

WINTER
2008
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KERN COUNTY NETWORK FOR CHILDREN

NETWORK NEWS

THE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION SUMMIT
is coming . . .

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



Holiday Inn Select
801 Truxtun Avenue
(No Cost to Attend)

This year's keynote speaker is Donna M. Beegle, Ed.D. she is a highly experienced National public speaker, discussion leader, trainer, and the author of "See Poverty, Be The Difference," a resource book for professionals who work with people in poverty. Donna has worked and written articles providing insights and strategies for communicating more effectively across race, class, gender and generational barriers for 17 years. Donna's inspiring story and work have been featured in newspapers around the nation, on local TV and on National programs such as PBS. Her work on poverty is being featured in a Documentary titled: Invisible Nation in Fall 08. Donna has worked with educators, justice professionals, health care providers, social service agencies, and other organizations all over the nation who want to make a difference for those living in the crisis of poverty.



Donna is the only member of her family who has not been incarcerated. After growing up in generational migrant labor poverty, leaving school for marriage at 15, having two children and continuing to cope with poverty, she found herself, at 25, with no husband, little education, and no job skills. What followed in 10 short years were: self-confidence, a G.E.D., an A.A. in Journalism, a B.A. (with honors) in Communications, a Master's Degree in Communication with a minor in Gender Studies (with honors), and completion of a Doctorate Degree.

Donna completed her Doctorate in Educational Leadership at Portland State University in 2000, where she taught speech communication courses for eight years. She is currently president of Communication Across Barriers, a consulting firm devoted to improving communication and relationships. Donna is also founder and CEO of the new nonprofit, PovertyBridge which is dedicated to changing lives for people in poverty.

For more information contact Jose Luiz Gonzalez at 661-633-7376.



"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome." - Booker T. Washington



... IN THIS ISSUE

Child Abuse Prevention Summit	1
KCNC 2008 Leadership Development Class	2
Project D.R.E.A.M.	3
A Christmas Tradition in the Making	3
A New Addition to the Family: Holiday Style	3
Anniversary Celebration Leads to Walking Path	4
Kern County Aging & Adult Services Dept.	4
Kern County Dept. of Public Health Programs	5
General Info. & Collaborative Guide	6 - 7
Kern Parent Project Website Launched	8
Empowerment Through Education	8
Child Guidance Foster Family Agency	8
Domestic Violence Advisory Council	9
Kern County Infant Toddler Conference	9
Institute for Parent Educators	9
Leap into the Heart of a Child	10
Wasco Collaborative	10
Links for Life	10
Kern Child Abuse Prevention Council Events	11

KCNC 2008 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CLASS PARTICIPANTS

Gary Ammerman, Parent Mentor
Kern County Department of Human Services

Ahmed Baameur, Deputy Probation Officer III
Kern County Probation Department

Carrie Bloxom, Supervising Case Manager
Kern County Network for Children

Lisa Brum, Childcare Center Director
Valley Schools

Dianne Campbell, Director of Membership
& Marketing
Girl Scouts – Joshua Tree Council

Jesus Cordova, Family Advocate
Richland School District

Danielle Dixon, Bakersfield Team Leader
AmeriCorps

Jolene Forzetting, Case Manager
CASA

Deanna Frausto, Secretary I
Bakersfield Police Department

Kimberly Fulton, Chief Program Officer
First 5 Kern

Alicia Garcia, Clerk Typist II
Kern County Network for Children

Sophia Garcia-Ronquillo, Account Clerk III
Kern High School District, Career Resource Dept.

Jose Luiz Gonzalez, HST III – Outreach Office
Kern County Department of Human Services

Amberly Haney, Governance Coordinator
Community Action Partnership of Kern

Jason Hillis, Probation Supervisor
Kern County Probation Department

Rosa Ibarra, AFS Case Manager
Clinica Sierra Vista

Anastasia Lester, Research Analyst
Community Action Partnership of Kern

Cindy London, Community Relations Specialist
Bakersfield Police Department

Martha Lucio, Differential Response Case Manager
Clinica Sierra Vista

Danny Luna, Social Service Supervisor
Kern County Department of Human Services

Christy Machado, Parent Mentor
Community Action Partnership of Kern

Deborah Madore, Parent Mentor
Kernville Union School District

John Money, Detective
Kern County Sheriffs Department

Sandra Morris, Community Relations Specialist
Bakersfield Police Department

Topacio Samano, Delano Team Leader
AmeriCorps

Ranelle Smith, Training Coordinator
Kern Schools Federal Credit Union

Michelle Turner, Director of Development
Catholic Charities

Dodie Williams, Crime Prevention Specialist
Kern County Sheriffs Department

Donald Winslow, Commercial Advisor
Chevron

Carrie Zerafa, Site Director
Catholic Charities

*It's the action, not the fruit of the action that's important.
You have to do the right thing.
It may not be in your power, may not be in your time,
That there will be any fruit,
But that does not mean you stop doing the right thing.
You may never know what results come from your action.
But if you do nothing,
There will be no result. - Mahatma Ghandi*

PROJECT D.R.E.A.M. UPDATES



Project D.R.E.A.M. (Delivering Real Education and Mentoring), a collaborative tutoring/mentoring project between CSU Bakersfield and Foster Youth Services, began its second year in August of 2007.

We are proud to report that we have doubled our numbers and are currently serving approximately 28 foster youth who live in group homes. These foster youth are transported out to CSUB twice per week for tutoring sessions with undergraduate and graduate students. Findings from our first year of tutoring showed that participating foster youth improved

academically, had fewer placement changes, and demonstrated fewer behavioral problems.

Project D.R.E.A.M. is more than just a tutoring program. We strive to build lasting relationships between the tutors and foster youth. We celebrated the holidays with a Christmas party complete with a traditional holiday meal, carols, and gifts. We are currently planning trips to a Condors hockey game in February and a CSUB Roadrunners basketball game in March. If you would like further information, please contact Dr. Kristina LaGue at klague@csub.edu or Stefanie Blythe at Foster Youth Services 661-636-4481.

A CHRISTMAS TRADITION IN THE MAKING

Christmas is not always the “picture perfect” family holiday that many of us experience. For some of Kern County’s children this can be the most depressing time of year, especially for those in foster care. In a call to change that ideal, The Kern County Network for Children’s - Foster Youth Services Program, in partnership with Cal State Bakersfield’s Education Department teamed up their efforts to bring a real Christmas Celebration to all 30 of their Project D.R.E.A.M. group home tutoring program participants.

On December 21, 2007 Project D.R.E.A.M. staff & CSUB tutors joined their students for an evening to create a traditional holiday experience; chock full of, singing Christmas carols, opening gifts, eating roasted turkey and cranberry sauce, and making memorable ornaments adorned with photographs, which they could forever cherish.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the first Project D.R.E.A.M. “Alumni Award” which honored a young man who had previously graduated from the tutoring program and had gone on to reunify with his mother, and then mainstream back into his school of origin. He was an inspiration not only to the program coordinators and tutors, but to all the students as well.

The collaborative efforts of the Foster Youth Services Program and CSUB worked to uncover the true spirit of Christmas that some foster students don’t experience, and in turn uncovered smiles and laughter that hopefully lasted the whole season through. Project D.R.E.A.M. plans to incorporate the Christmas Celebration into their tutoring program each year and develop a warm tradition for all the students they work with.

A NEW ADDITION TO THE FAMILY: HOLIDAY STYLE

The Kern County Department of Human Services (DHS) is really like a family organization, an agency where each member works together toward a common goal. Every Christmas that goal becomes to provide local children and families Christmas gifts.

Holiday Cottage is a unique event designed to raise awareness about, and donations for, foster children and their families during Christmas. Annually established inside the East Hills Mall, from November to December, a team of DHS employees and community partners dedicate their time in organizing

gift donations and the timely delivery of Christmas gifts for foster children ages 0-19.

This year, DHS decided to take a chance and adopt a new member to their Holiday Cottage family, and that is how The Kern County Network for Children’s - Foster Youth Services Program got involved, to help identify group home foster youth who could benefit from a gift donation. In a collaborative effort between DHS, FYS and The Network, over 112 group home foster children received their Christmas Wishes this year.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION LEADS TO WALKING PATH



The Greenfield Walking Group celebrated its one year anniversary on October 18, 2007. This group serves as Kern Counties Obesity Prevention Task Force for the Central California Regional Obesity Prevention Program (CCROPP), an initiative of the California Endowment. Present at the celebration were 250 residents as well as decision makers who have played important roles in the groups success. Many thanks to Steve Sanders for representing the Kern County Network for Children and to our celebration speakers Dr. Claudia Jonah of the Health Department, Greenfield School Superintendent Gary Rice and Mayor Harvey Hall who presented a proclamation declaring October 18th Greenfield Walking Group Day. The celebration was a part of Binational Health Week and couldn't have been done without the help of the Kern Health Consumer Center, AFLAC, the Greenfield Family Resource Center, National Health Services, Radio Campesina, Bakersfield Park and Recreation and Get Moving Kern.

As part of the days festivities, walking group members took Mayor Hall on a tour of Stiern Park to show him what kind of improvements residents have made in partnership with the city. There was also a photo timeline created by Alyssa Martinez, showing the transformation the park has undergone, as well as the ripple effects the groups work has had throughout the county, the region and the state. The next park enhancement that the group is focusing on is a walking path along one side of the park that has the most difficult terrain to walk on or push a stroller through.

Many thanks to Lori Tolleson and her team with Leadership Bakersfield for adopting this walking path project. The concrete for the path is scheduled to be poured on April 26th and 27th as part of a neighborhood workday. If you are interested in helping to pour the concrete or donate to the project, contact Jennifer Lopez at 661-205-3743. There will be an opportunity to have a plaque with your name displayed on the site. Congratulations to the Greenfield Walking Group and many thanks to all of our partners.

KERN COUNTY AGING & ADULT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The baby boomer generation has officially arrived. The first baby boomer reached the retirement age of 62 on January 1, 2008. So what does this mean? For seniors it means a greater need for affordable housing, transportation, health insurance, and may be personal care. For others it means taking care of a loved one in addition to the busy lives they lead. Many of us are considered to be the "Sandwich Generation." We are sandwich between raising our children and caring for our parents. Where can seniors or family members go to find out what services are available? The answer to this question can be found at the Kern County Aging and Adult Services Department (KCAASD).

KCAASD was formed in 1999 and became a "one stop shop" and gateway to services for older persons and for adults with disabilities. The department connects seniors and adults with disabilities to programs and services to empower them to achieve maximum independence. With this mission in mind, the department works closely with other county and community based agencies to ensure that services are provided effectively and efficiently to our growing senior population.

KCAASD provides Information and Referral, which connects seniors and disabled to adults to available services in the county. For seniors that have Medicare and health insurance issues, we offer counseling and advice through our Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP). For seniors on Medi-Cal, we can provide them with a care provider for their in home care through our In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program. Our Adult Protective Services (APS) responds to reports of neglect and abuse on a 24 hour basis. AASD also provides lunchtime meals to seniors at various congregate sites, and in their homes if they are medically home bound.

Currently, Kern County has an estimated 108,223 seniors over 60 years of age. By 2020, this population is projected to increase 65%. KCAASD continually works to position itself to handle the influx of seniors retiring. As more and more seniors retire, the need for services throughout Kern County will be increasingly crucial to our senior population's quality of life.

PERINATAL OUTREACH PROGRAM (POP)



The Perinatal Outreach Program (POP) is a free, confidential, and volunteer program sponsored by the Kern County Department of Public Health (KCDPH) that provides health education and comprehensive case management services to pregnant women and their children (0-24 months) who live in Kern County. The mission of the program is to: “Help Pregnant Moms. . . Have Healthy Babies”. This mission is accomplished by encouraging and assisting mom to obtain early and continued prenatal care.

The program consists of two components: (1) Pregnant Mom Case Management and (2) Infant Case Management.

During the pregnancy mom is case managed by a public health nurse and provided with information and linkages to services on, applying for Medi-Cal and related program, finding a doctor / health care center, obtaining transportation assistance to doctor appointments, breast feeding, future family planning, and a variety of other community resources.

After the baby is born the nurse conducts a newborn assessment and does a warm hand off to the public health aide who case manages the infant from 0 to 24 months. The public health aide also provides mom with valuable information on when and where to obtain Well Baby Examinations / Immunizations, physician locator assistance, transportation assistance to doctor’s appointments, and developmental milestones that occur at the different stages of infant development.

For more information contact the KCDPH at 661-868-0524.



KERN ACCESS TO CHILDREN’S HEALTH (KATCH)

In Kern County alone there are an estimated 33,000 uninsured children between the ages of 0-19. Of those children, it is estimated that 6,000 are at or under the age of 5. Of the 6,000, an estimated 4,000 are eligible for Healthy Families and Medi-Cal with the remaining 2,000 being ineligible for any type of health program.



To ensure all children have health and development services regardless of their ability to pay for those services The First 5 Kern Commission approved funding to the Department of Public Health, Child Health & Disability Prevention (CHDP) - Kern Access to Children’s Health (KATCH) to increase the pool of certified application assisters to assist families with access to health care services.

Access to health care is essential for the healthy development of children. Without the ability to easily obtain health care services there is the potential for health problems to go undiagnosed and untreated. Such problems impair a child’s capacity to participate in developmentally appropriate activities. This reduces a child’s chances to start school ready to learn.

The Kern Access to Children’s Health (KATCH) Program provides outreach, enrollment, and retention activities to children throughout Kern County who do not have private health insurance, and are not covered by Medi-Cal/Healthy Families Federally or State funded health insurance programs. Parents interested in obtaining health insurance for their children may contact the KCDPH at (661) 868-0588 or toll free 1 (800) 974-2717 extension 80588 for application assistance.

KCNC GENERAL COLLABORATIVE MEETINGS 2008 SCHEDULE

3rd Thursday of each month
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

February 21, 2008

March 20, 2008

April 2008

In lieu of hosting an April General Collaborative meeting, KCNC invites you to attend the Child Abuse Prevention Summit on Wednesday, April 9, 2008 from 8 am - 12 pm at the Holiday Inn Select. For more information contact Jose Luiz Gonzalez 661-633-7376.

May 15, 2008

June 19, 2008

All meetings will be held at:
University Square
2000 'K' Street ~ Room US-1, Bakersfield, CA

TRAINING & EVENTS CALENDAR

Don't forget to visit the KCNC website at www.kcnc.org to view the training and events calendar. Once you log onto our site, scroll down to the "TRAINING CALENDAR" button and take a look. Upcoming trainings and events have already been posted!

If you have an upcoming training or event you'd like to add, just click on the link "POST YOUR EVENT OR TRAINING ON THE KCNC WEBSITE" (at the bottom of the page) and our staff will take it from there to make sure it's posted. We will continue to send our monthly training flyers out to e-mail lists and in addition, we will also use the website to post other training opportunities we become aware of.

KCNC staff will review all training and event items — they will not post to the website immediately. Please allow one week for review and posting. Incorrect information or e-mail addresses will delay your posting.

Our hope is that our partners, as a link and resource to the community, will utilize this website for child well-being trainings and events!

UPCOMING KCNC TRAININGS

March 4, 2008 - Domestic Violence The "not so" Silent Epidemic
8:30 am to 12:00 pm - University Square Bldg., US-1

April 22, 2008 - Leading Clients Through the Job Search Jungle
8:30 am to 12:00 pm - University Square Bldg., US-1

Space is limited, so please RSVP with Martha Gómez via e-mail at magomez@kern.org.

If you have any ideas for future trainings, please call Michelle Humecky at (661) 636-4488.

GUIDE TO LOCAL COLLABORATIVES

Kern County's diverse communities have set the pace for California in developing community strengths through local collaboration. Neighborhood-based coalitions identify and address local issues ranging from joblessness to gang violence to graffiti removal. Many communities have brought together health and social service agencies to offer locally based family-centered services. *Note: In the following list, FRC = Family Resource Center.*

34th St. Neighborhood Partnership - KCNC Accredited

Kern County Museum, 3801 Chester Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93301
Sandy Morris (661) 326-3051
Community meeting, 2nd Wednesday monthly, 9 am at the Kern County Museum

Arvin Collaborative - KCNC Accredited

Arvin Union School District, 737 Bear Mtn. Blvd., Arvin, CA 93203
FRC: 207 South A St., Arvin (661) 854-6525
Amalia Leal (661) 854-6536 or Karen Davis (661) 854-6526
Community meeting, 1st Thursday monthly, 9 am Adobe Complex

Buttonwillow Collaborative - KCNC Accredited

Buttonwillow School, 400 McKittrick Hwy., Buttonwillow, CA 93206
Lucette Garcia (661) 764-9405
Community meeting, 4th Monday bi-monthly, 3:30 pm

California City Comm. Collaborative - KCNC Accredited

21000 Hacienda Blvd., California City, CA 93505
Steve Colerick (760) 373-8606
Community meeting, 4th Wednesday monthly, 7:30 am at the Cal City Police Dept., 21130 Hacienda Blvd.

Delano Neighborhood Partnership

Community Connections Center, 1842 Norwalk, Delano, CA 93215
Linda Hinojosa (661) 721-7036
Community meeting, 1st Tuesday monthly, 9:30 am

East Bakersfield Collaborative - KCNC Accredited

Boys and Girls Club
801 Niles St., Bakersfield, CA 93305
Renee Stancil, (661) 631-5878
Community meeting, 1st Wednesday monthly, 12:15 pm

East Kern Collaborative - KCNC Accredited

15662 K St., Mojave, CA 93501
Larry Garcia (661) 824-4118
Community meeting, 2nd Thursday monthly, 2:30 - 4 pm

Fairfax/Brundage Partnership - KCNC Accredited

Physical Address: 1408 Marion Dr., Bakersfield, CA 93307
Mailing: P.O. Box 70892, Bakersfield, CA 93387
Angela Acunia (661) 331-8143
Community meeting, 3rd Friday monthly, 8:30 am

Frazier Park Collaborative - KCNC Accredited

Mountain Communities FRC: 3015 Mt. Pinos Way #102
Healthy Start: P.O. Box 1902, Frazier Park, CA 93225
Anne Weber (661) 245-4303
Quarterly community meetings

Greenfield Collaborative - KCNC Accredited

Greenfield Family Resource Center
5400 Monitor St., Bakersfield, CA 93307
Linda Raygoza (661) 837-3720
Community meeting, 2nd Thursday monthly, 9 am

Indian Wells Valley Collaborative - KCNC Accredited

825 N. Downs, Ste. A, Ridgecrest, CA 93555
Nancy Ribultan (760) 375-4357
Community meeting, 2nd Wednesday monthly, 10 am at the Kerr McGee Center

Kern River Valley Collaborative - KCNC Accredited

P.O. Box 2905, Lake Isabella, CA 93240
FRC Main Office: 5109 Lake Isabella Blvd., Lake Isabella
FRC Outreach Office: 6401 Lake Isabella Blvd., Lake Isabella
Nancy Puckett (760) 379-2556
Community meeting, 4th Thursday monthly, 3:30 - 5:00 pm

Lamont Collaborative - KCNC Accredited

Lamont School District (Lamont Family Service Center)
8201 Palm Ave., Lamont, CA 93241
FRC: 7839 Burgundy Ave., Lamont
Jennifer Wood (661) 845-2724 ext. 300
Community meeting, 2nd Thursday monthly, 10:00 am

McFarland Community Collaborative - KCNC Accredited

McFarland Unified School District
601 Second St., McFarland, CA 93250
FRC: Browning Rd School, 410 E Perkins Ave, McFarland
Margie Perez (661) 792-5524
Community meeting, 2nd Tuesday monthly, 3:00 pm at the Browning Road School Cafeteria, 410 E Perkins Ave.

Oildale Community Collaborative

Standard Healthy Start
1200 N. Chester Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93308
Lourdes Cortez (661) 392-2163 or Kevin Rascoe (661) 392-2120
Community meeting, 3rd Wednesday bi-monthly, 8:30 am

Richardson Special Needs Collaborative - KCNC Accredited

Richardson Center, 1515 Feliz Dr., Bakersfield, CA 93307
Bill Reifel (661) 336-5482
Community meeting, held quarterly, call for day & time

Rosedale Collaborative

Liberty High School, 925 Jewetta Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93312
Mailing address: P.O. Box 511, Bakersfield, CA 93302
Tonya Appleton (661) 633-7197
Community meeting, 4th Tuesday monthly, 8:30 am (Conf. Rm. 1)

Shafter Collaborative - KCNC Accredited

Richland School District, 331 Shafter Ave., Shafter, CA 93263
FRC: Lerdo Hwy at South Valley Rd.
Yvonne Munoz, Margaret Ramirez, & Laurie Roth (661) 746-8690
Community meeting, 3rd Wednesday monthly, 6 pm - March, June, Sept.; 4pm all other months; no mtg. in December

Southeast Neighborhood Partnership - KCNC Accredited

1509 E. 11th St., Bakersfield, CA 93307
Direct Services: Linda Estelle (661) 322-3276
1301 Cannon Ave., Bakersfield, CA
Direct Services: Rodrigo Vasquez (661) 836-4165
Collaborative meeting, last Thursday monthly, 10:30 am
Location changes monthly call for location

South Chester Collaborative - KCNC Accredited

South Chester Family Resource Center
800 Ming Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93307
Debbie Wood (661) 631-5895 or Denice Cheek (661) 496-3017
FRC: (661) 631-5945
Community meeting, 2nd Thursday monthly, 3:30 pm

Taft Collaborative - KCNC Accredited

Greater West Side Together We Can
915 North 10th St., #34, Taft, CA 93268
Mailing address: P.O. Box 1423, Taft, CA 93268
Sandy Koenig (661) 765-7281
Community meeting, 2nd Wednesday bi-monthly, 5 pm

Wasco Community Collaborative - KCNC Accredited

Patrick Flores (661) 720-5835 or Jesus Cordova (661) 746-7592
Community meeting, 2nd Thursday monthly, 8:15 am at the Sunset Villa Complex (corner of Palm and Filburn)
1600 Palm Ave., Wasco, CA 93280

KERN PARENT PROJECT WEBSITE LAUNCHED

Parent Project is a 10 to 16-week parent training program designed specifically for parents of strong-willed or out-of-control adolescent children. The curriculum teaches concrete identification, prevention, and intervention strategies for the most destructive of adolescent behaviors (poor school attendance and performance, alcohol and other drug use, gangs, runaways, and violent teens).

A comprehensive website regarding Parent Project services throughout Kern County is now available. The www.kernparentproject.org website provides:

- **Parents** with program overview, testimonial, and class schedule information.
- **Referral agencies/schools** with class schedule information as well as an electronic version of the SARB Agreement that can be used.
- **Parent Project Certified Facilitators** with supportive resources, electronic request forms for Parent Project materials that are either free or available for check out, and upcoming training information.

Visit www.kernparentproject.org today!

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION

MAYBELLINE NEW YORK believes that education inspires people to step out into the world with confidence to achieve endless possibilities and realize their dreams. They are recognizing the women across the country who are motivating, teaching, mentoring, leading and making a difference through education. Each woman will receive a donation for their educational organization to continue their efforts.



Raquel Lee is a family advocate at the Greenfield Family Resource Center where she helps minimize the barriers that keep students from getting a good education. With the funding from this award, over 500 students will be given supplies such as new shoes. "This may be the first pair of new shoes they have ever worn," says Raquel. "It genuinely contributes to the success of their education and self-esteem."

CHILD GUIDANCE FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent or would like more information to share with your friends, family, colleagues, and/or the community, please visit us on Tuesday evening from 5:00 - 7:00 pm at 3628 Stockdale Highway for our Foster Parent Orientation. At the orientation, a knowledgeable, caring Social Worker provides a basic overview of what to expect from foster parenting, gives details on the certification process, and answers any questions that families may have. If you would like more information, but this time is not convenient, feel free to call us at 661-322-1021, and the dedicated staff at the Child Guidance Foster Family Agency will schedule an orientation that will fit your schedule.

Become a foster parent...the children need you.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

GENERAL PARTNERSHIP 2008 MEETING DATES

February 22, 2008, Room US2 May 16, 2008, Room US1
March 28, 2008, Room US2 June 20, 2008, Room US2
April 11, 2008, Room US1

2000 K Street - University Square
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

**Lunch available (sandwich, drink, snacks) at a cost of \$5 per person. Please RSVP at 661-549-0089 or nyorke@bak.rr.com

KERN COUNTY INFANT TODDLER CONFERENCE



Saturday, February 23, 2008
2000 K Street - University Square
8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Cost \$15.00



There will be four workshop sessions with four exciting workshops per session to choose from. One workshop per session will be provided in Spanish.

Target audience is child care center staff, family child care providers, parents, students and others interested in working with young children.

Continental breakfast and professional growth hours included (lunch will be on you own).

Please contact Tammy at 661-636-4444 with any questions or to receive a registration brochure. Sponsored by the Kern County Child Care Council.

INSTITUTE FOR PARENT EDUCATORS

Kern County Mental Health (KCMH) presents the Institute for Parent Educators' (IPE) 2008 Seminar Series. Following an environmental scan of parenting education in Kern County, it was determined that one of the ways in which KCMH could help strengthen families in Kern was to provide training for parent educators in the areas of drug prevention that were needed. IPE was created to be a dedicated resource for parent educators to have the tools to help strengthen youth drug prevention through parenting education. The following are the upcoming seminars for the winter quarter:

Addiction & the Brain
February 26, 2008
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Understanding the Culture of Families
March 25, 2008
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

All trainings will be held at the East Training Room in the Commonwealth Building located at 3000 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA.

If you are a parent educator serving Kern County you should plan to attend. These seminars are free of charge and are resources created especially for you! For more information on these trainings please contact Lorena Diaz at 661-868-6804 or lodiaz@co.kern.ca.us. To RSVP for a training please call Emma Mondragon at 661-868-6801.

LEAP INTO THE HEART OF A CHILD



CASA is getting ready to leap into their 11th year of "Celebrations" Parties and will "Kick-Off" the Leap Year on Friday, February 29, 2008 at the Metro Galleries at 5:30 p.m. Be the first to sign up for one of over 25 one-of-a-kind parties that are hosted and underwritten by community members and/or local businesses. The Celebrations Parties have been so successful because all dollars generated by each party are used

locally to recruit, screen, train and supervise community volunteers to speak for children in court. Those that attend the Kick-Off event and sign up for a Celebrations Party that night will get a \$25 credit toward their reservations. A silent and oral auction will cap off the evening. If you would like to receive an invitation to the Kick-Off event and the 2008 Celebrations Party Booklet (which is being underwritten by San Joaquin Community Hospital), please call the CASA office at 661-631-CASA (2272).

WASCO COLLABORATIVE

The Wasco Collaborative meets at 8:15 AM, the 2nd Thursday of every month, at the Sunset Villa Apartments Community Room located at 1950 Palm Ave. at the corner of Palm and Filburn in Wasco.

Recently food baskets were prepared and distributed throughout Wasco and Shafter with the help of the Educational Resource Center and their very special group of Family Advocates. Coordination of families' names between the two cities helped with any duplication of services. The city of Wasco was instrumental in this endeavor as they donated food and services as well.

The collaborative on average is attended by 20-30 members of community agencies from both Shafter and Wasco. Sam Torres and Mariana Leal of the Wasco Union Elementary School District coordinate and facilitate the meetings with the assistance of the Kern County Probation Department's North Kern Unit. These meetings are held for agencies to exchange information and network regarding upcoming events and exchange information regarding community resources.

For more information call Patrick Flores at 661-720-5835.

LINKS FOR LIFE

These are some of the services available through Links for Life.

Mammograms - The free mammogram program assures all women the opportunity to have a mammogram. If you are under the age of 40, uninsured or under-insured and live in Kern County, we can help. Call our office for more information.

Needle Biopsy - The needle biopsy program is for women under the age of 40 who have a suspicious mass and are in the need of a medical diagnosis.

Scholarships - Academic Scholarships are available yearly at CSUB and Bakersfield College for nursing program students are available. To receive information, check with the Finance Office at CSUB or BC.

Library - Having access to reference books, videos and other material to promote positive thinking is essential to better health and living. Up to date research information is available through our Internet access. If you are not familiar with the web, help by appointment is available.



Located in the Haberfelde Building
1706 Chester Ave., Ste. 200
661-322-5601 or 888-244-LINK
Email us at: staff@linksforlife.org
Hours: Monday - Friday 10am - 3:30pm

KERN CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL EVENTS

PARENT SUPPORT/SCRAPBOOKING GROUP

The Kern Child Abuse Prevention Council/Haven Counseling Center will begin a very special Parent Support/Scrapbooking Group in January, 2008. Facilitated by a Parent Partner, this group is for parents who have had their children removed by Child Protection Services. During meetings, parents will discuss issues they are experiencing, share information, encourage one another toward reunification, and preserve special memories that can be enjoyed for years to come with their families. Scrapbooking materials, drawings for gift cards, and refreshments will be provided at no cost to participants. Referrals from all agencies are welcome. To learn more information about this support group, please call Alex Duenas at Haven Counseling Center at 661-327-4711 ext. 25.



FAMILY FUN DAY 2008

This is a **free** event for families, come and enjoy the following attractions and informational booths:

- ◆ Bounce House
- ◆ Rock Wall
- ◆ Train Rides
- ◆ Car Seat Information
- ◆ Immunizations



Standard Park
301 E. Minner Avenue
Saturday, April 19, 2008
10 am - 2 pm



If you would like to participate in this event or have any questions, please contact Priscilla Acosta or Alex Duenas at 661-327-4711.



NOMINATIONS CURRENTLY BEING ACCEPTED FOR COMMUNITY AWARDS AT 2008 SUMMIT

On Wednesday, April 9, 2008, the Child Abuse Prevention Summit Committee will recognize a few deserving individuals and agencies for their outstanding contribution in the field of Child Abuse Prevention. Nominations can be made for the follow categories:

Agency of the Year
Business Partner of the Year
Child Advocate of the Year

Community Leadership Award
Social Worker of the Year
Volunteer of the Year

If you would like to make a nomination please contact Priscilla Acosta at 661-327-4711 for a nomination form. All nominations must be submitted **no later** than **March 7, 2008**. All forms should be mailed to:

Haven Counseling Center
Attn: Karen Cooley
730 Chester Ave.
Bakersfield, CA 93301

KERN COUNTY NETWORK FOR
CHILDREN
MISSION STATEMENT

TO PROTECT AND ENRICH
THE LIVES OF CHILDREN
IN KERN COUNTY
THROUGH THE COMMITMENT
OF ALL COMMUNITY PARTNERS
BY HELPING TO BUILD AND
SUSTAIN HEALTHY FAMILIES.

"Local Communities Working In Collaboration"
.....



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