

NORTH STAR NAVIGATOR



Mary's Corner

The question is often asked why California is passing legislation to reform foster care. Here is some data to explain the need for recent reforms.

Children Enter Foster Care Due to Serious Abuse or Neglect: A recent large-scale study of older foster youth, the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CaYOUTH), provides strong evidence of the protective role of the foster care system and insight into the conditions that prompt children to be removed from their families. Of a sample of over 700 adolescents in foster care, most youth reported serious problems in their homes prior to their entry into foster care. Youth commonly reported having caregivers that:

- abused drugs and/or alcohol
- had a criminal history
- had a mental health issue
- engaged in domestic violence
- lacked adequate parenting skills

Substantial percentages of youth reported suffering various forms of serious abuse and/or neglect prior to their entry to foster

care, including being:

- 36% hit, kicked or slapped
- 32% thrown or pushed
- 26% beaten
- 28% deprived of food, clothing or other necessities because money was spent on adult interests
- 20% abandoned Child Welfare Policy

April 2016 Smaller, but still very significant percentages of youth reported experiencing very severe and dangerous forms of abuse by parents or caregivers:

- 19% choked, smothered or strangled
- 17% locked in a room or closet for several hours or longer
- 14% deprived of treatment for a serious illness or injury
- 13% tied up, held down or blind-folded
- 9% attacked with a weapon such as a knife or gun

A shockingly high percentage of female foster youth reported being raped (30%) or sexually molested

(45%) prior to entering foster care.

Child welfare agency involvement is generally triggered by an ongoing and serious pattern of inadequate care, not merely isolated or unavoidable instances of a child not having enough food or clothing. Furthermore, as indicated by the youth survey - neglect that is serious enough to precipitate foster care involvement is very often related to parental substance abuse or mental illness, not just poverty. These data cast doubt on the commonly held belief that reducing the number of foster care entries would in and of itself be a positive outcome. By shrinking the system by simply turning more kids away at the front-end, we increase the risk that children will later suffer further maltreatment. Child fatality data provide a stark reminder of the risks of discouraging child welfare agencies from intervening to protect children. In 2014, an estimated 1,580 children died from abuse or neglect. Furthermore, this number is widely recognized as an undercount of total child abuse and neglect deaths.

Mary

September Calendar

- > 9/4 Off ice closed
- > 9/5 & 9/19 Trauma Training @10am
- > 9/7 & 9/21 Trauma Training @5pm
- > 9/13 RFA Training @5:30pm
- > 9/27 RFA Training @10am
- > 9/30 CPR/1st Aid Training
- > Teen Group Bitwise Tour- date pending
- > Inaugural Fundraiser Golf Tournament 9/24

Inside this issue:

Teen Group	2
Newly Certified	2
Homes Needed	2
Fundraiser	3
Cake4Kids	3
Input needed	3
RFA Update	4



“Thank you for everything you’ve done for me. I’m very, very grateful for you...”

Teen Group

On August 8th Social Workers Rosalinda and Peggy took a group of six teens to a presentation by a former foster youth and Renaissance Scholar at Fresno State. Afterward the group had a great time bowling.

The presentation struck a chord with our teens, who afterward put together this message:

Dear Foster Parents,

1. Thank you for not giving up on me and for putting up

with me. I’m really thankful for you; you guys have done so much for me.

2. Thank you for everything you’ve done for me. I’m very, very grateful for you supporting me and helping me with everything. And most of all, for taking me in. I love you!

3. Thank you for everything you did for me. I really want to let you know that you did so much and it helps me a

lot throughout life.

4. Thank you for giving me the chance of staying in your house and putting up with me.

From NSFC Teens, 2017

Thank you to Brian for Assisting us in our August 2017 teen group!

- Contributed by Social Worker Rosalinda Barajas

Newly Certified

North Star Family Center is pleased to announce the certification of four new families in 2017:

Nicolás and Bobby Riddick

Location: Shafter

Capacity: 3 children

Maria Ramirez

Location: Kerman

Capacity: 3 children

Pauline Manning

Location: Fresno

Capacity: 1 child and 1 infant

Cloydkeeta Marshall

Location: Fresno

Capacity: 2 children

If you see them be sure to introduce yourself and welcome them to the North Star family!!

Placement/QA Department

The placement department has identified the these as the most in-demand dynamics needed for Foster/RFA homes:

- Increased capacity for large sibling sets
- Parents who can work with teens
- CSEC trained parents

As a reminder, North Star now offers a referral bonus incentive for our existing parents who refer friends or family that become certified/approved. Spread the word!!

Quality Assurance reminder:

Parents when your auto insurance, home/renters insurance, drivers license expire please remember to turn in an updated copy to Vanessa. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact Vanessa.



North Star Family Center Inaugural Golf Tournament

We are excited to announce the first ever North Star Family Center Golf Tournament Fund-raiser!

Bring your friends and family out to support a great cause- ours!

\$100.00 per player

\$350.00 per foursome

\$20.00 dinner only option

(Adults only)

Where: Dragonfly Golf Club (formerly Riverbend Golf Course), 43369 Avenue 12 Madera, CA 93636

When: Sunday, September 24, 2017

All proceeds to benefit North Star Family Center programs for children and youth.

Awards, raffle prizes, beer and wine garden, silent auction, Dixon Golf Challenge and more!

There are flyers for this event at the agency front desk. We are looking for tournament teams, sponsors, and raffle prizes. For more information contact NSFC at 226-2273.



Cake4Kids

North Star Family Center has partnered with Central Valley nonprofit Cake4Kids, which has already been a great success. Cake4Kids provide custom birthday or graduation cakes for children in foster care and homeless or domestic violence shelters.

North Star has been featured on Your Central Valley.com and in the Fresno Bee for this collaboration (links to the articles can be found on our website).

For more information about Cakes4Kids, visit their website, cake4kids.org or email them at info@cakes4kids.org.

A big thank you to our HR director, Maria Flores, for coordinating the cake orders and delivery for our kiddos!!



Input Requested!!

Our foster/resource parents are the heart and soul of this agency. We value your input and would like to continue to meet your needs in regards to training, support, and collaboration. Unfortunately our last foster parent support group was attended by only one parent (thank you Bebe!)

If anyone has any suggestions

about a day, time, theme or setting that would lead to a better turnout for the group, please let us know! Additionally, if there is something you would like to see included in the newsletter, included in upcoming trainings, or a new idea entirely to bring to the table, please let us know, either via suggestion box, phone or email Erica.

Here are a few ideas that have been suggested so far:

- Monthly FP groups at the same day and time
- Closed facebook group for NSFC parents only
- Groups hosted by FPs themselves in their home or at a park



www.
northstarfamilycenter
.org

MISSION STATEMENT: "The mission of North Star Family Center is to protect and strengthen children and families, by addressing their diverse social needs, through community based programs and relationships".

OUR VISION: "By using the present to deal with the past and prepare our children for their future".

CONTACT US:
Trainer/Recruiter:
Arisveh Miranda at North Star Family Center
6760 N. West Ave. Suite 101
Fresno, CA 93711

North Star Family Center

Learn from the past, apply to today, prepare for tomorrow

north star
family center

6760 N. West Ave. Ste. 101
Fresno, CA
93711

Phone: 559-226-2273

Fax: 559-226-2127

Email:

info@northstarfamilycenter.org

Resource Family Approval (RFA)

Resource Family Approval, or RFA, is up and running in the state of California. Following passage of Assembly Bill 403 (Stone), RFA became the law of the land as of January 1st, 2017. Over 20 North Star families have attended the RFA training and 5 families have successfully converted to RFA as of the writing of this newsletter: Sonia and Nick Soboleski, Jesse Martinez, Tina and Raul Medina, Machel McAlister, and Sherry Hart. Congrats to these Resource Families for completing the conversion process!

Every family must be converted to RFA by the end of 2018. If you have not signed up for the introduction training class, there are two options listed to the right for the month of September. Contact Recruiter/Trainer Arisveh Miranda with any additional questions regarding the process or the calendar of upcoming trainings.

Just as a reminder, here are some quick facts about the RFA process:

- Each family will need to complete a psychosocial assessment consisting of 3 interviews
- Maximum capacity of children per home will be 6 unless there is a documented alternative plan
- Children of opposite gender may share a room up to age 8
- Four children may share a room as long as the room meets regulatory standards



Shout out to our newly converted RFA Families!