



Youth Newsletter

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Youth Resources:
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Ashlie Meyer- Kern High School District, Youth Career Assistant

Lisa Rodriguez- TAY (Transition Age Youth) Mental Health Services

Jeannette Zaragoza- TAY (Transition Age Youth) Mental Health Services

Olivia Villarreal-Youth Advocate Extraordinaire, Dream Team Chair

Location:
1212 18th Street
Bakersfield, CA. 93301

"At the corner of L Street and 18th"

Website:
<http://kcsos.kern.org/dreamcenter>

It's the Dream Center's ONE year anniversary! Come and help us Celebrate!

Dream Center Update

The Dream Center & Coffee House was opened on October 7th, 2008. The resource center was designed with the needs of foster youth in mind, and created to be a safe, comfortable environment where foster youth of any age could come and receive support, services, or just hangout with their peers.

So far, **100** youth have visited the Dream Center:

- Group Home Movie Nights
- Coffee Shop Study Nights
- Junior League Sponsored Programs



I hope you enjoyed my first newsletter! When you come to get your coffee come and see me. -Olivia

Dagny's At The Dream Center

If you haven't visited the Dream Center Coffee House, YOU are missing out, but with the **FREE** drink coupon attached to this newsletter you have no excuse to give us a try. The coffee house was designed to have a funky fun

Who Lives At The Dream Center To Serve YOU?

- **CYC**-California Youth Connection
- **ILP**- Independent Living Skills Program- Social Worker
- **Foster Youth Services/ Project D.R.E.A.M** Tutoring & Leadership Program Staff
- **KHSD**— Kern High School District -Career Resource Department Employment Program
- **TAY**—Mental Health- Transition Aged Youth (TAY) Case Managers

Community partners are welcome to use our meeting space anytime!

Magic Bulletin Board

Every so often a youth has a need, and they write down their wish and post it on the Magic Bulletin Board in the lobby of the Dream Center. During the past year the following wishes have been met:

- One Car
- Two Laptops
- One Bed
- Misc. Households items
- Television & DVD player

(A need would be: a laptop for college, a car-seat for a baby or young child, a scientific calculator for geometry)

Dates To Remember:

- Independent City-October 24th
- Dream Team Meetings-2nd Thursday of every month 3:00 pm-4:00 pm
- FAFSA applications DEADLINE: March 2, 2009
- Holiday Events: TBA



How YOUTH Can Get Involved

Every 2nd Thursday of the month the Dream Team committee meets to discuss new ideas, updates, events, and we need YOUR voice to help us be the best resource center we can be. If you are a foster youth between the ages of 16-24 come check out a meeting and give us some input. The Dream Team is like CYC, current and former foster youth working toward the betterment of foster care.

How ADULTS get involved: *See our website for donation ideas or ways to volunteer*

At The Dream Center: DeJay's Story

"On October 7, 2008 I came down from Lake Isabella. The Lake Isabella Family Resource Center brought me to the Dream Center & Coffee House Grand Opening. At that time I was struggling with a food, money, and a place to live.

I came to the Dream Center for some help, because I knew I couldn't do it on my own. The people who work at the Dream Center are great. They linked me up with TAY (Mental Health), the ACT Program, and other resources they have available for me. The Dream Center & Coffee House is just a chill place to hang out at. It is not just another government building where the walls are

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white and you feel unwelcome. When I am stress out I come to the Dream Center and just talk to the staff. The staff members at the Dream Center really listen to your needs and goals in life. They get you connected to the community so you can achieve your needs and goals. I am really thankful that Bakersfield as an one-stop for foster youth. I don't know where I would be with out this awesome place. I now have a place to live, money coming in, and can support myself. I am also a part of the Dream Team, and I am really involved with the different events going on at the Dream Center. I even do other things to give back to the community."

-DeJay

Coffee "Shop" Talk

"The Dream Center is cool, because I can come here for just about any need I have, or if I just need to talk to someone-I even got a job here!" -Korrina

*"Be STRONG!"
-Olivia*

"I love that Jennifer Mason is at the Dream Center and always willing to help. All the Dream Center staff are GREAT!" - Belinda

Do You Know Your Rights In Foster Care?

You have the right to:

- Work, Unless the law says you are too young
- Credits you have earned even if you leave without finishing the semester
- Request to stay at the school you are attending even if you move

Learn what other rights you have and what services are here to help you by contacting these programs:

- Foster Care Help-Line 1-877-846-1602
- Independent Living Program (ILP) 661-868-8847
- Foster Youth Services of Kern County 661-636-4488
- California Youth Connection (CYC) 661-868-8847

*Programs
for
Foster Youth*