



Foster Family Service Newsletter

National Foster Care Month

May is National Foster Care Month, and we wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the work you do caring for California's Foster Children. By opening your home and heart, you play a vital role in helping children and families in crisis heal.



Your commitment leaves an indelible mark on generations to come. Children leave your home knowing there are many other paths in life than what they've known.

We know you don't get nearly enough thanks or recognition for your efforts but we appreciate all you do and want you to know. And although all the children you've helped don't always tell you, their lives have been changed forever having known and been helped by you.

Thank you for sharing your family and your home, giving love, encouragement, and hope to children and families in need.

Please join us in celebrating you, our Foster Parents at the:

18th Annual Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner

FFS Amador Outreach is a Perfect Fit

We are happy to announce the opening of our **Foster Family Service Amador Outreach Center in Jackson**. Amador County has long been home to our foster parents from Jackson to Ione and the area has been covered by both the Cameron Park/Placerville and the Stockton/Lodi offices. With this new center we will have on site support for our foster parents and a local resource for supervised visits.

outreach idea) has been named the **Program Coordinator** and her duties will range from supervised visits to recruiting new foster families and of course, what she is best known for...**Foster Parent Mentoring and Support!**

Our plans are that one day soon this will be a full service Foster Family Service office serving the needs of **A m a d o r C o u n t y .** Jackson: **(209) 223-3691**

Sandy Hankins (who originated the

May 2008

Wendy Knutson , Editor

*The Delora Corporation
dba
Foster Family Service
Lic#097003903*

*&
**Adoptions by
Foster Family Service**
Lic#347003522*

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

Board of Directors

***Dave Soper, MA
Steven Shortes
Bill Hughes, MA
Kathe Hughes, MS
Margaret Bertschi, MA***

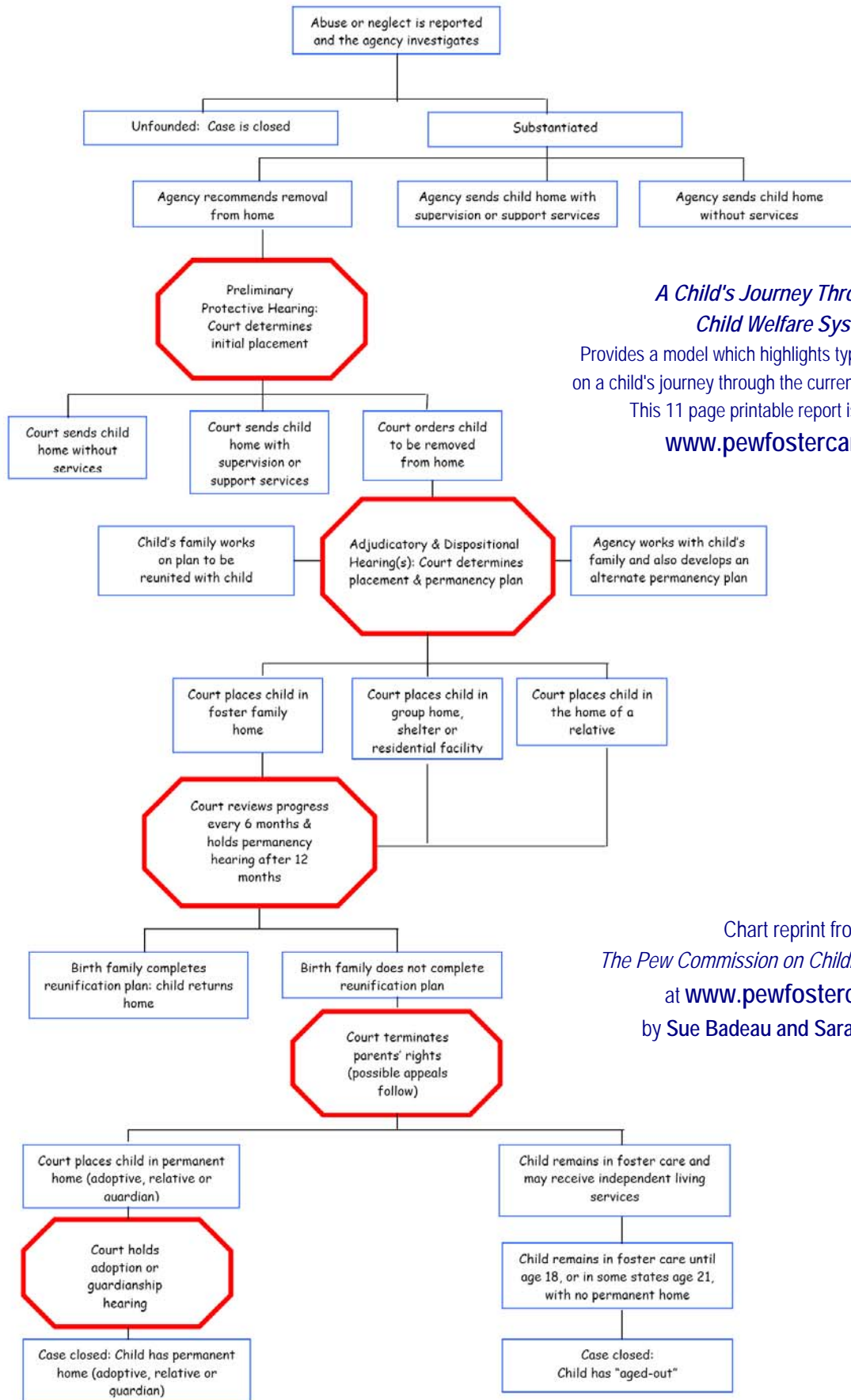
*Foster Parent
Representative:
Nicole Musil*

*Foster/Adoptive Child
Representatives:
**Amy Riffey
Bob Riffey***

*Advisory Participant:
Arthur Magaña, Ph.D.*



A Child's Journey through the Child Welfare System



A Child's Journey Through the Child Welfare System

Provides a model which highlights typical decision points on a child's journey through the current foster care system.

This 11 page printable report is available at

www.pewfostercare.org

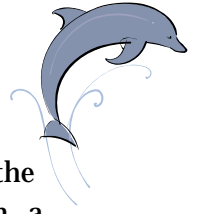
Chart reprint from:

The Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care

at www.pewfostercare.org

by Sue Badeau and Sarah Gesiriech

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



Stuart B. in the *Perez CFH* was accepted into the Congressional Student Leadership Organization, which means his grades, overall GPA and standardized test scores are among the nation's highest ranked students. **Very Impressive Stuart!**

Several Foster Parents have taken advantage of our Monterey Bay Aquarium Tickets. **Cynthia A., Rudy A., Jacob S., Noah S. Miranda S. Allie S., Brandon C. and Cassie H.** from the *Dillon CFH and Huber CFH's* enjoyed a weekend together in Monterey and had a great time at the aquarium.

The *Riffey CFH* also took her house full of children (6) to the aquarium. **Madison** has been there before and was happy to show the big fish to her foster sisters, **Christine** and **Emily**. Everyone reports this trip was a great experience! (*We still have some tickets available!*)

Big news in Cameron Park: **Jimmy T.** of the *Musil CFH* will graduate in May as **Valedictorian** of his high school!

Congratulations to Juliette G in the *Noriega-Parnes CFH!* Juliette is Student of the Month at her

school.

Krishneel D. in the *Williams CFH* won a gold medal in the state competition for Skills USA for his photography portfolio. His success at the competition granted him the opportunity to compete at the national level which he will participate in Kansas City, MO in June 2008. **We wish you Lots Of Luck Krishneel!**

*Send your good news to
PublicComments@
FosterFamilyService.org*

Ice Cream in a Bag!

1 tablespoon Sugar
1/2 cup Milk or half & half
1/4 teaspoon Vanilla
6 tablespoons Rock salt
1 pint-size Ziploc plastic bag
1 gallon-size Ziploc plastic bag
Ice cubes

Fill the large bag half full of ice,

and add the rock salt. Seal the bag. Put milk, vanilla, and sugar into the small bag, and seal it. Place the small bag inside the large one and seal again carefully. Shake until mixture is ice cream, about 5 minutes. Wipe off top of small bag, then

open carefully and enjoy!

(strawberries or other frozen fruit will make it thicken faster!)



The Welcome Mat Is Out For...

The Bryan Family Home
The Strmiska 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

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

Warm hello to all of our readers! I am compelled to begin my comments by drawing reader's attention to this newsletter's section entitled "We Are Proud To Say..." where several children are recognized for their VERY SPECIAL accomplishments. In spite of, or perhaps as a result of their traumatic experiences they are able to embrace new opportunities and excel above and beyond the norm. This is not only a testament to the amazing spirit of these special kids, but also a testament to the commitment and support provided by their foster parents.

I also want to draw reader's attention to a trend I've noticed in recent weeks. I am hearing more and more people commenting as to the general level of crisis in the world today. Specific reasons vary, but the general 'crises' relate to the economy and related issues; global warming, and the war in Iraq. Personally, I worry most about how these broad perceptions of crisis impact children. While there are endless possible ways to deal with this, here are the ways I'm addressing this in my home:

- *Wherever possible, sticking to a routine schedule and minimizing the number of extra-curricular activities my kids are involved in.*
- *Carving out time at least three times a week to be with one of my boys at a time, and simply checking in with them.*
- *Striving to point out positive things in the world, such as wild flowers in bloom, the upcoming summer break, or positive news reports (yes, they do exist).*
- *Modeling healthy relationships in my interactions with my wife, coworkers, and even with the grocery store clerk.*
- *And if I were a foster parent, I would give Lifebook scrapbooks a try. With the nicer weather and longer days there are lots of opportunities to be outside. Take some photos and enlist children's help with arranging and labeling them in a Lifebook.*

Lastly, I want to remind readers of two upcoming events. With May being "National Foster Care Month" we will be hosting recognition events to honor our foster parents. I genuinely hope that these events will be well attended. At the 5/16 Sacramento event we have a special musical guest who will be helping us celebrate. And on June 7th we will be hosting a day-long training in Sacramento for all our foster parents and staff. Topics will include: ethnic hair care, prudent parent standards, and CCL regulations made interesting. Free on-site childcare and food will be provided. **Thanks for reading!**

John

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

Training Corner

Everyone is invited...

to all of the trainings offered by FFS. If you are interested in any training please call your office to schedule.

Saturday, June 7th: ALL DAY, agency-wide training to be held in Sacramento at Howe Park. Free childcare and food will be provided. **RSVP your local office.**

Cameron Park 2514 Cameo Dr.	Thurs, May 16pm-8pm: "Foster Care Orientation and Licensing" Thurs, May 15 6pm-8pm: "The Court System" Saturday!, May 24, 9:30am-2:30pm: "Child Development and Foster Child Grief and Loss" May 16: Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner
Sacramento	May 16: Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner
So. Lake Tahoe	May 30: Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner
Stockton	May 16: Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner
Santa Rosa	May: Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner (TBA)
Oroville	May 21: Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner June: Maureen Bromley, CCL Analyst, Children's Rights and other regs