

# VOICES

## Foster Parent of the Quarter



### Regina Ayers

This quarter we are recognizing our foster parent Regina Ayers! Ms. Ayers has been with the agency for the past three years and has been an outstanding addition to our team. Her ability to stay calm and relaxed in any situation has not only been helpful to our staff, but has made a huge impact on the children in her care. Regina is also presently in the process of adopting two young brothers. We are thrilled knowing that their lives will be filled with love, laughter, and happiness. Not only is Regina great with her children, but she is always radiating positivity and warmth where ever she goes. We are truly honored to have Regina on board and we look forward to the years to come working with her. Thank you Regina for all the love you have brought to those around you!

## Upcoming Foster Parent Training Schedule



- Training Conference is scheduled Saturday, 10/1/16, 8:30am to 4pm
- RFA Training: Wed 11/9, 6pm & 11/15, 10:30am. We will be presenting critical info pertaining to Continuum of Care Reform.

Welcome!

Ivy + Richard Rios

Raul + Maria Cisneros

Joseph Montgomery

David Weller



## Foster Parent Recruitment Event !

FosterHope Sacramento is hosting an open house foster parent recruitment event Halloween style! Join us on October 29th, any time between 10am—2pm. Bring potential foster families down to register and learn about becoming a foster parent and you will receive raffle tickets for prizes! You will also become eligible for the \$250 sign on bonus for every foster parent you bring on board! (After the certified family has cared for a youth a minimum of 30 days). Join us for this fun and festive event! There will be trick or treating for the kids as well as hot dogs and refreshment for all!



## Connections For Youth

FosterHope is once again partnering with Sacramento's own Connections for Youth! Foster Youth ages 10 to 19 can participate in fun and exciting events for FREE!

*Here are the upcoming events:*

- ◆ 10/15: Hike with Sierra Club
- ◆ 11/12: Bike Trip with Bike Labs.

Contact Sheena Maharaj,

(916) 737-1481 for more information.

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### FosterHope's Day at the Lake

**O**n August 6th, Foster Hope celebrated the summer at Folsom Lake! The sun was shining, the birds were chirping, and the delicious aroma of Al's barbecue was in the air. The kids had a blast. Some courageously tried paddle boarding for the first time, while others braved the water with a life jacket, inching further and further away

from the beach. In keeping with tradition, there was the salsa contest, and as expected the competition was even tougher than last year! This year we also welcomed back the watermelon seed spitting contest; quite the entertaining time! However, the best part of the day was the getting to have fun with everyone outside of the

office. The opportunity to spend quality time with our wonderful families, all who provide loving, supportive and encouraging homes, was priceless. Every single member of our team works tirelessly in supporting our foster youth and it is important that we take the time to step back and enjoy each other's company. It was great to relax in the sun



and watch the smiles on everyone's faces. Thank you to all of you who made this year's Day At The Lake a great success! We are already looking forward to next year!

### FosterHope's Volunteer Day!

On a hot day in August we were lucky to receive a visit from an extremely enthusiastic group of volunteers from Vision Service Plan (VSP), located in Rancho Cordova. The cheerful group proudly boasted that they care about their community and were wanting to do their part by volunteering to help organizations like FosterHope. And this wasn't their first time supporting our agency. Earlier in the year they raised over \$650 dollars for our agency by throwing a fundraiser selling Nacho's in VSP's cafeteria for Cinco de Mayo. Fortunately for us, the VSP team wasn't satisfied and wanted to do more to help our agency and graciously agreed to come help us



put together our clothes closet. They tirelessly worked on sorting through donated clothes, built shelves, and neatly organized everything into our clothes closet. We now have clothes accessible to children who enter foster care without any belongings! They also painted a fence that will separate the parking lot from our agency's community garden. Everyone here at FosterHope would like to send a special thanks to Terri Flynn, Keri Good, Teesha Adams, Olivia Esposito, Jonathan Grass, Ana Loma and Shawna Roderick for their generosity. Folks like you are what make our communities special!

### FosterHope Parent Partners with 916Ink

FosterHope kicked off its second year of partnership with 916Ink, a non-profit literacy organization dedicated to promoting literacy by empowering youth in the Sacramento region to engage in literary arts. Thanks to a joint grant received by Golden 1 Credit Union, we hosted a series of creative writing workshops that were facilitated by real writers and poets from Sacramento. This year we shifted the program from just having one 8 week workshop to having a series of drop-in workshops over the course of several months. In this way we were able to increase the number of participants, as well as expand our program to neighboring foster family agencies. In conclusion, the program impacted a total of 25 foster youth! On July 9th, we presented them with a beautiful and professionally designed, published anthology during a book release party. This program continues to be a great experience for our youth, where they learn to write poetry, fiction, and other creative works to inspiring writing prompts. Not only will they strengthen their writing and reading skills, but they will learn what it means to be in a safe and explorative writing community while making friends.



### AB 12 Corner

**F**osterHope Sacramento was once again fortunate enough to receive a grant from Golden One Credit Union, which funded our ability to give laptop bundles to foster youth graduating from high school and enrolling in a college or vocational program. Golden One increased our grant this year due to last year's success, so we were able to extend these laptop bundles to 15 deserving youth! FosterHope Sacramento loves to also be able to provide this opportunity to other qualifying foster youth in our local community, and hopes to grow this grant and continue this in future years. Our annual Laptops for Success luncheon was held on August 22nd at Chicago Fire Pizza in Downtown Sacramento, and it proved once again to be a huge success! Many of our foster youth and families were able to take part in this wonderful occasion to honor our hard working young adults as they venture into the land of continuing education.



We look forward to seeing them continue to grow and hope to continue this incredible opportunity for many years to come!

## A Message From the Executive Director

### Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) & Resource Family Approval

CCR Vision: "Continuum Care Reform is revolutionary. CCR's vision is that children and youth begin living in their communities in home-based family care settings. My vision is that foster youth receive permanency, normal childhood and teenage experience and care-givers who understand their needs and are able to help with conflict resolution, educational support, and problem solving. CCR gives us an opportunity to make a difference in all these areas. What is your vision for children and youth?"

~Erick Alvarez, Youth Engagement Project (YEP)

### Resource Family Approval (RFA)

#### Implementation Update:

RFA and Continuum of Care Standards begin January of 2017. The agency has been working hard and participating in all work groups to ensure that we are in compliance and prepared to move forward with the new standards of care. We are pleased to state that the agency is in good standing and are ahead of the curve in that we have already successfully been accredited and many of our standards meet those of the new reform. Some items to note:

- \* Beginning 1/1/17 all newly certified foster family homes will be approved using the new RFA standards.
  - \* Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) will have until 12/31/19 to convert existing foster family homes
  - \* New rates are expected to be implemented sometime in 2017. Rates will be established based on the level of care needs of a youth as opposed to the current rate structure based on age.
    - \* New rates will more than likely be for families that have been approved as an RFA home.
- For more specific information, we will be offering two training dates in November, see the training schedule, as well as dates in January (date TBD).



We are excited and ready for the implementation of the standards and program. The standards will be evolving over the first few years through feedback and evaluation. We welcome your feedback as well through the course of the process.

Thank you Everyone! - Erin

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**Executive Director**  
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