



Residential Treatment Centers • Foster Family Agency • Valley Oak Academy

A Non-Profit Corporation
Established in 1989

**Foster Family Agency
Newsletter**

Volume III, Issue III

Winter 2011

Foster Care Update

If you read the Sacramento Bee article published on September 5, 2011, about Sacramento County CPS, you know that just a few years ago, CPS had placed more children in foster care than any other large county in the State of California. However, due to a decrease in CPS employees and changes with its protocol, there has been a dramatic change. In fact, according to the article, Sacramento County CPS removed 40% less children from their homes last year than they did in 2009. In addition, more emphasis has been placed on maintaining children with their biological families, locating and clearing relatives to help care for these children rather than placing them in foster care, which supports permanency.

Although these changes have reduced the number of children being referred to foster care, sadly there are still more children being referred to foster family agencies than foster families can accommodate. Last quarter, 96 foster children were referred to our agency, yet we were only able to place 3 of those children, only 3. Why? Well, there just isn't enough foster families to accommodate all of these children. And, for those families who are available and waiting for children, either their age and gender preferences don't match, or they

can't accommodate siblings sets, or they don't live near the child's school, so families just patiently wait.

In the meantime, we continue to search for adults in the community, like you, who are committed to going through the certification process in order to become foster parents for these children. It's like looking for gold. You have to sift through a lot of rock in order to find those pieces of gold, and when you find them, it's exciting! So, we continue to recruit prospective foster parents through the Penny Saver, the Sacramento Bee, Gold Country Media, and the internet. But, you can also help us look for qualified families by referring friends, relatives, and others you trust.

Please be aware that there is a growing need for foster parents to provide Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC) and Whole Family Foster Homes. ITFC is a program in which experienced foster parents, who have completed 60 hours of training, can work with ITFC children and receive a reimbursement rate of \$1200 per month. Whole Family Foster Home is a program in which foster parents, after completing a 15 hour training, can provide a home for teen mothers

and their infants and receive \$200 per month, in addition to the foster care reimbursement rate. There will also be an infant supplement rate to provide for the infant's needs.

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent for either of these programs, please contact us.

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ADOPTION LICENSE

As reported in our last newsletter about permanency, we have many children who are currently in the adoption and guardianship process with their foster families. And, we have had many other children who have been successfully adopted and placed in guardianship in the past. So, as we continue to support permanency for all children, Paradise Oaks Youth Services, Foster Family Agency has decided to pursue an Adoption license, which will allow us to complete adoption home studies for our own families! Be aware, however, that this is a two year process, so we will keep you posted on our progress.

Save The Date!

**Our Annual Holiday
Celebration has been
scheduled for**

Saturday

December 17, 2011

9 a.m.

Foster Parent Training Schedule

***Mandated Child Abuse Reporting**

At least 1 hour of Mandated Child Abuse Reporting training is **required** within the first 6 months of a foster parent's *initial* certification. Training can be completed at the agency, on line, or at the Child Abuse Prevention Council at (916) 244-1900

Course: **Choosing Effective Discipline** (last offered on 10/22/10)
Enhance your discipline skills and strategies, learn to assess the level of the child's behavioral issues, and choose the appropriate intervention for that level of behavior.
Date: **Saturday, 12/3/11**
Time: **9 a.m.- 11 a.m.** (2.0)
Childcare: No
Trainer: Jesse

Course: **Burnout Protection** (new training)
Understand what burnout is, what causes burnout, ways to prevent or reverse the burnout process, and how to protect yourself from burning out. The kids need you!
Date: **Thursday, 1/26/12**
Time: **6 p.m. – 8 p.m.** (2.0)
Childcare: Yes
Facilitator: Teresa

You can also attend additional free foster parent trainings through the **Foster and Kinship Care Education Program**, offered by both American River College and Sierra College. Visit their website at www.arc.losrios.edu/Foster-Kinship and in order to pre-register to attend a class, **please call (916) 484-8626**. You can also ask your social worker to provide you with a hard copy, or email you a copy, of the training schedule.

You can also choose to complete **up to 4 hours** of training on line by visiting websites such as fosterparenttraining.com, fosterparents.com, or fosterparentcollege.com.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

October

November

December

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Board of Directors

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John Gabriel

Welcome New Families

The following families have successfully met all of the state requirements and all of the accreditation standards and are now certified foster parents with Paradise Oaks Youth Services.

Ramelle , 9/16/11

Thank You Recertified Families

The following certified families have successfully met all of the state requirements and all of the accreditation standards and are recertified as foster parents with Paradise Oaks Youth Services.

Angela , 2 years
Michael & Lynda , 4 years
Dan & Darlene , 2 years
Stan & Pat , 7 years

STAFF CHANGES

Due to the decline in the number of children placed over the last year, Paradise Oaks Youth Services had to make the difficult decision to eliminate a social worker position in the Foster Family Agency. As a result, Tim's last day with agency was on Friday, September 30, 2011.

Tim had been employed with Paradise Oaks Youth Services for over four years and had achieved licensure as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Prior to his last day, Tim had the opportunity to say goodbye to the parents and children he had been working with.

We appreciate the services he provided and we wish him well with his future endeavors.

Foster Care Information

Paradise Oaks Youth Services, Foster Family Agency has been licensed to provide foster care services since 1993 and is an accredited member of the California Alliance of Child and Family Services. It is our goal to continue to certify families who are committed to providing safe and nurturing homes to foster children.

Becoming a Foster Parent

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, or know someone who would make a great foster parent, please call (916) 967-6253.

Eligibility

To be eligible to pursue certification:

- Must be 21 years and older
- Must have a bedroom available for the child (up to 2 children can share a room)
- Must have a regular income
- Must have a driver's license and a safe vehicle
- No felony convictions, or crimes against adults and/or children.
- No DUI's in the last 5 years

3rd Quarter Statistics

Referrals

96 foster children were referred to our agency this quarter and you helped place 3 of those children. The top three reasons we could not find homes for the remaining 93 children were:

- 1) 28 children (30%) were siblings sets that could not be accommodated.
- 2) 24 children (26%) required a specific school.
- 3) 14 children (15%) did not match our available families' preferences.

Inquiries

97 adults contacted our agency this quarter to inquire about becoming a foster parent.

Certification/Decertification

We certified 1 family and decertified 5 families this quarter.

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To: