

# resource FAMILIES

A quarterly publication brought to you by Children and Family Services providing education, resources, and support to Contra Costa County's Resource Families.

## Message to Our Families

By Kathy Marsh, Children & Family Services Director



Kathy Marsh

Fall has arrived! With it we welcome the cooler weather, the spirit of the holiday season and the anticipation of new beginnings.

The holiday season is a time to give thanks and celebrate.

We celebrate the ability to have gatherings with friends and family. We celebrate our community. We celebrate the joy in a child's smile. We celebrate getting back to normal. And although we have all been challenged in many and different ways over the last 18 months, you, our families and community continue to persevere and support our youth.

We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful community, a community of everyday heroes. We give thanks to our Resource Families, Kinship Caregivers, Guardians and Community Partners that



Continued on next page

## NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL *Adoption Awareness* MONTH

### Holding Space in their Hearts

By Jill Snyder, CFS Social Worker III

Theresa and Todd became licensed foster parents in 2015 with the desire to foster to adopt. Theresa shared that she went into the process with "rose colored glasses", focused on building a happy family and not quite realizing the complex journey on which they were about to embark. Theresa and Todd were matched with a sibling set of two boys, ages three and one. The family soon learned that along with the joys and challenges of being new parents, they were also navigating their children's past trauma and the juvenile dependency system. Theresa said that from the beginning she felt that she was surrounded by people, most prominently the children's Contra Costa county social workers and support staff, they "could move mountains" to support them. She shared that the children's workers always approached her with understanding, guidance and no judgement.



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continue to provide unwavering support for our youth as they navigate this world. I reflect on the term “It Takes a Village”. It’s true, especially in our current landscape. We need each other. We need community. Today more than ever, these four words are exemplified in the partnerships that have blossomed in our community – see pages 3–5. Your dedication, vigilance and love for our youth truly makes a difference in their lives. For this, I thank you.

We celebrate Adoption Awareness month in November to raise awareness for and about adoption. In our cover story we highlight and celebrate Theresa and Todd as they navigated the adoption landscape for their two boys, but also share their story as they continue to be foster parents for other kids in need. I am grateful for and

humbled by all of our families like Todd and Theresa that open their homes and create new beginnings for our youth as they embark on their journeys together.

We celebrate a new phase for COVID vaccinations. As we welcome what appears to be a much colder and rainier season than in recent years, the propensity for colds and flus increase. That coupled with the COVID-19 virus, puts more of our community at risk. With the recent emergency approval of the COVID-19 vaccine for our youth ages 5 to 11, and the booster shots for adults, our Contra Costa County Health Services Department (CCHS) is encouraging all that are eligible to receive the COVID vaccine. Many clinics are also offering the vaccine along with the annual flu shot.

We encourage our families to take advantage of this and other resources available to help address the effects of the pandemic as we reach for the other side.

Last but certainly not least, we celebrate the inner spirit. The hustle and bustle of the holiday season can take a toll on your mental and physical health. Take time to celebrate you! Whether it’s taking a walk, catching a movie, reading a book, going to the gym, joining a support group, or just sitting still for a minute not doing anything – set aside some time for you.

*Wishing you and your families a wonderful holiday season.*

## Holding Space in their Hearts

Continued from cover

Theresa and Todd were open to learning how to best help their children based on their unique trauma history and personalities. They embraced the support and direction from their workers and the children’s therapists and were open to admitting mistakes, asking for help and being transparent in their own process. Theresa said that she realized that not only is every foster/adoptive child’s experience individualized, but that is also true for the adoptive parents. Theresa and Todd finalized the adoption of their sons in 2017 and the children continue to thrive in their loving family.

With the requirements of Continuum Care Reform, Theresa and Todd decided to convert from being a licensed Foster Home and became a certified Resource Family Home in 2020. The couple agreed they wanted to provide care to children who had been removed from their parents and were in the process of family reunification. In June 2021, they accepted placement of a three month old baby boy “S”.

Theresa shared that being a “foster only” home has been an amazing experience. Prior to the placement, Todd had reached out to an acquaintance who had been doing foster care for years to get some advice. She advised them on the logistics of biological visits with parents and siblings and the importance of the biological parent’s need to know that their child/children are safe in the care of the foster parents. Theresa said she was nervous at first to meet the child’s parents, but when she met the parents all those fears melted away. She said the experience of working with them has been

lovely and that she and the parents have expressed a lot of appreciation and gratitude for one another.

She often sends photos and videos so the parents can witness their baby’s joyful moments and keeps them updated on his routine and milestones. Theresa said that once she realized that she is a “holding space” for the parents (almost as a teacher who is entrusted to care for others children during the day) it has made the process so much easier and brings her such happiness to be able to support their reunification. Theresa knows that it will be hard for their family to part with “S” when the time comes, but the experience is so rewarding and she is confident in her family’s ability to work through that separation together.

**If you are interested in being a resource family and/or adoption, please contact Children and Family Services at (925) 602-6960 or go to <https://ehsd.org/children/adoption/> for more information.**



## Transformational Relationships

By Mrs. Lennie Dillard-Brown, Kinship Grandmother

This article was republished with permission from *Today's Youth Matters*, [www.tymkids.org](http://www.tymkids.org).

Hello all! My name is Lennie Dillard-Brown and I have been fortunate to experience the transformational work of Today's Youth Matter (TYM). I am a grandmother, raising my fifteen-year-old grandson, who has participated in TYM's programs since he was 10 years old. I am forever grateful to Glenda Roberts, TYM board member and Kinship Program Coordinator for West Contra Costa Youth Services Bureau. Over the years, Glenda has faithfully supported me and our family through the Kinship Program. This program in collaboration with Contra Costa County Children and Family Services (CFS) provides services to caregivers so that children remain with their natural family members. Through Kinship, my grandson, Anthony, has participated in TYM summer camps, as well as the THRIVE, after-school program.

Over the years my grandson has shared a special relationship with TYM's Executive Director, Billy Coleman, who has graciously poured into his life. I am very thrilled that Anthony has fully embraced Mr. Coleman as a friend and mentor especially as he's entering high school years. Several years ago, Mr. Coleman asked me "what was my vision for my grandson Anthony?" and I shared that if he could somehow attend Salesian College Preparatory High School, it would be a dream come true. He could become college-bound with an opportunity to pursue higher learning and purpose driven life.

Through Anthony's demonstrated commitment of excellence and a spirit-filled opportunity, my grandson was introduced to Joe Reid, who serves on both TYM and Salesian's board. In partnership with the Salesian President, Joe has formed a small group of men who are committed to funding a scholarship program for needy students. This year, my grandson, Anthony, was selected as a worthy student scholarship recipient. He is now a sophomore student-athlete at Salesian HS. I am deeply grateful for how God used these extraordinary people to join my grandson's life journey. He has truly embraced a new vision for his life, and we have been given a precious gift of an opportunity to form a solid foundation for a bright future.

*Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.*

*Ephesians 3:20 NAS*

**For more information about the programs referenced in this article, please visit their websites at: Today's Youth Matter, [www.tymkids.org](http://www.tymkids.org) and West Contra Costa Youth Services Bureau Kinship Program, <https://wccysb.org>**

# Community Partnership Makes It Happen!

By Nancy DeWeese, Foster Family Network President

In August, Foster Family Network (FFN) held their annual Summer Picnic at Larkey Park and had 52 in attendance. I'm proud we were able to support a small local business to provide the wonderful food at the event.

In addition, local donations of infant supplies continuously come in to fill our storage unit that is available to FFN members to help our families in need.

Outdoor events continue as we approach Fall & Winter of 2021. October started off with a wonderful collaborative effort between Campolindo High School and Performing Academy donating costumes for our kids to choose and take home at our Halloween Outdoor Event. A local library provided many books for our kids and St. Perpetua Church Outreach sent funds to cover "goodie bags" and "take and bake" pizza for every FFN family.

Weather changes will limit our outdoor events, but every FFN family will receive a gift card to help with their Thanksgiving dinner expenses in November. Plans are in the making for a Holiday Event with Contra Costa County Children and Family Services Emergency Shelter. This has always been a 'collaborative' event and one that you won't want to miss!

As a member of FFN, you are also a member of the California State Foster Parent Association (CSFPA). Please visit our website: <https://cccfosterfamilynetwork.org/> to join for 2022 and be part of the action! All resource families are welcome.



# Everyday Heroes

Lilliput, a part of Wayfinder Family Services, would like to highlight and honor some of our everyday heroes.

The first hero we would like to acknowledge is Aaronique Johnson, age 18. Aaronique has resided with her grandmother, Annie Hassell, since the age of five in legal guardianship. Both have been active with East CCC Kinship community since Aaronique was eight years old. We have had the pleasure to work closely with Aaronique and her grandmother since the inception of Lilliput KSSP (7/1/18). Aaronique and Annie have navigated challenges and joys successfully. Aaronique was very active in many of our youth and family activities and made positive and supportive connections with other kin youth in the program. In June of 2021, Aaronique graduated from high school with her grandmother cheering the whole way. Aaronique is currently working and will be enrolling into Los Medanos College soon. She aspires to become a nurse one day.

Our second everyday hero we would like to highlight is Toddie Merys. Toddie enrolled into Lilliput KSSP on 10/14/19. She had recently received placement of her grandson, Aiden age 10; he was removed from his birth mother's care in September 2019 due to concerns. Toddie sought Lilliput KSSP for support in parenting her grandson and connecting with others. With assistance, Toddie was able to obtain legal guardianship of her grandson. Since then, she has participated in every caregiver activity and caregiver support group offered by Lilliput. She has taken the initiative to become a mentor to other kin caregivers by helping them navigate a myriad of systems for services and benefits; she has also served as an advocate and a supportive and caring ear. Toddie has gone over and beyond to provide a loving structured home for her grandson who was eventually reunified with his birth mother in June 2021. Although this makes Toddie no longer eligible to be enrolled in KSSP, she insists on staying connected to our program and continues to be a mentor to other caregivers by remaining active in our support groups. Toddie is a joy to have in the program. Her positivity and caring demeanor have been welcomed and appreciated by all.

**For more information about the Kinship Support Services program in East County, please visit our website at:**  
[www.lilliput.org](http://www.lilliput.org)



Above: Aaronique Johnson

Left: Aaronique Johnson and her Grandmother, Annie Hassell

Below: Toddie Merys and her Grandson, Aiden



# One Woman's Journey

By Judi Knittel, Supervisor Family Engagement Unit

Recently I came into possession of an article about a young woman, Christine, who had recently graduated from a substance abuse program, had a three-week-old daughter and no place to live. This article which was written on December 6, 2012 highlighted the realities that so many of our mothers face on a daily basis. If you would like to read the whole article, the link is: <https://www.calhealthreport.org/2012/12/06/family-shelters-focus-on-kids/>

Back when this article was written Christine was a new mother, right out of substance use treatment. Like so many of our parents, she didn't have anything but a new baby and a desire for a better life. She was able to secure a clean, warm safe place to live through the Shelter Inc. program. She arrived at Shelter, Inc. just before giving birth to Mia. She had been referred for housing by the substance use treatment program where she was able to overcome an addiction problem.

The shelter was "family friendly" and recognized the effects of stress on a family, and that many of the parents who sought shelter there lacked parenting skills and were insecure in their parenting ability. To help meet that need, the Shelter provided a Parenting class through Triple P. That helped the parents develop and practice parenting skills. Because so many of the residents at the shelter lacked basic cleaning and cooking skills, Shelter, Inc. stepped in and taught those skills as well. During their stay in the shelter, parents were also given counseling and a case manager. After their stay in the shelter and it was time to move on, most of the families chose to enter transitional housing where they had the opportunity to learn and grow as they developed more new skills as they completed their education, learned a trade, and secured employment.

Like so many parents, Christine's journey was not always easy. There were setbacks, bumps in road, and hair pin turns. Our Family Engagement Team, a collaboration between Contra Costa Children and Family Services (CFS) and the Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC), got involved in Christine's life when she became involved with CFS, and felt that she could benefit from the support of a Parent Partner



Christine Zavala holds her daughter, Mia, at SHELTER Inc. in Martinez.  
PHOTO: HEATHER TIRADO GILLIGAN

and an EIOS (drug and alcohol specialist). She says, "I was CFS involved and finally met my Parent Partner Dave Mason and my EIOS Venny (Mondragon). They changed my life instantly in that time. I love this program and am thankful for all of you."

Fast forward to today, Christine took advantage of the services, programs and opportunities that were offered to her by Contra Costa County and eventually became a substance use counselor in one of our local treatment programs, and in February 2019 was hired to work in the Family Engagement Unit which pairs families up with life-trained former consumers of service who can support them through the often confusing process of services, substance use treatment, and Court. She is currently a Spanish-speaking EIOS working in the West County office. Her job is to help other

parents find their way out of chaos into a better life, just like Dave Mason, Venny Mondragon and so many other people extended a helping hand and the support that she needed as she moved forward into life as a self-sufficient member of the community.

Parent Partners and EIOS continue their long tradition of helping families wherever they see a need, and, in the case of substance abuse, can provide substance affected youth information about local treatment programs/opportunities, as well as, straight talk regarding the effects of drug use. They can further provide caregivers with information and resources as they care for the substance affected youth. As for Christine, she is exactly where she wants to be, helping others as she was once helped. She has come full circle as she now supports others as they embark on their own personal journey.

Both the Parent Partner Program and the EIOS Program are completely voluntary programs and as such are happy to take self-referrals from any parent who feels that they could use a little extra support as they navigate CFS and Dependency Court, and any parent or youth struggling with drugs or alcohol. **To start the process please contact our Family Engagement Unit at (925) 602-6968.** We would love to hear from you!!

# High School Seniors!

Since 2009, The Assistance League of Diablo Valley (ALDV) and the Contra Costa County Children and Family Services' Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP) have been collaborating to provide financial assistance to help qualifying high school seniors fund expenses from the approved ALDV senior year selection list. The applications are due by November 18, 2021. The first fifteen (15) youth who submit qualifying applications will be awarded \$350 to be used towards their senior activities.

For more information, please contact ILSP Specialist, Kristin Olsen at [olsenk@ehsd.cccounty.us](mailto:olsenk@ehsd.cccounty.us) or (925) 957-2400.

Applications are available for download at: ILSP Website, <https://cocoilsp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Senior-Year-Sponsorship-Application-FY22-DUE-11.18.21.pdf>

For more information about ILSP, please visit our ILSP website at: <https://cocoilsp.org/>



**OH WHAT FUN!**  
**WINTER HOLIDAY**  
**DRIVE-THRU CELEBRATION**

**Date: December 4, 2021**  
**Time: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm**  
**Location: To Be Announced**

*\* Stop by, Say Hi to Santa, Pick up Holiday Stockings, Gift Bags and Pizza for dinner!*

*\* RSVP Mandatory. No later than December 1st. Call ESC 925-602-6900.*

*\* Foster Children must be present.*



**Foster Family Network, Assistance League of Diablo Valley**  
**& VESTIA**  
**Contra Costa County Children & Family Services**

## MY3 Suicide Prevention App



The MY3 app is a Suicide Prevention App for Android and iPhone. By creating a Safety Plan you are able to connect with people and resources that can help when experiencing thoughts of suicide. Knowing you have someone to contact during those difficult times can make all the difference, keeping you safe and helping you to feel better.



Download the MY3 App from the App Store or Google Play

# Bay Area Crisis Nursery Adds New Services for Struggling Parents

The Bay Area Crisis Nursery (BACN) prevents child abuse and neglect by providing supportive services to families. The goal is to keep families safe and together, preventing children from entering the foster care system and supporting families in alleviating the effects of poverty.



The Nursery is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We seek to reduce risk factors for child safety and strengthen family functioning and stability by providing direct childcare and emergency shelter services and wraparound support.

- **Crisis Day Services (Launched October 2020)** – Emergency Childcare Services are now offered between 7 am – 7 pm daily! A child can receive emergency childcare services for up to 30 days in a 6-month period—60 days per year. A child can attend for the full day or just a couple of hours.
- **Crisis Residential Overnight Program**—Parents can utilize this service for up to 30 days per crisis situation.

- **Respite Overnight Program**—Parents experiencing stress, or who have used BACN's services, can visit the Nursery for short-term monthly visits. These visits range from 1-3 days.
- **Food & Diaper Bank**—Community members are welcome to food, diapers, and formula!
- **BACN Boutique**—This is a fully stocked, free boutique filled with children's furniture, toys, books, clothes, and much more for our families to take whatever they need at no cost.



Parents seek our support services when they are experiencing a crisis or feel overwhelmed by parenting young children. The majority of families have lost their childcare provider or cannot afford childcare services, dealing with unemployment and underemployment, overwhelming parental stress, homelessness, escaping violence, and are suffering from a mental health disorder or physical illness.

**To connect with services, call (925) 685-6633.**

## Children and Family Services Respite Reimbursement Program

- CFS can provide limited reimbursement funds to caregivers who meet specific eligibility requirements and receive prior approval.
- Reimbursement up to \$15 per hour, 10 hours per month for six (6) month period.
- Request Respite Reimbursement Authorization through your RFA Social Worker.
- Choose your own respite provider, per Prudent Parent Standards.
- Pay your provider directly, submit reimbursement request paperwork to your social worker, for reimbursement.

**Questions: Call your RFA Social Worker or the RFA Unit Line: (925) 602-6960**

### Eligibility Requirements:

- Caregiver must have current RFA approval through Contra Costa County.
- Caregiver must have Contra Costa County dependent children in their home.
- Caregiver must provide updated W9 to RFA Social Worker for reimbursement payment.
- All arrangements made between Caregiver and Respite Provider directly.

# Foster Mattress Program

Mattress Firm has proudly served the Foster community for some time. Now we've stepped up to help EVERY foster family with non-profit pricing for any licensed foster home.

PLEASE refer to this information when it's time to update mattresses, get new mattresses for child placements and even as early as getting them in place for your licensing inspection.

## Who Qualifies?

We know that foster kids aren't the only ones in your home that need good sleep. There is a lot that goes into being a foster family with children who often come with past traumas and special needs so we want to help ALL members living with the foster kiddos so here's who is eligible to special pricing:

- Foster children; while in care and after aging out
- Licensed foster parents with children in their care
- Foster / siblings living with foster kiddos

That's right, this program is available to everyone in your home, including foster parents as a way of saying THANK YOU for caring for OUR foster kiddos!

## Who To Contact?

Johanna Seiber was a foster mom in Texas. When she began working at Mattress Firm Commercial Division, it was her first priority to put together this program that was embraced by Mattress Firm and foster families alike. Please reach out to her to request an order form or to ask any questions at:

**JOHANNA SEIBER**  
**(346) 718-5618**  
[Johanna.Seiber@MFRM.com](mailto:Johanna.Seiber@MFRM.com)

*Please note: Upon submission of an order, you will be required to provide a copy of your foster license/placement paper. Due to the extensive discounts, all sales as part of this program are final with no exchanges or refunds available.*

**MATTRESS FIRM**  
COMMERCIAL SALES



## WHY YOUR CHILD SHOULD GET A COVID-19 VACCINE

Children ages 5 and older are now eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccine!



### VACCINES ARE SAFE

Clinical-trial data reviewed by federal and state health officials show the vaccines are safe for younger kids. Children ages 5-11 receive smaller doses than teens and adults. Side effects for young people are similar to those experienced by adults, including a sore arm and cold-like symptoms. These are normal signs that the body is building immunity.



### VACCINES ARE EFFECTIVE

Hospital and case-rate data show unvaccinated people are much more likely to get infected with COVID-19 and become seriously ill than vaccinated people. The vaccines work!



### VACCINES KEEP KIDS IN SCHOOL

Fully vaccinated students don't need to quarantine if they're exposed to someone with COVID-19 as long as they remain symptom-free. That means they won't miss class and parents don't have to take time off work.



### VACCINES LIMIT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

While kids tend to get less sick from COVID-19 than adults, they can still get and spread the virus to others who are more vulnerable to severe illness. The more people who are vaccinated, the less COVID spreads and the safer we all are.

Have questions? Talk to your family doctor about making the healthiest choice for your child.

For foster youth vaccination documentation and approval requirements, please contact your CFS Social Worker.

[www.coronavirus.cchealth.org](http://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org)  
CONTRA COSTA HEALTH SERVICES

The CFS CSEC Team presents...

# CSEC/Y Advanced Training for Caregivers

Birth Parents, Foster Caregivers • 16-Hour Training Series

via Zoom

	MODULE 1	MODULE 2	MODULE 3	MODULE 4
<b>SERIES 1</b>	11/04/2021 1pm-5pm	11/06/2021 1pm-5pm	11/08/2021 9am-1pm	11/09/2021 9am-1pm
<b>SERIES 2</b>	11/17/2021 1pm-5pm	11/18/2021 1pm-5pm	11/29/2021 1pm-5pm	11/30/2021 1pm-5pm
<b>SERIES 3</b>	12/09/2021 9am-1pm	12/11/2021 9am-1pm	12/13/2021 9am-1pm	12/14/2021 9am-1pm
<b>SERIES 4</b>	12/20/2021 1pm-5pm	12/21/2021 9am-1pm	01/03/2022 1pm-5pm	01/04/2022 1pm-5pm
<b>SERIES 5</b>	01/12/2022 9am-1pm	01/13/2022 9am-1pm	01/18/2022 1pm-5pm	01/19/2022 1pm-5pm

WestCoast Children’s Clinic, a non-profit children’s community psychology clinic based in Oakland, CA, is pleased to announce an upcoming training opportunity for caregivers, resources families & biological parents: ‘CSEC/Y Advanced Training for Caregivers’. The training series provides a comprehensive curriculum on best practices for supporting and parenting Commercially Sexually Exploited Children/ Youth (CSEC/Y). The training will explore how the trauma of exploitation impacts behavior, health, help-seeking, general engagement & healing; and, practice helpful engagement frameworks such as trauma reenactments, the stages (cycle) of change, motivational interviewing techniques & trauma-informed care.

Each training module is four hours long and may be taken by series OR by dates in consecutive order, for a total of 16 training hours. Example: If you register for Module 1 on 11/04/2021, you may sign up for the other three dates under that series. Or, you may sign up for any of the three subsequent modules as long as they are taken in consecutive order.

**To register, or for more information about the training:**  
Please email WestCoast at [CSECtraining@westcoastcc.org](mailto:CSECtraining@westcoastcc.org) or call (510) 269-9030.

**For CSEC-related questions or concerns regarding a child or youth in your care:** Please contact the CFS CSEC Team at [cfcsec@ehsd.cccounty.us](mailto:cfcsec@ehsd.cccounty.us)



WESTCOAST CHILDREN’S CLINIC



## The Resource Family Newsletter en español!

CFS has expanded the reach of its quarterly Resource Families Newsletter and is now available to our Spanish-speaking Resource Families and community members. If you currently receive the Resource Families Newsletter in English and would like to receive it in Spanish, or for those that do not receive it today and would like to receive it in Spanish, please go to <https://ehsd.org/children/foster-care-and-licensing> and complete a sign up form.



## Unconditional Support for Caregivers

**Coaching Hours are Available • In-Person and/or via Phone**

Individualized and expert advice with your own personal coach is available to help caregivers who are currently parenting children who have experienced trauma and loss. Free to all Contra Costa Resource Families, Kinship Caregivers and Guardians.

**Topics Include, but not limited to:**

- Parenting Children with Extra Needs
- Lifelong Issues in Permanence
- Childhood Development
- Creating Positive Attachments
- Parenting the Child of Abuse and Neglect
- Parenting the Child Exposed to Drugs and Alcohol

**If interested in the Unconditional Support for Caregivers Series or Coaching hours; please call (925) 602-6960.**

## In Person Classes Return

We are pleased to offer some in person training classes once again. For the upcoming Heritage Training series, classes will be available in a hybrid model where some classes will be held remote via Zoom and some classes will be held on site and in person.

### Resource Family Pre-Approval (RFA) Training

This 18-hour training is **REQUIRED** for Resource Family Certification for those interested in becoming a **RESOURCE FAMILY** for a child or sibling group.



### Heritage Training: Perinatal Substance Abuse/HIV Infant Program

The Heritage Project is a program offered through a partnership between Contra Costa County Children and Family Services, Diablo Valley College, Contra Costa College and Los Medanos College. The training is designed for licensed Resource Parents, approved relative caregivers and prospective Resource Parents who are applying to be an approved Resource Family.

#### Upcoming Training Series Schedule:

- Monday, November 15, 2021 • 6:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Wednesday, November 17, 2021 • 6:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Saturday, November 20, 2021 • 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. at Los Medanos College in Pittsburg
- Monday, November 29, 2021 • 6:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Wednesday, December 1, 2021 • 6:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Saturday, December 4, 2021 • 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. at Los Medanos College in Pittsburg

For more information, to obtain upcoming schedules, or to register, please call (925) 602-6960.

## Is there room in your home for one more?



Make a change in a child's life and become a Resource Parent/Family for a foster child. Contra Costa County has more than 1,000 children who need your help.

### FREE ORIENTATIONS 2021

You can join a free virtual orientation during the current Contra Costa County COVID-19 Health Order. We will update the in-person orientation schedule as restrictions lift.

- Nov. 4 or 18, 2021 • 4 to 6 p.m.
- Dec. 2 or 16, 2021 • 4 to 6 p.m.
- Jan. 6 or 20, 2022 • 4 to 6 p.m.

*Please treat the session as an in-person presentation. We appreciate you enabling your video during the Zoom call, and limiting extraneous noise or distractions for the benefit of all participants.*

For more information about becoming a Resource Parent visit us at [www.ehds.org](http://www.ehds.org). To register for a class, please call (925) 602-6960, toll-free at 1 (866) 313-7788, or email [ResourceFamilies@ehsd.cccounty.us](mailto:ResourceFamilies@ehsd.cccounty.us)

**Become a Resource Parent for a child in need.**

## Your Questions Answered!

Need to access our Caregiver Liaison services? Have a question that you need answered? Looking for assistance and having trouble locating it?

If so, try our non-emergency Contact Us website portal at <https://ehsd.org/children/roadmap-to-resolution/>. You'll be able to submit your questions, feedback, suggestions or concerns online, provide your email or phone number for response, and an EHSD representative will contact you within two business days.





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## NOVEMBER

**National Adoption Awareness Month**  
**National Child Safety and Protection Month**  
**November 2 – Election Day**  
**November 11 – Veterans Day.** County offices closed in observance of Veterans Day  
**November 25 – Thanksgiving Day.** County offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving

## DECEMBER

**December 24 –** County offices are closed in observance of Christmas  
**December 25 – Christmas Day**  
**December 31 –** County offices closed in observance of New Year's Day

## JANUARY

**Positive Parenting Awareness Month**  
**January 1 – New Year's Day**  
**January 17 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day.** County offices closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

## Contact Us

If you have a story to share, suggestions for future articles or would like to sign up for the newsletter, please go to [www.ehsd.org/foster-care-and-licensing](http://www.ehsd.org/foster-care-and-licensing) and complete a sign up or feedback form.

Contra Costa County  
**Children & Family Services**

A Bureau of the Employment & Human Services Department



Find us on the web at [www.ehsd.org](http://www.ehsd.org)

