

FOSTERHOPE SACRAMENTO

# VOICES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Foster Parent of the	1
New Foster Parents	1
FosterHope News Bulletin	2
Holiday Party	3
916Ink	3
AB12 Corner	3
Foster Parent Committee	4
Foster Parent Training Schedule	4
FosterHope Donor list	5

## Foster Parent of the Quarter: Al & Edith Stewart

This quarter we are recognizing our foster parents Al & Edith Stewart. The Stewarts have been with the agency for the past 14 years and have cared for over 50 children. Their parenting style can be described as a unique combination of enthusiasm, patience, and humor. They have had much success as foster parents, where their peers look to them as role models and their foster youth look to them as family. Anyone who enters their home is sure to become a permanent household member... but they must of course be a movie fan!

In addition to being foster parents, the Stewarts have taken an active role in the Foster Parent Committee, helping to plan and coordinate most of our agency events. They not only have volunteered to work at every event in last three years, they have also donated their culinary skills at all of our summer picnics. Despite the heat and blaze of Sacramento's July sun, you will be sure to find Al behind a smoke filled grill, cooking up one of his many delicious meals for his FosterHope family!

The Stewarts are a real joy to work with, as every interaction with them feels like



a main event! They always have a positive attitude and have a knack for calming a stressful situation. We are truly honored to have the Stewarts on our foster care team!

*The strength of the team is each member. The strength of each member is the team.*  
-Phil Jackson

# Welcome New Foster Parents!!

Elizabeth Dupree & Danny Rabago

# FOSTERHOPE NEWS BULLETIN

## We Are Proud to Introduce You to Our New Team Members

**Susan Kane** has come on board as an ICSW. She recently retired from her position at the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation where she held various positions since 1986. She also worked with Lassen County CPS as a social worker. Susan is considered a subject matter expert within the Department of Corrections in child victimization and sex offenders and she continues to consult and train in within the public sector, as well as within the law enforcement community. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology with a minor in Psychology from UCLA, and a Masters Degree in Counseling and Educational Psychology from the University of Nevada. For the past several years Susan has also worked as an FFA social worker, and we are absolutely thrilled to have her on board!



**Olivia Shulz** has come on board as a part-time Visitation Staff member. She received her Bachelor's of Art in Social Work from Sacramento State University. For the past 13 years Olivia has worked with at-risk children within a variety of milieus, including her role as Residential Counselor and Shift Supervisor at Crossroads Treatment Center. Olivia is currently working towards obtaining her Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy. Her hobbies include spending time with my family of three children and loving husband, cooking, eating healthy and spending time outdoors. Olivia officially came on board in January, and she has proven to be a real asset to our clinical program!



## LET'S BREAK THE ICE

We are pleased to announce that we have kicked-off our implementation of Icebreaker Meetings in January! Icebreaker meetings were designed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation with the goal of developing powerful relationships between birth and foster parents. This is an exciting step towards opening the door for communication between birth, foster parents, and kids who are new to your home. By 'breaking the Ice' we will be taking critical steps towards reducing the trauma that children experience as a result of placement in foster care. Please see [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org) for more information.



Never believe  
that a few  
caring people  
can't change  
the world.  
For, indeed,  
that's all who  
ever have  
-Margaret  
Mead

## Calling All Foster Parents

Join us in our mission to touch the lives of families in need by helping us to recruit quality foster homes. There is a huge need for homes located in certain areas of Sacramento, as well as other counties. FosterHope will provide a **Recruitment Reward** for homes that you refer and accept a placement for 30 days or more:



- ◇ **\$250** for any home in Rosemont, Rancho Cordova, Carmichael, Arden , Rio Linda, Citrus Heights, North Highlands, Antelope, South Midtown/Oak Park/Curtis Park, Del Paso, Placer County, Yolo County, Stockton County
- ◇ **\$100** for any home in any area not listed

## Serving up Holiday Cheer!

FosterHope hosted it's Annual Holiday Party in December and we are absolutely thrilled with how the event unfolded! The evening kicked off with delicious home cooked food and concluded with a visit from Santa Clause and his two elves. Our 7th Annual Talent Show was also a success, debuting some pretty extreme talent from some kids of all ages; even the adults got in on the talent fun!

This year FosterHope has a lot to be thankful for. All of our food was 100% cooked, prepared, and served by our dedicated foster parents, staff, board members, and friends/family of our FosterHope community. Even two of our foster youth cheerfully jumped on board and volunteered to help out! Of course a special thanks to Santa Clause and his elves, as it would not be a holiday



party without their visit!

Thank you to our many volunteers, family, staff who helped out and brought some real holiday cheer to our party. We really do have the best family around!

## FosterHope Parent Partners with 916Ink

In Fall 2014, 916 Ink is coming to Foster Hope Sacramento! Fifteen lucky teens will participate in a twelve-week creative writing workshop with real writers and poets from Sacramento. They will be transformed into authors when 916 Ink publishes their work in a beautiful

and professionally designed anthology. Foster youth teens will write poetry, fiction, and other creative works to inspiring writing prompts. In the end, they will be invited to read their work at a fabulous book release party. Not only will the teens strengthen their writing

and reading skills, but they will learn what it means to be in a safe and explorative writing community while makin friends. 916 Ink is a non-profit literacy organization dedicated to promoting literacy by empowering youth in the Sacramento region to engage in

*"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams"*  
-Eleanor Roosevelt

literary arts. Learn more about them at [www.916ink.org](http://www.916ink.org).

## AB 12 Corner

We would like to share an AB12 success story about a very determined young man. Michael was placed with the Cobb family when he was 5 years old. Unfortunately, he had to face very adult circumstances at a young age and struggled emotionally for some time into his adolescence. He seemed to be

uncertain about who he was and where he was going. However, with tremendous courage and determination Michael was able to turn his situation around. He started getting starting A's in school and developed great relationships with peers. Immediately following his graduation, Michael even obtained

employment and has since been saving money in order to move into an apartment with his close friends. Michael is also working towards attending CRC in August, with the ultimate goal of becoming a Medical Examiner - and we have no doubt that he will succeed! We are truly proud of all of the success that

Michael has achieved and we cannot wait to hear what the future holds for him!

We would also like to take a moment to recognize foster parents Felicia and Richard Cobb. Their guidance and support for Michael has played a huge part in his success!



## A Message From the Foster Parent Committee

Dear Fellow Foster Parents,

FosterHope recently turned over event planning to the Foster Parent Committee, and we are pleased to announce that this has proven to be successful! But we still need to hear from YOU. Please come and be a part of our committee and join us in bringing our voice to the organization in a variety of ways. We meet monthly; times & location will vary according to the groups availability.

Our next meeting is February 26th, 2014 at 4:30-6:30pm at the agency. Future meeting times and locations will be decided at the end of each meeting. \*\*If you have ideas or comments but unable to join, please submit them to us via [secretb@att.net](mailto:secretb@att.net) We will also be setting up a *suggestions box* located at the agency in the next coming weeks.

### Upcoming Events:

- ◆ The FosterHope Committee will be sending out an event survey to all of our families. Please keep an eye out for this and please take the time to fill out and return to us as soon as possible. The purpose of this survey is to get feedback from YOU about the kinds of activities we want to facilitate.
- ◆ This upcoming summer FosterHope would like to have a fireworks stand to help raise money for the activities and events we to plan. We greatly rely on the support of our committed volunteers to help with our fundraising efforts, and we **NEED YOUR HELP!** Please contact us at [secretb@att.net](mailto:secretb@att.net) and let us know if you want to help us and volunteer your time and efforts to this fundraising event.

We need more committed foster parents to join our committee. So come check us out on 2/26 or contact us at [secretb@att.net](mailto:secretb@att.net). We will also use the newsletter as a source to keep you informed on what we're planning. We look forward to hearing from YOU!

Thanks for your time,  
Foster Parent Committee

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## Foster Parent Training Schedule

- ◆ “Morning Masters” Seminar Group:  
3/18, 10am - 12pm
- ◆ “Survivor’s Club” Seminar Group:  
3/8, 10am - 12pm
- ◆ Core Group #2:  
3/15/, 10am - 12pm
- ◆ Seminar Training Group #3:  
3/18/, 5:30pm - 7:30pm
- ◆ “Safe House Group”:

## Foster Parent Open Forum With FosterHope's Board of Directors !!

Come attend FosterHope’s Annual Open Forum with our Board of Directors.  
**March 6th, 5:30pm**  
**at McKinnley Park**

# A Very Special Thanks!

*FosterHope would like to thank the organizations that donated to our Agency. Their generosity and support truly helped us to provide a magical holiday experience that our families will never forget!!*



**John Anthony  
Vineyards  
1440 First St.  
Napa, CA 94559**



**Folsom Roadsters  
Mr. John Kiley  
Sacramento, CA**



**Chick-fil-A  
Mr. Joshua Paul  
2101 Alta Arden Expy  
Sacramento, CA 95825**



**Verizon  
6005 Florin rd.  
Sacramento, CA  
95828**



**Zanzibar Gallery  
1731 St.  
Sacramento, CA  
95811**

## FosterHope Board of Directors

President: *Daniel DiBenedetto*

Secretary: *Lee Kemper*

Treasure: *Kim Britz*

Voting Member: *Alice Bogart*

Non-Voting Member: *Daniel Iritani*

Executive Director  
*Erin Brown, LCSW*

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