



THE LINK

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY / FALL 2018 / VOL 10 ISSUE 4



COMING FULL CIRCLE

Resource parent Yvonne Totty knows the foster care system from both sides.

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

Resource parents Yvonne and Tom Totty

"I KNEW there was something wonderful about that family. That's why I asked to go back to them." As we sat in her living room talking about her childhood, Yvonne Totty's voice started to break down as she opened up about her time in foster care. For Yvonne, those years proved to be some of the toughest, yet transformational, years of her life. So much so that the experience eventually led her to become a resource parent.

The early years

Yvonne, along with her nine brothers and sisters,

were in and out of foster care and she aged-out at 19. By the time Yvonne was 10, she lived with nine different resource families. Of the nine families she met, there was one that stood out from the rest. "At the age of 9, I met this amazing family. Although I was only with them a short time, they made a tremendous impact on me. I just knew there was something different about them," said Yvonne. That resource family would change Yvonne's life forever.

Yvonne's mother used heroin and struggled to overcome her addiction. When Yvonne was 10, her

mother relapsed and the children went back into care. This time, it was permanent. Yvonne's mother never did recover and Yvonne spent the next nine years with the people she fondly calls "mom and dad." The same resource mom and dad she spent time with when she was 9.

The road to belonging

As a young girl, Yvonne faced many challenges. At the age of 6, she was the victim of sexual abuse and the effects weighed heavily on her. As a result, the little girl that once liked to smile and play became angry and withdrawn. "After years of carrying this anger, I felt like I could do whatever I wanted and I wasn't going to listen to anyone," she stated.

She remembered walking home late one day after school without telling her resource parents. Her resource dad scoured the area looking for her and finally found her hours later.

Yvonne vividly recalls how worried and angry her resource dad was because she neglected to tell him she was going to be home late. She added, "I just assumed I could come home late without having to tell anyone. Now, mind you, I never saw my dad angry. I think this incident was the only time I ever heard my father cuss. That woke me up."

It was at that point Yvonne realized her resource parents thought of her as an important part of the family - where she was loved and belonged. "He wanted me to understand that as a family, we communicated with each other and not just do what you wanted because it affected the entire family," Yvonne said.

Her resource parents never treated her any differently than their own biological children and other children in their care. The parents took the time to talk with all of their children and asked how they were doing during regular family meetings. "Despite the hate I carried inside, they wanted to make sure I was loved," she fondly recalled.

During high school, Yvonne's cheerleading dance troupe performed at the opening ceremonies of the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Although her resource parents already planned their annual summer trip to Georgia, they rearranged their schedule so Yvonne wouldn't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. "They cared enough to alter their plans to make sure I was able to participate in the ceremony. They treated me like their daughter," she said.

A future of service

Changing vacation plans was just one of the many ways they showed how much they loved Yvonne and every child that came through their front door. Being concerned for her future, they made sure she was exposed to career opportunities that interested her. Yvonne explained, "My mom told me about cosmetology classes at my high

school. I use to cut my own hair, the neighbor's hair, my dolls' hair, and I even think the dog's fur. It's a natural tendency for a parent to help plan for their children's future. They helped me launch."

She completed cosmetology school before she graduated from high school and had a job lined-up. "I was blessed with a full clientele and enjoyed helping others look even more beautiful. I still do hair one day a month because I never want to retire. It's been 35 years now and I still love it," Yvonne exclaimed.

In addition to running their print business, Yvonne and Tom are also resource parents and are currently caring for a 23-month-old boy. "I was that foster child and now I can appreciate everything my foster parents did for

me now that I'm a resource mother," said Yvonne.

Because of her childhood experiences, Yvonne holds a special place in her heart for resource parents and believes in the importance of supporting and encouraging them to continue on the journey to helping children in crisis. She emphasized, "Resource parents need to know just how much the children need and love them. Without dedicated resource families, I would have ended up on the streets just like my mother and siblings."

Yvonne's passion is to tell her story to as many children in care as she can and let them know they are loved and have a future. "If I can do anything in the world to make a difference, it's helping children understand just how much they can change their lives. I didn't see it when I was a child and I know the children don't see it now, but there's hope for a great future. I want to give back what God gave to me. That is my hope," she concluded.





A DEEPER LOOK INTO MENTAL HEALTH

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

TYPICALLY, it's a good thing when a student wants to skip lunch to focus on finishing school work or extra credit assignments. But when this is done on a daily basis to avoid socializing with peers, a deeper emotional issue may be the underlying cause. One teenager made it a habit to avoid friends by ducking into a classroom to seemingly do work. Within a few months, the student went from achieving honor roll to failing. Slowly, the student was falling into depression and began gaining weight, cutting themselves and missing school. The student felt like every single day was a bad day and no one cared enough to spot the signs and offer help. All the student wanted was for someone, a teacher or the principal, to ask what was wrong. But no one ever asked. Years later, the teen was diagnosed with bulimia and depression. After finally receiving support and therapy, the young person is slowly regaining hope for the future.

One in five children suffer from a mental health condition and many of these children go undiagnosed for years before finally getting help. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), mental health disorders in children and teens may cause life-long, detrimental effects on their academic, social and relational success. Approximately 50 percent of teens 14 and older with mental health diagnoses will drop out of high school.

Because many children find it hard to express their feelings and emotions, it's up to the adults in the children's lives to spot the warning signs. A recent National Public Radio survey with educators, parents and service providers found that a shared responsibility in mental health diagnosis is key to getting children the help they need. Children and

teens displaying early warning signs of mental health issues may remain undiagnosed because parents, caregivers and other adults might not recognize the signs. In addition, adults may be reluctant to ask for help or dismiss symptoms as just a phase the children are going through. But sudden changes such as angry outbursts, poor grades or irregular sleeping and eating patterns can be real signs of a mental health disorder.

Developing a strong, cooperative, working relationship with your child's teachers, principal and other school personnel is one key strategy to recognizing and addressing an emerging issue. Similar to your role as a resource parent, it is important that you understand the educational system and communicate openly and regularly with the professionals in your child's life. Become your child's greatest advocate so they may reach their fullest potential.

Stephanie Jamison-Void, chief executive officer of a behavioral health center for families, noted that if properly diagnosed, mental health issues in children are highly treatable. She further explains that treatment through medication and/or behavioral health therapies have a high success rate and can change lives.

Ensuring our children and teens have access to services that diagnose and treat mental health disorders in a timely manner is of the greatest priority. Let's work together to help reduce the potential risks of harm resulting from undiagnosed or untreated disorders. A strong partnership can give our children the greatest chance for success in school and in life. If you have questions about mental health services, please contact your assigned social worker.



KIDS/chores

TODDLER POWER

Teaching chores doesn't have to be one.

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

THE EGG CRACKED perfectly down the middle. With her little fingers, my youngest daughter separated the egg shell and watched with wonder as the egg yolk and whites glided down into the steel bowl below. Victory! I stood at the counter beaming with pride as she cracked her very first egg successfully at the age of 2. Food Network, here she comes! But then my wide smile quickly faded as I looked on in horror. Tiny bits of egg shell rained down on the shiny egg yolk and whites. Well, at least I knew she listened to me; place the whole egg into the bowl. It took 30 minutes to fish out the bits of visible shell in the batter.

As a toddler, she loved being in the kitchen with me. Now as a teen, she still loves to be in the kitchen. Early on, I started giving her little jobs I knew she could handle such as getting ingredi-

ents out of the pantry. She thrived in her role as kitchen helper. I began to give her more and more responsibilities and promoted her to sous chef. Although the egg shell mishap put a bit of a damper on her willingness to help, it still provided an opportunity to teach her the difference between an accident and careless action.

As parents, we are busy and deal with demands coming at us every which way. Sometimes, it's easier for us to crack the eggs or sort the laundry ourselves because we know it will get done right the first time. We are so used to doing for our children that it becomes second nature. It's hard to get out of that comfort zone and take the next step – teaching our children responsibility at an early age. Yes, it will take time but the payoff is a 6-year-old or 10 year-old doing chores without complaint. Even better, a young person prepared and equipped to launch from the nest. Now that is worth the time investment.

There is so much information on ways to help toddlers engage in household chores. Common strategies center around making chores a natural occurrence. Many toddlers innately want to help. The challenge is for parents to let them. The NPR article, "How to Get Your Kids to Do Chores (Without Resenting It)" by Michaelen Doucleff, offers some suggestions on how to start early in an effort to avoid the chore wars later.

Expose children to chores

People are visual and it's no different with young children. Allow your little one to watch you make dinner, do the laundry, dust, or garden. Walk through the chore

and explain what you are doing and why. For example, explain why you sort dark and light colored clothing into different piles before you wash them. Observation is one of the best teachers and it fosters quality time with your child as well. Make the chore fun so they will associate it with something positive.

Give them a small task

Let your child work alongside you as an assistant. In preparation for doing laundry, allow them to gather all of the dark colored clothing and make a pile. This gives the child a sense of accomplishment and they are making a real contribution to the family.

Work together

No matter the chore, make sure everyone is involved in getting the chore done. For example, be



sure to include all of your children in sorting the laundry or picking up leaves in the yard. Your child will learn that everyone in the family helps make the household run smoothly.

Show them, don't tell them

Just like adults, children won't respond positively when told what to do. According to Doucleff, forcing children to do chores will actually have the opposite effect and generate resistance. Instead of telling them what to do, ask them if they would like to help you and offer to do the chore together. The end goal is to develop the child's own initiative.

Help the helper

Young children want to help but just don't know how. Get creative and find ways for them to help while teaching them how and why the chore needs to be done. As children grow older, chores will be done more efficiently. Until then, parents are advised to adjust expectations. Know that when your toddler folds clothes, more clothes will be unfolded than folded. Likewise, not all of the dust may be wiped from the coffee table. In order to teach self-sufficiency at an early age, parents will need to let go of the image of the perfectly clean house. But in return, they get to experience the joy of toddler power. Little hands are a lot more capable than we think.

DUST and DIRT with LEAD can HURT.

Learn how to keep kids away from lead where they play.

To learn more about the causes and prevention of childhood lead poisoning, visit www.ochealthinfo.com/lead or call 714-567-6220.

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OC health
CARE AGENCY

MARINERSCHURCH

Fostering Together

—Foster/Kinship Support Group—

Monday • 6:30-8:30p

Apr 16 • May 21 • Jun 18 • Aug 20 • Sep 17 • Oct 15 • Nov 19
Community Center Rm 300 • Childcare check-in 6:15p

Join us for our monthly **Support Group** to get to know other foster/adoptive & kinship families. Our hope is that you will find encouragement and community as we walk this journey together.

Dinner and childcare provided.

Register: fostercare.marinerschurch.org
Click on the **education link**

Questions? Contact **Erin**, ekim@marinerschurch.org

A CANDID CONVERSATION

By Michelle Medina, Senior Social Worker
TFCO-OC



Resource parent Sue Ethridge.

TREATMENT FOSTER CARE OREGON - ORANGE COUNTY (TFCO-OC) resource families, like all other resource families, are caring individuals, willing to give of themselves for the benefit of Orange County youth and society as a whole. It has been said that resource families are the heart of the TFCO-OC model. The TFCO-OC model depends on resource families who are able to see a better future for youth and have the determination to help youth change the course of their lives.

Each of our TFCO-OC resource families benefit from on-going training and extensive team support. In this issue of *The Link*, we introduce you to resource parent, Sue Ethridge, a TFCO-OC team member since 2005. Sue graciously agreed to give us a peek into her world.

Michelle Medina (MM): Hi Sue. Thank you for taking the time to talk to us. Please tell us about yourself.

Sue Ethridge (SE): I'm the oldest of six girls. The week after I graduated from high school I began working at a pre-school where I worked through college. The school expanded to include a private elementary school through 6th grade. I directed the school for the next fourteen years. I needed a career change, so I purchased a flower shop since flower arranging was a hobby of mine. I really missed working with kids. I read an article about foster care so I got my license and my first placement. In March of 1987, I welcomed a delightful 4-year-old boy. I eventually took legal guardianship of him and he is now my 35-year-old son. He served in the Navy for

seven years and is now a surgical registered nurse. I later adopted my second son, now 30, and took legal guardianship of my now 22-year-old daughter.

MM: How long have you been a County of Orange resource parent?

SE: I became licensed in 1986. I've fostered over 30 children. I've always chosen to do long-term care. I took children between the ages of 2 and 12. In the beginning my attitude was, no teens for me!

MM: When did you first become a TFCO-OC resource parent?

SE: I stopped taking placements for about five years after taking guardianship of my daughter because I was unable to find the support and tools I needed at that time to continue fostering. However, I kept my foster license current. I read an article in TeamTalk (now The Link), about the TFCO-OC program. I liked the idea of team work and the 24-hour support. I'd raised my teens, so they didn't scare me anymore. I became a TFCO-OC parent in 2005.

MM: How many TFCO-OC teens have you fostered?

SE: I've cared for ten TFCO-OC children.

MM: What do you wish more people knew about fostering TFCO-OC teens?

SE: If you've been a regular foster parent for years, you've had tough kids before without the extra support of the TFCO-OC team. Our kids have all had a rough start, but they are great kids who just need a helping hand and an accepting environment to get

their lives together – just like any teen. It’s so much easier to know you have someone to call any time of day or night when you need help. I totally look forward to our regular Tuesday morning TFCO-OC meetings where we share the past week’s events and future goals for our children. This also gives us a chance to unload any possible child-rearing frustrations we may have built up over the week.

MM: Do you have friends who express astonishment, who wonder how and why you do this?

SE: Yes, both friends and family members. I’m always surprised that most people have a very small vision of what family is. It is wonderful to see a teen who finally realizes he or she is in a safe home. That’s when the program really begins to work. Yes, you need a basic love for teens and a sense of doing your part in making a better future for them. Some days make you wonder about your own sanity. But, overall, I love what I do.

MM: What does a typical day look like at your house?

SE: The mornings are pretty typical, out of bed, eat breakfast, get dressed, and off to school. We receive a brief, daily, morning phone call from a TFCO-OC senior social worker so that we can provide the Parent Daily Report (PDR) which is a lifeline to the TFCO-OC program. You need a large calendar for the afternoons. A TFCO-OC teen has a large team to work with every week. This includes visits with social workers, CASA workers, youth partners, therapists, Wraparound team members, and mentors. Generally, your TFCO-OC youth will be picked-up for all of these appointments and then returned to your home. On any open days, there may be doctor’s appointments, psychiatrist’s visits and family visits. It’s also important to include extra-curricular activities like sports, hobbies and music lessons. At my house, it’s important that everyone sits down for dinner around 6 p.m. It seems to really be helpful for family communication, especially with all that is going on. Any spare time is used for chores, homework, and things the teens need to do to earn their daily program points.

MM: Is there a unique aspect to the TFCO-OC program that makes it work?

SE: The program is set up so the teens know exactly what’s expected of them. The program gives them the opportunity to realize they can be in control of their own behaviors. It’s basically up to the teens to earn their points each day so that they maintain their privileges. It’s all up to them. Every day it’s important to emphasize the positive in everything and to acknowledge all of the positive behaviors the teens display. Yes, there might be negative behaviors that result in losing points, but the teens can

always earn bonus points with good behaviors – and tomorrow is a new day. The points do the parenting for you.

MM: What is a TFCO-OC graduation and what is it like?

SE: After nine to 18 months, when the teen is ready to return home, we celebrate their successes with a TFCO-OC graduation party. Family members, other TFCO-OC families, Wraparound Team members, members of the Child and Family Teams, and the teens’ social workers attend the parties. The graduate picks his or her favorite food and we all have a great dinner together. Speeches are made, certificates and gifts are given, and there is always dessert. After the celebration ends, the teen goes home with his or her after-care family for good. It’s a rewarding, yet sometimes tearful, day.

MM: What is the greatest challenge of fostering a TFCO-OC teen?

SE: The greatest challenge for me was learning to let the program work for you. The program requires you to be a different type of parent than you were/are with your own children. Ignoring many of the negative behaviors is a tough one in the beginning, but once you see the advantage of focusing on the positive, it becomes so much easier. Another challenge is dealing with your own children in perhaps a different parental role. There must be good communication within what I call the “core family.” Your kids must understand the difference in your styles and their place in your heart.

MM: What is the greatest reward of fostering a TFCO-OC teen?

SE: For me, it’s all about building a sense of self-knowledge, confidence and control. When a teen leaves my home aware of his or her strengths and important place in the world, then I’ve done my job. It gives me a sense of making the world a better place and giving the youth an idea of what his or her life can look like with just a little hard work. They are worth the effort.

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.

**YOU HAVE PASSION.
YOU HAVE EXPERTISE.
YOU HAVE A STORY.**

**SHARE IT BY BECOMING
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CALL FRANCISCO PEREZ AT (714) 704-8952 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

RESOURCE PARENTS/events

 **SUPER SATURDAY TRAINING
CARING FOR SUBSTANCE EXPOSED CHILDREN**

Saturday, September 29, 2018
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Children and Family Services
744 N. Eckhoff St., Orange 92868

The training is open to all resource parents and four hours of training credit will be given. Registration is limited to the first 90 people. Refreshments will be served. Please note, childcare is not available. Register with RFA Training at (888) 871-5437 or e-mail RFATraining@ssa.ocgov.com by September 24.

 **VILLAGE WELL 5TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Saturday, October 20, 2018
9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Newport Mesa Church
2599 Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa 92627

Six hours of training credit given as well as free lunch and a full day of fun activities for the children. Register at www.newportmesa.org/serve/villagewell.

 **RESOURCE FAMILY "DAYCATION"**

Sunday, November 4, 2018
2:45 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Mariners Church
5001 Newport Coast Dr., Irvine 92603

Drop your children off for an afternoon full of adventure while you enjoy some relaxation time. This event is for infants through junior high-age children. For more information and to register, e-mail Erin Kim at ekim@marinerschurch.org or visit www.fostercare.marinerschurch.org.

 **HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA
SAVE THE DATE**

Saturday, December 15, 2018
Details and invitation coming in November.

FOSTER PARENT COLLEGE

Foster Parent College offers interactive, multimedia, on-line training courses for kinship, foster and adoptive parents. These trainings are available 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week and may be taken at your convenience. Trainings include topics such as Advanced Parenting Strategies, Behavior Management and Attention Deficit Disorder.

Approved resource parents will automatically be enrolled in Foster Parent College. You will receive an e-mail with login instructions. Please contact OCFosterParentCollege@ssa.ocgov.com for any questions regarding your enrollment.



FOSTER CARE AUXILIARY

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
- 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

CONNECT WITH

orangewood foundation

» College Scholarships Fall 2018



The 2018–2019 Orangewood Foundation scholarship application is now available to students attending college. Current and former foster youth are eligible to receive up to \$2,500 for community college and \$4,500 for a four-year university per school year. In order to be eligible, a student must have been in foster care in Orange County on or after their 13th birthday.

The deadline to be considered for a scholarship for the 2018 fall semester is September 30. The online application may be found at <https://www.orangewood4you.org/childrens-trust-fund/higher-education-scholarships/>. For more information, please contact Ashley Cordero at Acordero@orangewoodfoundation.org or (714) 619-0209.

» CSU San Marcos Admission

Orangewood Foundation recently signed an agreement with California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM) to expand and enhance the educational opportunities for foster youth. Beginning with current high school seniors (class of 2019), CSUSM will provide a guarantee of enrollment for high school graduates in the foster care system who have:

- Completed the minimum CSU eligibility index requirements
- Completed the CSU application for undergraduate admission
- Completed the ACE Scholars Services Program
- Taken the SAT Reasoning or ACT Exam

For more information, please contact Ashley Cordero at Acordero@orangewoodfoundation.org or (714) 619-0209.



» Mobile Medical Clinic

The Hurtt Family Medical Clinic is at the Foundation on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and is open to current and former foster youth and their families. Services are free and insurance is not required. Check-ups and vaccines are available, but youth must pre-register by coming into the Foundation's resource center. For questions, please call the Foundation at (714) 619-0200.

Orangewood Foundation
1575 E. 17th St., Santa Ana



» Transitional Housing

Rising Tide has two openings at Beverly's House, the Foundation's house for 18 to 24-year-old women. Additionally, they have one opening in their community apartments, with a second opening coming at the end of the year. Youth should apply early to Rising Tide before emancipation to begin working with one of the Foundation's youth support specialists. Youth who are applying should be between 18 and 24 (male, female or parenting youth). For more information, please contact Linda Levshin at (714) 619-0239 or llevshin@orangewoodfoundation.org.



CONNECT WITH

orangewood foundation

>> Dental Clinic

Orangewood Foundation is hosting a free dental clinic at Samuelli Academy High School in Santa Ana on Saturday, October 6 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The clinic is open to all current and former foster youth and their families. On-site services include cleanings, dental exams, composite and amalgam fillings, dental sealants, extractions, and digital x-rays. An appointment is required and may be made by calling Jeff Gilstrap at (714) 619-0237.



>> Independent Living Calendar

Kaiser Permanente Educational Theater Presents: *What Goes Around*

Wednesday, November 28, 2018 • 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy a live performance from Kaiser Permanente Educational Theater. *What Goes Around* tells the story of five friends as they navigate through the final days of high school and the issues of sexually transmitted diseases, friendship and honesty.

Visit www.orangewood4you.org/ILP for more information and a full activity schedule.





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

Christine Smith Snapper
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

**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
(714) 704-8255 (TALK)

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
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**Vietnamese Speaking

THE LINK

THE LINK is published quarterly by the County of Orange Social Services Agency, Children and Family Services Division and 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.

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