



# THE LINK

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY / WINTER 2019 / VOL 11 ISSUE 1

## MOVING YOUTH FORWARD

For this young mom, education is everything.

By Pauline Bui, MPH, RN, SPHN  
Adolescent Family Life Program and Cal-Learn Program  
Orange County Health Care Agency

**LIKE MANY MOMS**, Sandra has become an expert juggler. She moves from school to job to swing set with ease. Son Jacob shares kisses and high fives each time he swings toward his mom. Sandra is working hard to achieve the education, career and parenting goals she set for herself as a participant in California's Adolescent Family Life Program (AFLP), offered through the County of Orange Health Care Agency.

AFLP serves pregnant girls and parenting youth up to age 19. A supportive case manager meets with participants, like Sandra, to focus on the needs of the new parent. One major goal is to ensure the youths' voices are heard so they feel engaged in the program. It's their lives and they know themselves the best. "I really think I am the center of the program because these are my goals," explained Sandra.

As soon as Sandra joined the program, she knew she wanted to set a few immediate goals for herself: to continue her education and to be the best mom she could be. Sandra understands getting an education is essential to her future

success. As a young mom, she feels strongly that continuing her education is the path to a better paying job and the financial stability her family needs.

After returning to school, Sandra committed to finding a job so she could financially provide for her family. She quickly landed a position at an orthotics company. Although she has been on the job for just a few months, she is already excelling and has proven herself capable of more challenging tasks. This young mom is driven to not only set goals, but to also make those goals a reality.

Once Sandra finishes high school, she plans to attend college with the ultimate goal of becoming a medical or court interpreter. Fluent in both English and Spanish, she thinks this will be a career she will enjoy and one that will allow her to comfortably support her family. "If I didn't have this program I would not be in school or have any interest in going back to school," Sandra said. Knowing that she is goal-oriented and responsible helps Sandra feel proud and keeps her moving toward an even better future for her son and extended family.



Are You an Expecting or Parenting Teen?

**Discover your strengths.**

**Set goals.**

**Achieve your dreams.**

**THE ADOLESCENT FAMILY LIFE PROGRAM (AFLP)** in Orange County is here to help young parents grow into the best people - and parents - they can be. AFLP is a voluntary and free case management program for young people, male and female, who are:

- Parenting or expecting a baby
- Under age 19
- Live in Orange County

AFLP provides one-on-one support and resources in the following areas:

- Family planning and safer sex
- Health care
- Education and work
- Healthy relationships

For more information, call (714) 567-6229 or visit [www.ochealthinfo.com](http://www.ochealthinfo.com).

## CHILD WELLNESS

By Ronilyn Ricaforte, MSN, RN, PHN  
Family Health Division  
Orange County Health Care Agency

### Child Health & Disability Prevention Program

**CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION (CHDP)** is a preventative program that delivers free health assessments and services to children and youth, up to age 21, who are eligible for Medi-Cal. CHDP provides care coordination to assist families with medical appointment scheduling, transportation and access to diagnostic and treatment services.

Administered by the County of Orange Health Care Agency, the program is designed to encourage parents to get regular check-ups for their children in an effort to identify and address medical and mental health issues early. For more information about the program and to find a local CHDP office, call (800) 564-8448 or visit [www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/chdp](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/chdp).

#### BABIES & TODDLERS (BIRTH - 3 YEARS)

Regular check-ups can help keep babies happy and healthy. Information about their growth, weight, health, and needed vaccinations are given. A lead test should be administered at 1 and 2 years of age as well as an anemia test. Babies should also see a dentist at least once a year starting by age 1.

#### SCHOOL CHILDREN (4 - 12 YEARS)

It is important to make sure children are healthy and ready for school. State laws require children be up-to-date on their immunizations and get a health check-up.

School children will also receive vision and hearing screenings. If a child has not undergone a lead screening, he/she should have one by age 6. Children should also see a dentist at least once a year.

#### TEENS & YOUNG ADULTS (13 - 20 YEARS)

Teens need health check-ups, too. This is a chance to make sure they are growing and developing well. It is also an important time for both the parents and teens to ask the doctor any questions. Extra health check-ups may be given for sports and camps (physicals). Teens should see a dentist at least once a year.





## Post Approval Training IS Continuing Education

By Helen Lindsey, Senior Social Worker  
Resource Family Recruitment & Training

**AS OUR VALUED PARTNER**, we in Resource Family Approval, want to ensure quality, training resources are readily available to equip you in providing the best possible care for the children placed in your home. Continuing education is essential for your professional growth and development as a resource parent.

To help you get started, we will highlight training tips and share details of continuing education resources in our upcoming issues of The Link. We want to help you get the most out of each resource.

**8 HOURS OF CONTINUING TRAINING**

- Some portion of the training must include Prudent Parenting.
- These training hours may be taken either as online courses or in-person classes.

**INFORMATION**

- All courses must be approved by SSA.
- SSA recommends resource parents strive to complete at least four hours of in-person training.
- Each caregiver must provide a certificate of completion for all trainings.

# Focus on the Family to Host Southern California Awareness Event

By Roylyn Burton, Community Program Specialist  
Resource Family Recruitment & Training

**ON MAY 18, 2019**, Focus on the Family, a national Christian ministry, along with county social services agencies and foster family agencies, will host a resource family recruitment event at Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside. This event is part of Focus on the Family's Wait No More program.

The Wait No More program launched in 2008 in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and has traveled to 21 states conducting 37 events, to date. Over 16,800 people have attended the events and 3,696 families have taken the next step to initiate the resource parent approval process.

Jim Daly, president of Focus on the Family, knows what it's like to be in foster care as he spent a year in the system at age 9. "My past is one of the reasons I'm so passionate about vulnerable children. With this program, we've made it our goal to help you find the knowledge, resources and connections you need to consider foster care or adoption," Daly said in the fall 2018 issue of Focus on the Family magazine.

Whether a person or family is looking to provide a safe and loving home for a season, adopt for a lifetime or help support a resource family that does, this event will empower and educate the decision to get involved. For more information, visit [www.waitnomore.org/CA](http://www.waitnomore.org/CA).



*Wait No More*

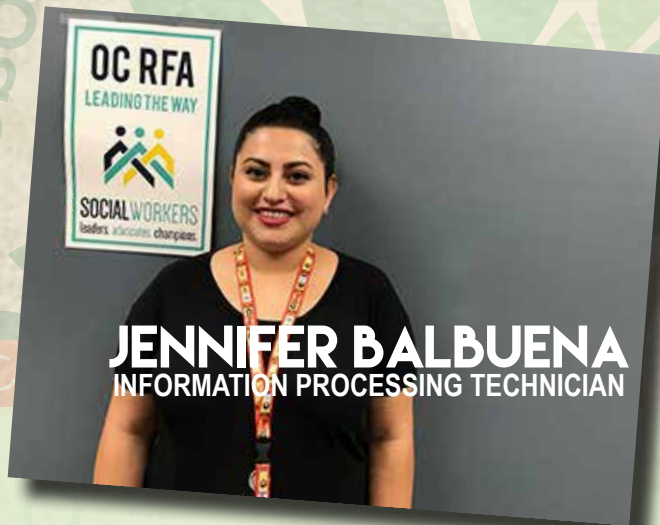
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**Save the Date**

**Wait No More**  
**Harvest Christian Fellowship**  
**Riverside**  
**Saturday, May 18, 2019**  
**10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
**Register at [www.WaitNoMore.org/CA](http://www.WaitNoMore.org/CA).**

# Recruitment & Training Welcomes New Staff

By Roylyn Burton, Community Program Specialist  
Resource Family Recruitment & Training



**GROWING UP**, Jennifer Balbuena knew what it meant to give back. Her mom was a nurse and cared for the elderly through hospice and for children with special needs. Jennifer experienced the joy of helping those in need as she, at times, assisted her mother. Seeing her mother care for the vulnerable, Jennifer is inspired to follow in her mother's footsteps. "Knowing the children with special needs are happy because my mom was there to help them really made an impression on me. My mom made a difference and I want to be like her," shared Jennifer.

As the first point of contact for prospective resource families, Jennifer takes her duties as an information processing technician for the Resource Family Recruitment and Training team very seriously. "My job is to help the families get from point A to point B," said Jennifer. In doing so, Jennifer also hopes to gain valuable experience in assessing the types of families children in care need as she starts her journey to become a social worker. "My mom was a good role model and that's what inspired me to want to give back and become a social worker," Jennifer said.



**MARIA MAJOR** knows first-hand how integral caregivers are to the success of reunification. In her 13 years as a senior social worker with the Social Services Agency, Children & Family Services Division, she fondly remembers one dad's journey to reuniting with his children. "I was very surprised the first time I met with the father. He was incarcerated, but told me he was going to reunify with his children," Maria recalls. He was proactive from the very beginning and determined to get out of jail and get his children back. "He worked on his case plan requirements and showed me proof of his progress. I was taken aback because I did not expect that," said Maria.

A year later, the father got out of jail and had already completed the majority of his case plan. All he needed to do was show he could provide for his children and he wasted no time doing so. "He took it upon himself to connect with his family up north and moved there to get the support he needed. I was able to place the children with an aunt and she played a major role in the reunification process because the father didn't have to worry about things, like rent, that some other parents have barriers with," Maria explained. The father found employment and the children were thriving. Because of the dedication the aunt and previous caregivers had for the children, the father had the support network he needed to bring his children back home.

In her new role as recruiter and trainer with the Resource Family Recruitment and Training team, Maria hopes to share her experience in working with families and caregivers and educate prospective resource families about the expectations of the Agency and their responsibility to the case and the children. "At the end of the day, our resource parents are part of the bigger picture and they play such a key role in becoming a support system for the children and families. I want to help recruit resource families, like the aunt, who truly want to give the children an opportunity to thrive," Maria said.



# RALLYING FOR YOUTH

Teen Court community partners mine for hope in the lives of youth in care.

By Roylyn Burton  
Community Program Specialist  
Resource Family Recruitment & Training

**MOST OF US** had the good fortune to gradually transition into adulthood with a support system of family and friends guiding our steps. But imagine, at 18, having to make it on your own with no one invested in your future. Imagine making critical life decisions with little to no guidance. Imagine scraping every cent together to pay rent or attend college. Imagine having nowhere to go for the holidays. That is the reality for some of our youth and young adults in care.

Creating positive, lifelong connections between community members and youth is what the Teen Court program is all about. Led by Chris Avventino, program manager, Rosemary Brown, Girls Court supervisor, and Kerensa Schupmann, Boys Court supervisor, the team actively engages the community in the pursuit of establishing at least one healthy, adult relationship whose heart is to invest in the youth over time.

For youth without families or relationships, a lack of support and stability may lead to difficulty finishing school, holding a job and achieving self-sufficiency. They are likely to struggle with poverty, homelessness, incarceration, and unemployment. In an effort to curtail some of these negative outcomes, a collaborative of faith-based and community partners was formed several years ago and serves as a critical component in the quest to establish encouraging relationships.

Through the Teen Collaborative Steering Committee, community members

*Continued on page 6*

have an opportunity to interact and get to know the youth. Monthly events – involving activities such as hiking, paddle boarding and art projects – are hosted by the community partners in an effort to build relationships. “We want our events to be purposeful and have long-lasting value,” said Chris.

Of great importance, is the opportunity to expose the youth to vocational exploration. “I think that’s where the churches can really help us out – presenting our youth with vocational opportunities and offering them apprenticeships or internships,” Chris emphasized. The desire of the Teen Court team is to have people in different fields mentor youth and get them inspired to pursue their career goals. One young lady was interested in the law and becoming an attorney. She was introduced to a judge who also has a background in the foster care system and served as a positive role model.

For Louis Chang, volunteer with Saddleback Church, serving on the Teen Collaborative is a way to live out his purpose. “The Teen Court coalition synergizes the respective strengths of the County and its community partners to create experiences of purposeful love and empowerment for the vulnerable youth of our commu-

nity.” This fall, Saddleback hosted the X-Press Yourself event where volunteers, youth and Social Services Agency staff explored activities of self-expression through a variety of mediums such as graphic arts, break dancing and painting. “Participants ate together, shared stories and engaged in various activities that provided youth an opportunity to find what resonated with their

individual identities,” Louis shared.

Each event is a collaborative effort with multiple community partners sharing in the event planning and execution. Although Saddleback Church hosted

the X-Press Yourself event, Sole to Soul Ministries and Chick-Fil-A generously provided the food. “We don’t want our partners to feel like they need to do and provide everything if they sign-up for an event,” said Rosemary. “These events are shared and it really does bring people a lot closer.”

In addition to monthly events, community partners also have the opportunity to help meet youths’ concrete needs. One young lady needed special shampoo and body gel. “She has beautiful, curly hair and just needed some special products,” Rosemary recalls. “When a partner supplied the shampoo, she was elated. The strength is knowing these items come from a real person who cared enough to give them what they need. That tells them they are worth something.” Staff also reap the benefits of the partners’ generosity as they can focus on other pressing issues.

New faith-based and community partners are always welcome to join the Teen Collaborative Steering Committee. For more information on how to get involved, be placed on the program’s distribution list to get the latest on meetings, events and needs, contact Chris Avventino at (714) 940-3994.



From left to right: Rosemary Brown, Kerensa Schupmann and Chris Avventino

# ASK THE EXPERTS

DR. MARY EASON



## Cultivating success for teens in a home setting.

By Michelle Medina, Senior Social Worker  
Treatment Foster Care Oregon-Orange County

**TREATMENT FOSTER CARE OREGON** (TFCO) is an evidence-based, internationally-renowned program that provides an alternative to residential care. The program enables a youth who exhibits challenging behaviors to live in a family setting while preparing the youth's family to have the youth return home. Treatment Foster Care Oregon – Orange County (TFCO-OC) is a collaboration between the County of Orange Social Services Agency (SSA), the Health Care Agency (HCA) and Wraparound OC. Orange County's TFCO-OC collaborative was one of the first successful TFCO programs implemented in the State of California and has since become a standard for agencies worldwide.

Since its implementation in 2004, 75 percent of the TFCO-OC participants have successfully graduated from the program, have reunified with their respective families or after-care families, or qualified for independent living. Success is truly a team effort involving the hard work of trained, dedicated TFCO-OC resource families, clinicians, the youth, their families or after-care families, social workers, and Wraparound OC staff.

### Leading the way

Meet our TFCO-OC team leads, also referred to as TFCO-OC program supervisors, from the County of Orange Health Care Agency: Terry Maher, LCSW, and Mary Eason, Ph.D. Terry and Mary lead the TFCO-OC treatment teams (which are comprised of individual and family therapists, social workers and Wraparound OC teams) and act as liaisons between social workers, resource families, youth, SSA, HCA, the Department of Education, and other agencies and community-based organizations. They also oversee the implementation of each TFCO-OC participant's individualized plan, which is designed to help the youth return home or to a home-like setting or transition to independence.

I have had the privilege of working side-by-side with Terry and Mary over the years and can attest to their professionalism, subject-matter expertise and the caring leadership they provide. Join us as we delve into the inner-workings of TFCO-OC.

TERRY MAHER



Continued on page 8

**Michelle Medina (MM):** Mary and Terry, thank you for your time and willingness to participate in this interview. How long have each of you been part of the TFCO-OC program and what did you do prior to being TFCO-OC program supervisors?

**Dr. Mary Eason (ME):** I have been a program supervisor for TFCO-OC since August 2007. Prior to that, I worked for HCA's Children and Youth Behavioral Health Division as a Continuing Care Placement Unit (CCPU) psychologist. In that role, I offered mental health consultation to SSA social workers and staff.

**Terry Maher (TM):** I have been with TFCO-OC, formerly known as Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC), for 10 years. Prior to that, I worked with HCA's Therapeutic Behavioral Services program for eight years and spent three years working with older adults in the County of Orange.

**(MM):** Terry, could you tell us a little about the TFCO-OC clinical team? Do TFCO-OC clinical staff receive specialized training? If so, what does that entail?

**(TM):** TFCO-OC clinical staff are some of the most talented clinicians in the County of Orange. All of them are either LCSWs or Ph.D.-level educated. Our staff have all been trained in the TFCO model, which is based upon social learning theory and behavioral therapy. The main goal is to modify whatever behaviors are keeping the youth from reuniting with his or her family or an identified after-care provider.

In addition to the TFCO training, all of our therapists have been trained in trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT) which is an evidence-based treatment for children and adolescents who have been impacted by trauma. Research suggests this type of therapy is effective in working with an assortment of emotional and behavioral problems associated with single, multiple and complex traumas.

All of the clinicians have also been trained in eye movement desensitization reprocessing (EMDR) therapy. EMDR is a psychotherapy treatment that was originally designed to treat post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), but has since been proven to be an effective treatment that enables people to heal from the symptoms and emotional distresses that are associated with a range of disturbing experiences.

**(MM):** Mary, how do you support TFCO-OC resource parents and bolster their confidence and competency?

**(ME):** TFCO-OC program supervisors provide 24 hours, 7 days a week, on-call consultation to TFCO-OC resource parents to design and implement behavior plans to decrease the impact of each teen's behaviors on his or her relationships with others. This 24/7, on-call support is also offered to each teen's family to help stabilize them during visits with the teen. The TFCO-OC program supervisor's role is to create an

atmosphere of positivity, to recognize the resource parents' strengths, and to work collaboratively to design interventions to address problematic behaviors. The program supervisor also listens to the resource parents as they discuss the struggles of parenting a traumatized teen, supports them in their efforts to help change a youth's life and helps navigate them through crisis situations that arise.

**(MM):** Terry, what is unique about TFCO-OC that sets it apart from other programs?

**(TM):** It is the one-to-one nature of the teen and the resource parents. In the TFCO-OC program, the teen is the only foster youth in the home. Because of this, the teens are less likely to be drawn into the milieu of behaviors that kids might encounter in a group home. The one-to-one relationship offers the resource parent a chance to really make a difference in the teen's life as the resource parent mentors the youth through the transition back home with his or her biological family.

Another unique feature is the level of support the program offers the TFCO-OC resource parents. We give 24/7, on-call support and daily phone calls from our resource parent trainer to check on the status of the teen and the resource parents' level of comfort with the youth in their home. The TFCO-OC resource parents also attend a weekly meeting with the program supervisors. Our caregivers say these meetings are the highlight of their week because they are part of a community that understands their challenges and can get support and guidance from one another.

**(MM):** Mary, why do you think TFCO-OC works?

**(ME):** The TFCO-OC program works because everyone involved in the program is dedicated to helping a teen reunify with his or her family. The program works because of the positive attitude of the team and the focus on strengths and skill-building. The TFCO-OC program looks for what is working well in a family and strengthens their natural skills and abilities. TFCO-OC resource parents describe the positive focus as an uplifting process.

**(MM):** Terry, do you have a favorite success story you would like to share?

**(TM):** My favorite story is about a boy who came to our program a couple of years ago. He was 16 years old and the son of a parent who was undocumented and living in an unsafe situation. The boy suffers from Type 1 diabetes and was extremely non-compliant with his medical care. A1C is a measurement that gives a reading on how a person is doing with his or her diabetic care and diet. Seven is a standard score for someone who is taking care of his/her diabetic needs. Prior to participating in the TFCO-OC program, the youth's level of oppositional defiance toward his diabetic care and medication was life-threatening. His A1C routinely



registered off the highest end of the chart at 14.

During the 14 months the youth was in the resource home, his resource mother was able to connect with him to the point that he was fully engaged with his own care, and at the end, the youth was measuring A1C numbers under 7. He was able to finish high school, get a job and become independent enough to live on his own when he graduated from the program. He now considers his TFCO-OC resource parents as family and routinely checks in with them to let them know he is doing well. He basically went from not caring if he lived or died to a fully-functional adult who is caring for himself and living a full life on his own.

**(MM): Mary, what vision do you have for the futures of TFCO-OC youth versus youth who do not participate in the program?**

**(ME):** The TFCO-OC program is dedicated to helping traumatized children stabilize in a family home and prepare for return to a loving caregiver or family member. Children/teens with difficult behaviors are often placed in a group home or shelter due to the need for increased supervision to keep them safe. Our vision encompasses taking these teens into family settings with loving caregivers, teaching them the skills they need to interact with others safely and helping them regain hope for their futures.

## BE THE HOPE

TFCO-OC is a unique, evidence-based, scientific approach to working with youth, ages 12 to 18, who exhibit severe emotional and/or behavioral disorders, by enabling the youth to be placed in specialized resource family homes rather than institutions or group homes. Each youth is provided with individualized, specific strategies and interventions to meet his/her needs. TFCO-OC offers additional support to the resource parents who are vital to helping the youth reunify with their respective families.

The Social Services Agency is actively recruiting TFCO-OC resource parents. We invite you to join us in building a better tomorrow for at-risk youth. Please contact the TFCO-OC resource parent recruiter, Michelle Medina, at (714) 746-1774 or [Michelle.Medina@ssa.ocgov.com](mailto:Michelle.Medina@ssa.ocgov.com).



**THE FOSTER CARE AUXILIARY** offers services, opportunities, events, and products for our resource families. Currently, we offer the following from our resource and distribution center:

- Baby Gear Lending program
- Computers for students in care program
- Fun family events
- Educational scholarships
- Birthday Corner program
- Luggage program
- Academic mentor tutoring - for qualified youth
- Monthly distribution days of new items
- Resource family liaison referral program for first time caregiver families
- Free tickets to plays, sporting events, ballets, concerts, comedy clubs, etc.
- Thrift store with deeply discounted donations
- A network of resource families for assistance and support

All of these services are available through fundraisers and donations. We appreciate your support.

FosterCareAux@yahoo.com  
(714) 778-3383  
333 S. Brookhurst St., Anaheim 92804  
[www.FosterCareAux.com](http://www.FosterCareAux.com)

# CONNECT WITH

*orangewood foundation*



**IS YOUR TEEN** or young adult connected to Orangewood Foundation yet? Orangewood Foundation supports youth, currently or formerly in foster care, with critical services focused on health and wellness, housing, life skills and employment, and education. Occasionally throughout the year and with support from donors in the community, the Foundation also offers youth lots of “extras” including new clothing, back-to-school supplies, Thanksgiving food baskets, and Halloween costumes for parenting youth. These items are dependent on donations the Foundation receives and are not guaranteed. Learn more about Orangewood Foundation by visiting their Youth Center website at [www.orangewood4you.org](http://www.orangewood4you.org) or calling (714) 619-0200.



**YOUNG ADULT COURT (YAC)** is an Orange County Superior Court for adults ages 18 to 25 who live and were arrested in Orange County and have legal and social service needs. This is a pilot program for Orange County that began in early 2018 under the jurisdiction of Orange County Superior Court Judge Maria Hernandez. The University of California, Irvine is providing the data collection and evaluation.

YAC is based on a model in San Francisco that recognizes the traditional justice system is not designed to address cases involving young adults whose development, skills and needs are qualitatively different than that of children and older adults. Youth are referred to YAC by the

courts who determine eligibility and suitability for the program.

YAC uses a team approach made up of the judge, district attorney, defense attorney, probation officer, Orangewood Foundation staff, and the youth. The goals of YAC are to address and prevent criminal behavior by supporting youth in their personal and professional goals and helping them excel as adults. Orangewood Foundation youth support specialists work directly with the young person, providing one-on-one support, guidance and resources. Based on the recommendations from the case manager and probation officer, the young person’s felony conviction may be reduced or dismissed.

Interested youth should talk to their attorney. For questions about the program, please contact Alicia Daddio, Orangewood Foundation Director of Youth Transition Services, at [adaddio@orangewoodfoundation.org](mailto:adaddio@orangewoodfoundation.org) or (714) 619-0212.

# Resource Families Enjoy a Day at the Ranch

By Roylyn Burton, Community Program Specialist  
Resource Family Recruitment & Training

**THE STAR** of the day was Benny. He's a 32-year-old miniature donkey that just soaked up all of the attention. Also starring was Kenny. Kenny is an Andalusian horse in his teens – and like most teens – couldn't get enough to eat. Carrots and apples, that is. Benny, Kenny and the other residents of The Shea Center for Therapeutic Riding welcomed 127 children and adults to their home for a day of riding, food and fun. The attendees included over 30 resource and Social Services Agency staff families.

For the second year, The Shea Center hosted the November riding event designed to give families a unique opportunity to spend time with each other in a relaxed atmosphere and bond over horse-centered activities. "We were so happy with the number of families that came out to enjoy the horses and the outdoors. Plans are already underway for next year's event and we hope to see even more families attend," said Trish Evans, assistant program director with The Shea Center. With the excitement of this year's

event, 2019's event is already calendared for Sunday, November 10. Be sure to mark your calendars and be on the lookout for the invitation arriving in your in-boxes early fall. A hearty thank you goes out to all of the volunteers, staff and animals. You all made the day a memorable one.



**NESTLED** between the foothills in San Juan Capistrano, The Shea Center serves those with disabilities who can benefit from therapeutic riding and activities around horses. Programs include physical, occupational and speech therapies and therapeutic riding. The Center also offers an early intervention hippotherapy trial program for children between the ages of 2 and 5 and includes one free 45-minute session. For more information on this and all other programs and services, call Trish Evans at (949) 240-8441, ext. 110 or e-mail her at [tevas@sheacenter.org](mailto:tevas@sheacenter.org).



# DIRECTORY

**FOSTER CARE INFORMATION LINE**  
(888) 871-KIDS (5437)

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION RECEPTION**  
(714) 704-8000  
(714) 935-7171 (emergencies & after hours)

## ADMINISTRATION

Debra Baetz  
Social Services Agency Director

Carol Wiseman  
Social Services Agency Chief Deputy Director

Anne Bloxom  
Children & Family Services Division Director

Scott Burdick  
Children & Family Services Division Deputy Director

Denise Churchill  
Children & Family Services Division Deputy Director

Ken Santini  
Children & Family Services Division Deputy Director

## RFA & SERVICES PROGRAM

\*Norean Lubchenko, Administrative Manager II

\*Victor Chavez, Administrative Manager I

\*Susan Collins-Rogers, Administrative Manager I

Marlene Telegadas, Administrative Manager I

## RECRUITMENT & TRAINING

\*Francisco Perez, Senior Social Services Supervisor  
(714) 704-8952

Roylyn Burton, Community Program Specialist  
(714) 746-2778

\*Veronica Flores De Leon, Recruiter/Trainer  
(714) 270-4636

\*Elizabeth Hutchinson Cervantes, Recruiter/Trainer  
(714) 704-8911

Geeta Karir, Recruiter/Trainer  
(714) 697-6098

Helen Lindsey, Recruiter/Trainer  
(714) 704-8997

\*Maria Major, Recruiter/Trainer  
(714) 697-6059

\*\*Lianne Vu, Social Services Supervisor I  
(714) 704-8658

Jennifer Balbuena, Information Processing Technician  
(714) 704-8895

\*Yazmin Leal, Staff Specialist  
(714) 704-8828

\*Lorena Rodriguez, Information Processing Technician  
1-888-871-5437 (RFA Training Hotline)

## RESOURCE FAMILY LIAISONS

\*Joanna Hussey, Resource Family Liaison Supervisor  
(714) 704-8255 (TALK)

\*Sayra Arreguin, Resource Family Liaison Senior Social Worker  
(714) 746-0345

Jessica Lowe, Foster Family Agency Liaison  
(714) 949-5099

## LICENSING

Brent Payne, Supervisor  
(714) 704-8887

Stephanie Aspgren, Analyst  
(714) 746-6038

\*Paul Sanchez, Analyst  
(714) 697-2895

## FOSTER CARE ELIGIBILITY

Prashant Kamboya  
(714) 704-8441

## BIRTHDAY GIFTS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

(714) 679-2438  
Call for an appointment

## TRANSITIONAL PLANNING SERVICES

\*Jaime Muñoz, Administrative Manager II

\*Lourdes Chavez, Supervisor (714) 704-8058

Leslie Gould, Supervisor (714) 940-3936

\*Guadalupe Juarez-Castillo, Supervisor (714) 940-5609  
Julie Percer, Supervisor (714) 940-5704

## RESOURCE FAMILY AVAILABILITY

(714) 270-8174  
All resource families are encouraged to call this number to notify of their current openings.

## TREATMENT FOSTER CARE OREGON OC

Dr. Mary Eason, Program Supervisor  
(714) 704-8238

Terry Maher, Program Supervisor  
(714) 704-4122

Michelle Medina, Recruiter/Trainer  
(714) 746-1774

## SPECIAL MEDICAL PROGRAM

Berenice Armas Lopez, Placement Coordinator  
(714) 704-8533

Mary Ewart, Medical Intake Coordinator  
(714) 704-8531

Cindy Hutchison, Medical Intake Coordinator  
(714) 704-8531

## TIME OUT FOR PARENTS (TOPS)

Dianna Madrigal-Munoz, Program Coordinator  
New Alternatives, Inc. (714) 245-0045

## WORKING CAREGIVER CHILDCARE

\*Karen Pinkerton (714) 704-6145

## FOSTER & KINSHIP CARE EDUCATION

Saddleback College  
Martine Wehr, Program Director  
(949) 582-4217

Gail Janisch, Program Assistant  
(949) 582-4884

## RESOURCE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUPS

Open Arms Adoption Resource Group  
Meets at Keller Williams Realty in Tustin  
Darren & Guiselle Scott (714) 599-4473

Spanish-Speaking Resource Parent Support  
Meets at OCSSA Eckhoff Office in Orange  
\*Joanna Hussey (714) 704-8255

## ORGANIZATIONS

California Children's Services (CCS)  
(714) 347-0300

CalOPTIMA  
Cydney Weber, Liaison  
(714) 796-6132  
Member Services (714) 246-8500  
Claims Department (714) 246-8885

Child Health & Disability Program (CHDP)  
(800) 564-8448

Denti-Cal (800) 322-6384

Foster Care Auxiliary of Orange County  
Kathy Harvey  
(714) 778-3383  
www.fostercareaux.com

Kinship Center  
(714) 957-1004

Olive Crest Kinship Support Program  
(657) 622-4191  
kinship@olivecrest.org

Orange County Mental Health  
(714) 834-5015

Orangewood Foundation  
Linda Levshin, Director Youth Transition Services  
(714) 619-0239

Vision Services Plan  
(800) 877-7195

\*Spanish Speaking  
\*\*Vietnamese Speaking

## THE LINK

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**Editor**  
Roylyn Burton

**Copy Editors**  
Roylyn Burton  
Elizabeth Hutchinson Cervantes  
Helen Lindsey

**Contributing Writers**  
Sara Bazant  
Pauline Bui  
Roylyn Burton  
Kathy Harvey  
Helen Lindsey  
Michelle Medina  
Ronilyn Ricaforte



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