



# Foster Family Service Newsletter

## Compliments to Our Families

There were great turnouts at the **Annual Foster Parent Appreciation Dinners!** In Sacramento and Oroville we had lots of food, good conversation and plenty of prizes.

At the time of this writing **South Lake Tahoe & Santa Rosa** have yet to have their dinner, but we expect a nice turnout and fun time to be had by all.

The three agency Appreciation Dinner included **Cameron Park, Sacramento and Stockton** Foster Parents

and lots of prizes. The celebration was also a great success.

**A special THANK YOU to all the businesses that supported our events. These donations represent the community's respect for what we do and our agency greatly appreciates the recognition.**

**We hope you all remember them when choosing where you do business.** (see list on page 3)

*Thanks!*

**June 2008**

**Wendy Knutson , Editor**

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&  
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## TEENS! Getting Ready For Independent Living

**TILP Independent Living Program** or ILP is for current and former foster youth aged 16-21, and it gives you access to lots of support and services. focusing on job skills (resume writing, job searching, interviewing), household management (budgeting, shopping, cleaning), and interpersonal skills. Contact your Social Worker to see if you are eligible to enroll.

**Once you are enrolled in ILP** you can get **lots of free stuff**. Like help finding a **job**,

**money** for school help finding your first **apartment** and **free classes** to enhance your life skills. They sometimes even **help pay your rent** when you move out!

**One of the responsibilities** of being independent is keeping track of your own stuff. Personal documents can be required for employment, travel, continuing education, and for medical, legal, and financial needs.

**Getting Ready to Live on Your Own?** See page 2...



## ...ILP continued from page 1

**Getting Ready to Live on Your Own?** Here are some items you should have copies of in your personal binder or **Lifbook**:

### Educational Information:

- ⇒ IEP Documents
- ⇒ Report Cards
- ⇒ High School Diploma
- ⇒ Extracurricular Activity Report
- ⇒ Awards & Special Recognition
- ⇒ School Work that you are especially proud of
- ⇒ College Applications
- ⇒ Financial Aid Applications

- ⇒ College Correspondences
- ⇒ Scholarship Information

### Names and phone numbers you should collect:

- ⇒ Lawyers
- ⇒ Doctors
- ⇒ ILP worker
- ⇒ Social Worker

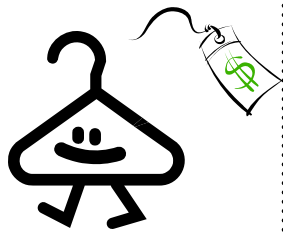


Also add any Employment or Education Contacts.

## Get Involved!

## Clothing Allowances

Back to school time is the perfect time to talk about clothing allowances and how they are distributed. Checks for clothing allowances come directly to Foster Family Service from each county for each child. Foster Family Service does not take any part of this money. The exact amount is sent right back out to the Foster Family caring for the child. We are well aware of the inconsistency of allowances between counties and age groups and that it is difficult when you have kids the same age in the same home receiving very inequitable amounts! Each county has a budget to work with and while the State of California does mandate \$100, some counties are able to set aside much more. Don't forget to give the children the opportunity to pick out their own clothing and personal items. This gives the child a sense of empowerment and ownership. *(Of course this county clothing allowance is in addition to the already agency mandated \$35 a month.)*



## REIMBURSEMENT UNDERSTANDING

What your **monthly reimbursement** covers:

1. Food
2. Clothing
3. Allowances or earnings
4. Foster care toys, hobbies
5. Special events and activities (i.e. music lessons, sports participation, scouts)
6. Daycare
7. Camps or recreational activities
8. Transportation
9. School expenses (i.e. lunches, supplies, field trips, books)
10. Emergency medical prescriptions (pending possible reimbursement)
11. If applicable, activity money for the foster child/support person relationship: (i.e. movies, crafts, markers, crayons & snacks)

**Remember to Save Those Receipts!**

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

**Leah G.** of the *Riffey CFH* is involved in the “Flat Stanley Program” and sent Flat Stanley to Governor Schwarzenegger and received a very nice signed reply thanking her for introducing him to the program. **Well Done Leah!**

Congratulations to **Rudy A.** of the *Dillon CFH* on his great

grades. **We were all happy to see a familiar name on the Honor Roll!**

**Codye M.** of the *Resendes CFH* graduated Pre-School and moving on to Kindergarten.

**We are looking for GRADUATES for the next month's newsletter!**

**Make sure to remind your social worker to submit names for July's: We are Proud to Say!**

**Send your Good News to PublicComments@FosterFamilyService.org**

## Thank You for your Donations!

- Aerospace Museum
- B Street Theatre
- California State Railroad Museum
- Country Club Lanes
- Crestview Lanes
- Crocker Art Museum
- Discovery Museum
- Explor-it
- Fairytale Town
- Golfland Sunsplash
- Harrah's
- Jiffy Lube El Dorado hills
- Jiffy Lube– Stockton
- Regal Entertainment Group
- Round Table Pizza SEVERAL!
- Sacramento Zoo
- Scandia Fun Center
- Six Flags Friends
- Tahoe Bowl
- Towe Auto Museum

*These donations represent the community's respect for what we do and our agency greatly appreciates the recognition.*

## The Welcome Mat Is Out For...

**The Sprague/Vice Family Home**

**The Scarr Family Home**

**The Buchert 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
- Cameron Park (530) 676-6226
- Lake Tahoe (530) 544-2111
- Stockton (209) 474-1549
- Santa Rosa (707) 576-0522
- Oroville (530) 533-1576
- Jackson (209) 223-3691

## Notes From Our Director

*Happy summer to all our readers!*

*Though I suspect I've mentioned this in prior years, I think it is important to remember that children in foster care tend to have difficulty with changes in routine. As a result, the transition from school to summer break can be anxiety-provoking. Parents who look forward to the break from routine rigors of school may be frustrated when children in their care don't share in this change. Thus, it is recommended that foster parents help ease this transition by gradually introducing the new summer schedule, and being patient during this period of time.*

*On a different note, I hope to see the majority of our certified families in attendance at our upcoming Saturday training scheduled for 6/7. We have several interesting and relevant topics, as well as lots of fun for kids of all ages.*

*Third, I wanted to provide a brief update on our adoption services. Interest in our adoptions program have far surpassed our expectations. When we obtained our adoption license in March '06 we anticipated about 12 adoptions to be finalized each year—all the direct result of the transition from foster care to the permanence of adoption. This trend played out through March of this year. However, as of 6/1/08 we anticipate up to 22 additional adoptions to be finalized by the end of 2008, we several being the result of seeking adoptive children to be placed with our families. And this trend appears to be something we can expect in the coming years as well.*

*Lastly, I want to thank those families who took the time to complete and submit the surveys sent out with the May checks. Unfortunately, I've heard that many families accidentally did not get their surveys in the mail. If this happened to you please contact either your social worker, or, feel free to contact me directly so that we can get one to you. We genuinely want your input so that we can seek to improve and offer the best level of service possible.*

*John*

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



## Training Corner

**Saturday, 6/7, AGENCY-WIDE day-long training.** Topics include: ethnic hair care, CCL updates, & education services. On-site, free child care, free food, fun and games. You are all invited!

<b>Cameron Park</b>	<b>Thursday, 6/5</b> , office open house from 1 to 4 pm
Sacramento	<b>Saturday, 6/7</b> , agency-wide day-long training. Topics incl: ethnic hair care, CCL updates, & education services. On-site, free child care, free food, fun and games.
<b>So. Lake Tahoe</b>	<b>Friday, 5/30</b> , foster parent appreciation dinner
<b>Stockton</b>	<b>To be scheduled</b>
<b>Santa Rosa</b>	<b>Thursday, 6/5</b> , foster parent appreciation dinner
<b>Oroville</b>	<b>June:</b> Maureen Bromley, CCL Analyst, Children's Rights and other related regulations. Call your worker for more information.