

## Donated backpacks help fill back to school needs

Last month, Children and Family Services received over 700 new backpacks filled with school supplies for children in care. Newsong Church in Irvine and Irvine Presbyterian Church, both Faith in Motion partners, rallied their congregations to provide the much needed back to school staple.

Newsong Church has gifted children in foster care with backpacks for the last three years. Jackie Boucher, one of the ministry coordinators with The Village at Newsong, said the project is a labor of love. "Putting together 400 backpacks stuffed with school supplies for our foster children was a big project. It took many hours of preparation, shopping, stuffing, organizing and "roll your sleeves up" hard work. Besides the sheer joy of knowing how much it helps struggling families, it gives our entire church a hands on, tangible opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Some people donated, some shopped, some sorted, some stuffed backpacks... it was a whole lot of people using their time, talent and treasure to make it happen. I was a single parent of three and I know personally how much a little help now and then can make a big difference," said Boucher.

This is the first year Irvine Presbyterian took on the backpack project and Melissa Strodbeck, project coordinator, hopes to continue the new tradition. She attended the division wide distribution in August and was amazed by the need. She hopes to expand the number of backpacks donated in the coming years.

Members of Irvine Presbyterian Church take a break from assembling backpacks.



# Parent volunteers enjoy a day at the park

by Caroline Ano, Senior Social Worker

On Saturday, July 27, the Team Decision Making (TDM)/Parent Engagement Program honored our parent volunteers by hosting a Volunteer Picnic at Hart Park in the city of Orange.

The parent volunteers of the TDM/Parent Engagement program are parents who have successfully reunified with their child/ren and who are now giving back to other parents who have current open cases with Children and Family Services. The purpose of this picnic was to offer an afternoon of fun, food and games to our parent volunteers and their families. Our parent volunteers are highly regarded by our agency and it was an honor to be able to enjoy some quality time with them and their families.

We had several parent volunteers attend the event with their families. We had generous food donated and cooked by Faith in Motion partner, Mission Community Church in Anaheim. We also had a representative from the La Habra Family Resource Center volunteer her time at the event and the support of the Family Support Network.

In total, we had approximately 28 participants including parent volunteers, their children, staff and other community members. As the Parent Engagement Coordinator, it is always a joy and a privilege to get together with my parent volunteers and to do so in a relaxed and family friendly environment was a treat. It was also a lot of fun to interact with the children of our parent volunteers and we all had a blast with the games that our team coordinated for our families. My own child attended the event and she had a lot of fun!



## Youth & operation s.o.s. bond over s'mores



Faith in Motion partner, Operation S.O.S., hosted a summer bon fire in August to say good-bye to the season of outdoor fun.

Coral Feliciano, director, and her energetic team of volunteers brought out all the traditional goodies that make bon fires truly special. The youth in attendance had a blast bonding with each other while eating gooey s'mores and drinking hot chocolate.

# Meet jazmin, juanita and rubi

**J**azmin, Juanita and Rubi are delightful sisters who are in need of an adoptive home together. They have a very close relationship with each other and they each have very bright futures.

Jazmin, the oldest sister, is very caring and protective of her younger sisters. Jazmin enjoys listening to all types of music, watching music videos and playing sports. She likes fashion, gardening, acting, and has taken acting classes in the past. Jazmin is performing very well academically and hopes to attend college in the future. Jazmin is very charming, engaging, polite, and straightforward about her feelings and wishes.

Juanita is the middle sister who initially presents as shy and reserved, however, once she warms up she engages well in conversation. Juanita is very polite and articulate. She enjoys music of all genres, singing, fashion, reading, and watching television. Like her sisters, Juanita is performing well academically.

Rubi is the youngest of the bunch and is a very polite, well mannered young lady. She is reserved and soft spoken at first meeting, however, once she gets to know a person she is quite the conversationalist. Like her sisters, Rubi enjoys fashion, make-up and hair styling. She hopes to attend cosmetology school when she is older. Rubi's interests include painting, listening to a wide variety of music, and singing karaoke.

Jazmin, Juanita and Rubi are longing for a forever family who can provide them the opportunity to reach their fullest potential. Because they are very bonded with each other, it is important to keep them together in a home where they will know security, stability and permanence. They would be wonderful additions to any loving family who is open to a sibling set of three great young ladies.

Be sure to view their video featured in the "Change a Child's Life" segment from The Children's Action Network ([www.ChildrensActionNetwork.org/fosters.htm](http://www.ChildrensActionNetwork.org/fosters.htm)).

Please contact the Adoption Matching Coordinators, Margot Umemoto at (714) 704-8945 or Elizabeth McConnell at (714) 704-8944 if you can open your heart and home to these wonderful sisters.



# foster care auxiliary

save the date  
**9/22**  
picnic  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Kiwanis Land  
save the date

The Foster Care Auxiliary always strives to offer the most services, trainings, events, and products to our foster families. Available to our members:

Computers for Foster Students Program  
Support Group  
Lending Library of Foster and Child Care Related Material  
Baby Gear Lending Program  
Foster Parent Training Opportunities  
Fun Family Events  
Scholarships  
Birthday Corner  
Monthly Distribution Days of new items obtained from community resources  
Thrift Store with deeply discounted, used donations  
A network of foster families available for support and help

Visit our web site or contact us if you are interested in joining!  
333 S. Brookhurst St. Anaheim, CA 92804  
FosterCareAux@yahoo.com / (714) 778-3383  
www.FosterCareAux.com

## Free Spanish support groups for relatives

La Habra Family Resource Center

- Meet other relatives who are raising children who are not their own
- Receive and give emotional support
- Receive community resource information

La Habra Family Resource Center

301 W. Las Lomas Dr.

La Habra 90631

6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Every 1st Wednesday of the month (October 2, November 6, December 4)

Child care is provided.

To register, call (714) 447-3460 and press 0.

Grupos de apoyo para parientes criando al hijo de un familiar.

Acompáñenos y conozca a otras personas que están criando al hijo de un familiar.

- Reciba y brinda apoyo emocional
- Reciba información sobre recursos en la comunidad

Habrà cuidado de niños.

Llame para apuntarse al (714) 447-3460 y oprima 0.

Cada primer miércoles del mes: octubre 2, noviembre 6 y diciembre 4.

# Foster & Kinship Care Education



The foster and kinship care education program at Saddleback College provides quality education and support opportunities to caregivers of children in out-of-home care. The free classes are designed to assist the caregivers in meeting the children's educational, emotional, behavioral, and developmental needs.

In order for foster parents to meet their annual eight hours of training, monthly classes are offered throughout Orange County. To view classes, visit [www.saddleback.edu/fkce](http://www.saddleback.edu/fkce) or call (949) 582-4884 to request a class catalog and to register for classes.

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Meetings will be held in comfortable settings...like a park...and children of all ages are welcome!

for more information, contact cynthia bradbury, licensed foster parent, at (714) 588-4316 or at [cbradbury@socal.rr.com](mailto:cbradbury@socal.rr.com).

# Relative Support Services Available

Olive Crest's "Relatives Raising Children" is a Kinship Support Services Program, funded by the California Department of Social Services, to provide support services to any relative caregiver or non-extended family member caring for someone else's child in Orange County. Juvenile court dependency is not required.

Because we care about your family, we offer kinship support groups in English and Spanish throughout the county. If you are a relative caregiver or you know one needing support, kinship related information or if you want to help in some way, please contact us at (714) 543-5437 or visit our website at [www.olivecrest.org/kinship](http://www.olivecrest.org/kinship).

El Programa de Olive Crest "Criando al Hijo del Pariente" es un programa de servicios de apoyo para personas que están criando a niños de la familia. El programa está financiado por el Departamento de Servicios Sociales de California, para proporcionar servicios de apoyo en el Condado de Orange.

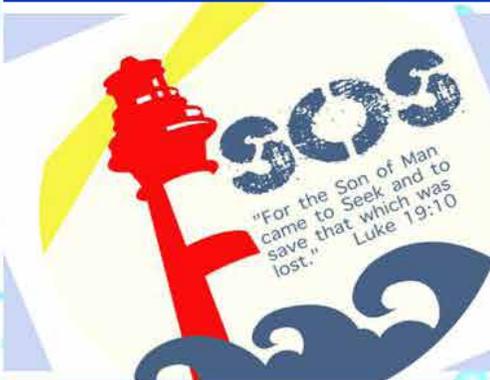
Los grupos de apoyo del programa están disponibles en inglés y español en varias partes del condado y se enfocan en las necesidades específicas de familias que están criando a niños de la familia. Si usted es padre de crianza de un niño de la familia o conoce a alguien que esté buscando este tipo de apoyo e información relacionado al programa, o si usted quiere ayudar de algún modo, por favor póngase en contacto con nosotros llamando al (714) 543-5437 o visite nuestro sitio web en [www.olivecrest.org/kinship](http://www.olivecrest.org/kinship).



# OPERATION S.O.S

INVITES YOU TO

## S.O.S CONFERENCE 2013 RE+FRESH



When: Saturday, November 2, 2013

Time: 12:30pm to 8pm

Where: Orangehills Assembly

2910 N. Santiago Blvd., Orange, CA 92867

Who: Youth ages 16 - 25 may attend!

**Come get refreshed!! We will be having:**

- amazing workshops on issues that youth deal with today,
- awesome giveaways and raffles,
- food and entertainment,
- special guest speakers, and much more!

S.O.S scholarship winners will be  
announced at the conference!  
You won't want to miss it!!



Register online at [www.operationsos.weebly.com](http://www.operationsos.weebly.com)

# Directory

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

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES RECEPTION**  
(714) 704-8000  
(714) 935-7584 (emergencies & after hours)

## ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Michael Riley  
Social Services Director

Mike Ryan  
Social Services Chief Deputy Director

Gary Taylor  
Children & Family Services Director

Anne Bloxom  
CFS Deputy Director

Ray Gallagher  
CFS Deputy Director

Susan Holl  
CFS Deputy Director

Jorge Sole  
CFS Deputy Director

## RESOURCE FAMILY RECRUITMENT, LICENSING & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Paula Kitchen, Program Manager

## FOSTER & ADOPTIVE FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Jim Deming, Supervisor  
(714) 704-8230

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

\*Juan Herrera, Recruiter/Trainer  
(714) 704-8242

Sharon Landis, Recruiter/Trainer  
(714) 704-8257

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

\*Lorena Rodriguez, Information Line  
(888) 871-5437

Robert Waddington, Recruiter/Trainer  
(714) 704-8256

## FOSTER & KINSHIP CARE LIAISON

\*Joanna Hussey (714) 704-TALK (8255)

## LICENSING

Brent Payne, Supervisor  
(714) 704-8887

Donna Avise (714) 704-8821

\*Nena Casis (714) 704-6102

Colette Kim-Abiog (714) 704-6105

Michael Manchester (714) 704-8819

\*George Reyes (714) 704-8896

\*\*Lianne Vu (714) 704-8811

\*Angelica Zikoor (714) 704-8838

## BIRTHDAY GIFTS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

Mona Gustafson (714) 679-2438  
Call for an appointment

## EMERGENCY SHELTER HOME (ESH)

\*Estela Ahuero (714) 935-8104

## TRANSITIONAL PLANNING SERVICES PROGRAM

Raquel Amezcua, Program Manager

\*Irene Briggs, Supervisor (714) 940-3965

Ilan Wolf, Supervisor (714) 704-8314

## MULTIDIMENSIONAL TREATMENT FOSTER CARE (MTFC)

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

Terry Maher, Program Supervisor  
(714) 704-4122

Michelle Medina, Recruiter/Trainer  
(714) 704-8837

Denise Odom, Recruiter/Trainer  
(714) 704-8835

## SPECIAL MEDICAL PROGRAM

Karen Werno, 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)

New Alternatives, Inc. (714) 245-0045

## WORKING CAREGIVER CHILDCARE

\*Karen Pinkerton (714) 704-6145

## FOSTER & KINSHIP CARE EDUCATION

Saddleback College (949) 582-4884

## FOSTER CARE ADVISORY BOARD

Sallie Miller (714) 848-2558  
Karen Templeton (714) 556-5250

## CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS

Fountain Valley  
Sallie Miller (714) 848-2558

Huntington Beach/Parents of Teens  
Jessie Damerval (714) 848-0347

Single Parents (Male/Female)  
Cynthia Bradbury (714) 843-6835

Foster Care Auxiliary/Anaheim  
Kathy Harvey (714) 778-3383

Orange/Spanish Support  
\*Joanna Hussey (714) 704-8255

## ORGANIZATIONS

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

CalOPTIMA  
Liaison (714) 246-8864  
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  
(714) 778-3383/www.fostercareaux.com

Kinship Center  
(714) 957-1004

Olive Crest Kinship Support Program  
Helen Lindsey  
(714) 543-5437 ext. 1211

Orange County Mental Health  
(714) 834-5015

Vision Services Plan (800) 877-7195

\*Spanish Speaking

\*\*Vietnamese Speaking

**the link** is published quarterly by Orange County Social Services Agency, Children and Family Services. We invite your news items. Any correspondence becomes the property of Children and Family Services and may be used in any media. We reserve the right to edit. Editor: Roylyn Burton / Roylyn.Burton@ssa.ocgov.com / (714) 746-2778.