

FosterHope Sacramento, (916) 730-3145

## Mission:

Incorporated in 1985, FosterHope believes in providing quality care to abandoned, abused or neglected youth through professionalized treatment foster care.

Member of the  
California  
Children's Alliance

Provisional  
Accreditation with  
COA 2012

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## Welcome, Welcome!

*New Foster Parents:*

**Etrice Roberts, Kimberllinah Yeager, Elyse Fulton**

## Foster Parent of the Quarter SECRET BROOKS



This Quarter we are recognizing Foster Parent Secret Brooks. Secret and her family have been providing foster care at FosterHope since 2005. During this time, she and her husband Norwood have cared for a total of 51 Foster Youth. Secret has always been someone who you just want to be around. Her positive attitude, great sense of humor, and infectious laugh always brighten our day, regardless of what the issue or task at hand is. Her level of commitment even extends past her home and into our office, as she actively volunteers her time

to help out in the office. In addition, Secret participates on our Event Committee, where she played a dynamic role in the planning of our Holiday Party. Time and time again, Secret never ceases to amaze us with her level of commitment to our Agency's mission to serving our Foster Youth!

## Holiday Party

No one has yet fully realized the wealth of sympathy, kindness and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure”

-Emma Goldman

Due to feedback that our party was missed last year, the agency brought back our festive Christmas party. It was held on December 15, 2012, at the Senior Hart Center. There was a great turn out and it seemed like everyone had a good time. Our wonderful foster parents catered the event, with some delicious homemade dishes including macaroni and cheese, chicken fettuccini and fried chicken. We heard great reviews on everyone's cooking, and it was greatly appreciated. A special thank-you goes to all of the foster parents who donated their time in not only preparing the food, but serving the food during the party as well. We also enjoyed many homemade desserts brought by foster parents, as well as cupcakes that were donated by Icing on the Cupcake, and brownies and



Beverages that were donated by Chick-fil-A. Many of the children (and even teens) had their picture taken with Santa Claus. Copies of these pictures will be available soon for you to pick up at the agency. Several of our youth participated in the talent show and gave superb performances. We also enjoyed the talents of the youth who participated in the art contest. Each participant received a special thank-you gift. Overall, the event was a success!!! Thank you again to everyone who volunteered and attended.

*HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!*



# Extra Extra

## FOSTERHOPE'S NEWS BULLETIN

The agency would like to welcome our two new full-time employees:

### ***Janette Hurd & Sara Green***

Janette has an MSW degree that she obtained from CSU Sacramento in 1995, and is definitely not a new-comer to FosterHope. She originally joined our team back in 2000 as a part-time Case Manager and has held various positions since that time, including Visitation Coordinator and Independent Contract Social Worker. We are absolutely thrilled to announce that Janette has come on board as a full-time MSW Clinical Case Manager. You will be hearing her voice on the phone as she calls with placements and handles issues as needed. Please feel free to call her when you have any questions, need support, or just want to say hi!

Sara is our new full-time Visitation Coordinator. She has just completed her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work this past May from CSU Sacramento. Sara is also not new to the Agency; she started working with us as an Intern in September 2011. She primarily worked with our emancipating youth, assisting our families and youth with prepare for successful emancipation. Sara officially joined our Agency as a full-time Visitation Coordinator in September, 2012. Some of you have already met and worked with Sara, or will be contacted in the near future to organize family visits with your children. We are excited to have Sara on board and looking forward to what the future holds for her in our organization.

## A Letter From The Board

On behalf of the FosterHope Sacramento Board of Directors, I am pleased to announce that the Board has hired Erin Brown to serve as the agency's Executive Director. Erin has served as Interim Executive Director for FosterHope since January 2012. The Board's selection of Erin follows a nationwide recruitment process.

The Board's selection of Erin to lead FosterHope is based upon the Board's determination that Erin's long history, commitment and service to the agency, formerly known as St. Francis Home for Children, is unmatched by other qualified candidates. Over the past 17 years with the agency, Erin has served FosterHope in a variety of professional capacities, including:

- Interim Executive Director
- Placement Coordinator/Trainer
- Clinical Director
- Contract Social Worker
- Director of Clinical Services
- Case Manager

In particular, Erin's experience as a clinician, her knowledge of the agency, and her strong relationships with foster parents, foster children, agency staff and contractors, and county placement staff, make her uniquely qualified to serve as Executive Director. Further, Erin's desire and commitment to work with the Board to build upon FosterHope's key attributes – its foster parents, agency staff, and contract staff – to strengthen the agency's work on behalf of foster children and establish a more visible agency presence in the Sacramento region, make Erin the right choice to lead FosterHope.

In this New Year, the Board looks forward to working with Erin on key agency priorities. These include completing the agency accreditation process; developing a strategic plan for the agency; implementing performance based contracting with county placement agencies; expanding the Board of Directors; and, strengthening the Board's relationship with FosterHope foster parents. With Erin's appointment and with the continued commitment of staff, contractors and foster parents to the agency's mission, the FosterHope Board sees great promise for the agency in 2013 and wishes everyone a bright New Year.

Best Wishes,  
Daniel DiBenedetto,  
President, FosterHope Board of Directors



## MeetUp.com

Foster Families and Social Workers:

Please visit and join us at

<http://www.meetup.com/FosterHope-Families/>

The FosterHope Sacramento Events planning committee will be utilizing this forum to post upcoming events and social gatherings for all of Foster Hope families to join. Don't miss out of the fun and the chance to spend time with other families and friends. Sign up today!

"Alone we can do  
So little; together  
We can do  
So much"

- Helen Keller



## FosterHope Committee's

Be a part of the team and join a FosterHope committee. The committees are up and running and have begun planning for 2013. To get involved contact a committee chair. Committee Chairs are as follows:

Fundraiser Committee: Erin Brown

Event Committee: Ninette Lopez

Foster Parent Advisory Committee: Tamara Dunn

### **Making Healthy Choices Manual for Foster Youth:**

Developed by the Children's Bureau at the federal Administration for Children and Families, the publication *Making Healthy Choices* was written for youth in foster care by a team of youth and professionals to help youth make informed choices about their health care in general, and psychotropic meds in particular.

The publication contains useful exercises and activities to help youth think about what they want for themselves and then take action. (from the California Alliance)

The manual is available at

<http://www.nrcyd.ou.edu/publication-db/documents/psychmedyouthguide.pdf>

## FosterHope Upcoming Trainings:

1/17: 5:30pm – 7:30pm  
Foster Care & Legal  
Advocacy

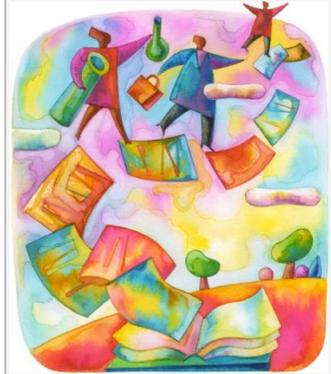
1/26: 10am – 12pm  
Chemical Dependency on  
Children

2/13: 6pm – 8pm  
Training TBD

2/26: 10am – 12pm  
Training TBD

3/06: 5:30pm-7:30pm  
Training TBD

3/23: 10am-12pm  
Training TBD



It is not how  
much we have,  
but how much we  
enjoy, that  
makes  
happiness.

**-Charles Spurgeon**

## Holiday Party

Save the date for December 16<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 6pm for a holiday party potluck put on by FosterHopes Event planning committee. They will be connecting with families to discuss details so be looking for their call.  
More information to follow!

Happy Holidays!

## Help name our Newsletter!

Please submit your suggestions to  
[ebrown@fosterhope.org](mailto:ebrown@fosterhope.org)  
The winner will receive a Jamba Juice gift card!

## Accreditation with COA

*“Parents aren't  
the people you  
come from.  
They're the  
people you want  
to be, when you  
grow up”*

The Accreditation process with COA has begun and with it you will find many changes within the organization. The process is set to be complete January of 2014. If you come by the agency you may find some layout changes, these have been made to improve our compliance with

confidentiality. We now have a file/staff work room. In place of our old copy area we have created a foster parent-youth recourse center. Please stop by and take a look. Small and big changes will continue to take place over the coming months. We will keep you up to date of any policy

changes that may affect you. The accreditation process will help guide our organization to develop the best practice in meeting the needs of our client population. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Erin Brown or Danielle Zappia. Thank you!



## Foster Parent Rate Increase

As you all know we have implemented the foster Parent rate increase effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. This is, of course, welcoming news for all as we know the demands of foster care has increased so much over the last several years. Much overdue, this increase will hopefully help to offset the added

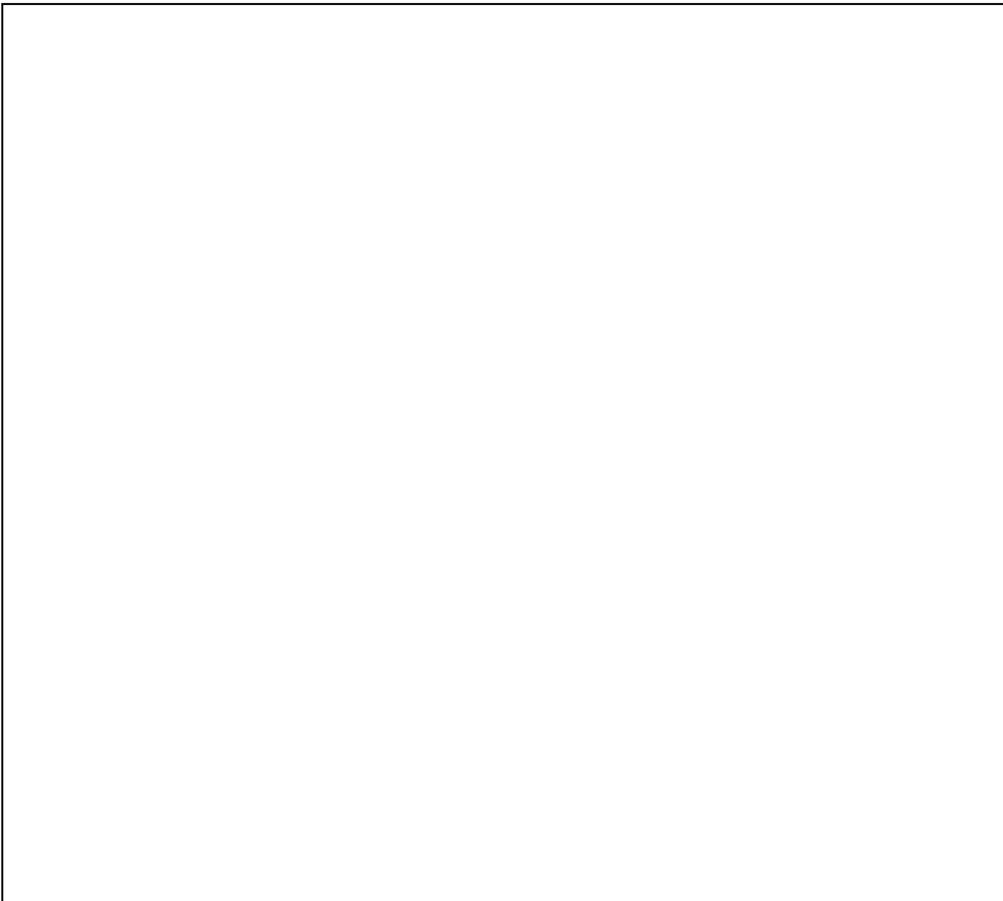
costs of transporting to multiple visits, therapy and schools of origin. We appreciate the hard work and dedication that all of our families have made and are so pleased to be able to provide this increase. Further good news is that it was included in the bill to have annual increases made to to

offer another increase in 2013.

## Donation Opportunities:



Introducing FosterHope Sacramento's new "SHARES" reward card. Every time you make a purchase at Save Mart, Smart Foods, Food Max or Lucky's, swipe the card before you finish your transaction and up to 3% of your purchase will be donated to FosterHope Sacramento. Come by the office and pick up a card today. You can even ask friends and neighbors to use the SHARES card whenever they shop!



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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:  
[www.fosterhopesac.org](http://www.fosterhopesac.org)

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## FosterHopes Board of Directors:

### Board Presidents:

Daniel Dibenedetto

### Board Secretary:

Lee Kemper

### Voting Members

Kim Britz

## Contact:

Erin Brown, LCSW  
Interim Executive Director  
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