie and Jerry Bridges** were Michaels' foster parents for the last two years of his placement in foster care. Michael graduated from Union Mine High School, entered the Army and

is now engaged to married. One of our most beaming success stories, we are SOOO glad to have Michael back!!! **WELCOME HOME!**

Christina B. in the *Riffey CFH* rode the school bus all by herself! **Way to go Christina!**

Adoption News!

We are happy to announce that the **Anderson Family** officially adopted *Kaylee Rose & Cody Michael* on December 19th. **The whole family is overjoyed!**

(all 9 of them!)

A Fond Farewell

by **Amy Cornett**,
Cameron Park and So. Lake Tahoe Administrator

I would like to take a moment to bid a fond farewell to everyone at Foster Family Service. In my 5+ years with the agency, I have had the distinct pleasure to work in four of our six offices. I have very fond memories of so many families, as well as staff. I am truly amazed and impressed with the love and compassion I see in the families we work with, and what you all do for the children we serve. Lee Henderson long ago said there was never a better place to work, and having come from another foster family agency, I can say he was right! I have thoroughly enjoyed the people I have worked

with, and although I look forward to the next chapter in my life and what lies ahead, I will greatly miss my FFS family. I wish everyone the best of everything in the future!

For anyone who has not heard yet, we have chosen **Mardi Juhl** to take the position of **Administrator for our Cameron Park and South Lake Tahoe offices.** Mardi was working here long before I ever came aboard, and has a great deal of knowledge, not only about the agency, but also about foster care in general. Most recently, she was serving as our Certifier and Trainer. She will serve

these offices and this agency well! She is very excited and moving forward in her job already. Her first order of business was to hire a new social worker for Cameron Park as we have grown very fast. **Caroline Noha** will be starting with our office on December 26, 2007. She has worked in group homes, as well as foster family agencies, and is very excited to begin working with us. Welcome Caroline!

Congratulations Mardi – with the wonderful talents of Lady, Caroline, and Megan, and our exceptional families, you and your team will go far!

The Welcome Mat Is Out For...

The Gilbert Family Home
The Harvey Family Home
The Muldonado-Levine 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) 474-1549
Santa Rosa (707) 528-2115
Oroville (530) 533-1576

Notes From Our Director *Happy New Year to all our readers!!!*

2008 is sure to be exciting at FFS. We are seeing a small but steady increase in placements across the agency, many involving children with lots of scheduled reunification visits, many with significant behavioral and emotional challenges...all needing lots of nurture and consistent limits. In addition, we are continuing to roll out the new mentoring program, where we are pairing new foster parents with experienced foster parent mentors. We are creating a new parent education program in our Cameron Park headquarters, where we will start delivering parenting classes to the community on a fee-for-service basis. And perhaps most exciting, we are beginning to match foster-adopt homes with adoptable children. This is an entirely new aspect of our adoption program, whereby we seek placements with our families.

It continues to be a pleasure to be a part of this organization!

John



Training Corner

Wondering what's new in your FFS office? Have questions you'd like answered or suggestions you'd like to make to the agency? Well, we want to hear from you. The Cameron Park and Sacramento offices are hosting annual TOWN HALL MEETINGS in their prospective offices. John Johnson and the area administrators, Bonnie Hoffman and Mardi Juhl, will present updates for each of their offices and the County Re-design for Sacramento and El Dorado counties. In addition, we will begin to share thoughts and ideas for the upcoming New Year.

Lend us your ear and have a voice in the workings of our agency. Join us in SACRAMENTO, on Tuesday, February 12th, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., location and details to be announced; and in CAMERON PARK, on Tuesday, February 26th; also from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Faith Episcopal Church (2200 Country Club Dr., Cameron Park – where the Christmas party was held). Refreshments and childcare will be offered at the Cameron Park Town Hall.

Town Hall Meetings will also be scheduled in the other FFS offices in March and April. Details will be available in next month's newsletter. See you soon!

Cameron Park	Town Hall Meeting February 19th at Faith Episcopal Church
Sacramento	To be announced
So. Lake Tahoe	To be announced
Stockton	To be announced
Santa Rosa	To be announced
Oroville	To be announced