

**Kinship Support Division of  
Department of Children and Family Services  
Providing Assistance and Support to Relative Caregivers  
Volume II, Issue 9, September, 2012**

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH:** “We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations.” –Charles Swindoll

**KINSHIP CAREGIVER SPOTLIGHT:**

**SHERRI GOSS**

This month, Kinship introduces you to Sherri Goss, a new Kinship Caregiver of a 9 month old baby! A Kinship co-worker and I met Ms. Goss at a KEPS (Kinship Education Preparation Support) The Next Generation Orientation last month.

When asked how the transition is going, Ms. Goss stated, “It’s going well. I have no complaints.” When asked if there are any challenges, Ms. Goss stated, “It is a big challenge caring for two children now (one biological child, and her new Kinship child). The biggest challenge is sleeping. Her (baby’s) sleeping habits...It’s exhausting, but it’s getting better, she is starting to sleep well at night.” When asked if she felt that she was being supported by the Department (DCFS), Ms. Goss stated, “Yes”, and that she has received a lot of resources. Ms. Goss complimented her Children’s Social Worker, Jane Kim, as helping her out a lot.

In regards to if she had any advice for new caregivers, Ms. Goss stated, “Be aware. Watch out for the children. Take good care of them.” As to her experience attending a KEPS, The Next Generation Orientation, Ms. Goss stated, “The orientation was great. I’ve been reading it (Orientation book) every day. All the material is really great!” Kinship thanks Ms. Goss for stepping up to be a Kinship Caregiver and helping a child in need! Best of Luck! –Marianne Yamato, CSA I

**KEPS, THE NEXT GENERATION ORIENTATIONS:**



***KEPS=Kinship Education Preparation and Support***

Attention: Relative Caregivers / Non-Related Extended Family Members  
Come learn about DCFS in a comfortable setting; Learn about the legal process, ASFA, etc.; Resources for caregivers; Opportunity to ask general questions about DCFS.

Orientations will be held:

**Fri. September 14, 2012, 9:30am-12pm:**  
Kinship South, 9834 Norwalk Blvd. Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670.

**Fri. September 21, 2012, 9:30am-12pm:**  
Kinship North, 5035 W. Slauson Ave. Suite G Los Angeles, CA 90056

**Fri. September 28, 2012: 10am-12pm: The**  
Wellness Center, 1403 N. Garey Ave.  
Pomona, CA 91767.

**Thurs. October 11, 2012- 9am-1:30pm:**  
Presented by Rio Hondo College at Kinship South, 9834 Norwalk Blvd. Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670.

**Fri. October 19, 2012: 9 am – 2 pm:**  
Presented by West LA City College at Kinship North, 5035 W. Slauson Ave. Suite G, Los Angeles, CA 90056.

If you are interested in attending any of these orientations, you must RSVP as soon as possible to: (562) 777-1751. Snacks provided. Childcare available, however you must RSVP and state childcare needed, as well as child’s age, to ensure your child’s spot.

## KINSHIP RESOURCES

### **SHIELDS FOR FAMILIES: PREVENTION INITIATIVE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (PIDP) /ASK (ASK, SEEK, KNOCK) PROGRAM**

This program is SHIELDS' newest program that collaborates with community partners to provide a comprehensive network of social services, occupational, scholastic and legal resources offered through four Family Resource Centers. The ASK Family Resource Centers provide full-service referrals to help and support the entire community; classes on a broad range of topics including parenting, domestic violence, life skills, basic skills and employment training. Resource Center navigators work with DCFS cases as well as clients referred and recruited from other community sources. There is no differentiation of services for DCFS-referred or walk-in clients.

#### Locations and Phone Numbers:

- (1) 2620 Industry Way, Ste F, Lynwood / CA 90262, (310)608-1098
- (2) AADAP, Inc., 2900 S. Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016, (323) 293-6284
- (3) Avalon-Carver Community Center, 4920 Avalon Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90011, (323) 232-4391
- (4) West Angeles CDC, 3045 Crenshaw Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90016, (323) 733-8300

### **PROJECT FATHERHOOD OF CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE**

Attention Grandfathers, Uncles, Extended Male Friends who are caring for a child, this resource is also for you...Project Fatherhood was developed to give urban, culturally diverse fathers an opportunity to connect with their children and play a more meaningful role in their lives. Services include: Individual and Family Counseling; Financial literacy; Healthy Marriage Workshops; Parent-Child Enrichment activities; Legal Workshops and Consultations; Employment Assistance.

Kinship Support Division - Providing Assistance and Support to Relative Caregivers  
1-888-MYGRAND; 1-562-777-1751

### **THE CHERISHED HANDS FOUNDATION'S SATURDAY TUTORING ACADEMY--USC.**

The program will provide academic enrichment for children in relative and foster homes who are ages 7-9 yrs old.

**When:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of Every Month

**Time:** 9am – 11am

**Location:** USC (Free Parking)

**Participant/tutor ratio of 2:1 allows for individualized attention to children who are achieving below grade level.**

**Contact Person:** Ms. Rose Davis (310) 291-9524. CALL TODAY – SPACE IS LIMITED!

### **LIFE SKILLS TRAINING**

Available for DCFS / Probation youth AGES 16-21 at: Rio Hondo College, 3600 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90608, Tuesday & Thursday Nights (6:00pm – 9:00pm), September 4th to October 4, 2012, Students who attend all classes get \$\$\$100 \$\$, Plus, iPods & other prizes / giveaways during class sessions!

Contact: Sonia Vicuna-Gudino, Outreach Advisor at (323)422-4657



### **COLLEGE WITHIN REACH: UNITED FRIENDS OF CHILDREN**

Kinship families, this special event dedicated to providing Los Angeles County foster youth with college going information that is tailored to them. The day will be full of workshops focused on providing over 600 participants with college knowledge specific information to their grade level. A resource fair will also be at the event. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Kesner at (213) 580-1828 or [elizabeth@unitedfriends.org](mailto:elizabeth@unitedfriends.org). or visit the College Within Reach website at: [www.unitedfriends.org](http://www.unitedfriends.org)

## Calling all relative caregivers...

### DOMINGUEZ RANCHO ADOBE MUSEUM AND DCFS KINSHIP PRESENT: GRANDPARENTS' DAY AT THE ADOBE!

**When: Saturday, September 8, 2012, 10am-4:00pm**

**Where: 18127 S. Alameda St.  
Rancho Dominguez CA, 90220  
Call by September 7th to RSVP, 310-603-0088, Space is limited.**

In honor of Grandparents Day, the Kinship Support Services and The Dominguez Rancho Adobe Museum are joining forces to celebrate intergenerational families. This is an event for all ages. There will be fun and educational activities for children and their grandparents /relative caregivers.

Lunch will include Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, and Chicken with all the fixings.

- Tours every 20 minutes.
- Sewing Classes every hour on the hour with twelve spots available per class. Learn how to make a water bottle bag or pocket bag.
- Brick making, Candle making, and costume activity every 30 minutes.
- Coloring Book Contest
- Flying Contest- Balsa Wood Planes (cost \$0.50 cents each).

See you at the Adobe!!!

### ACTIVE PARENTING AND YOUR TEEN

A free information and discussion meeting with caring trainers who will give you tips to manage this frequently difficult time.

**Thursday, September 20, 2012, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, Kinship Resource Center South, 9834 Norwalk Blvd., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670.** Free of Charge; Ample free parking; Snacks provided. For additional information please call the Kinship Support Division at 1-562-777-1751.

**Brought to you by Rio Hondo and Cerritos Colleges and Kinship Support Services.**

### ANTELOPE VALLEY COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

Lancaster City Park  
43001 10th Street West, Lancaster  
Saturday, 9/8/12, 10am-2pm  
(co-sponsor: DCFS Kinship!)  
See you there for FREE FUN & RESOURCES!



#### Offered by Los Angeles County DCFS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SERVICES:

Youth ages 14 to 18 in relative care or in KinGAP can receive an **academic assessment**. If the youth are functioning below grade level, up to 50 hours of in home **tutoring** may be provided. Does not apply for youth who have passed both portions of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) or who reside outside of Los Angeles County.

Contact your Independent Living Program (ILP) Coordinator at **1-877-694-5741** or Kinship Support Services **1-562-777-1751** for more information and assistance.

### COMING SOON...

#### COMPUTER ROOMS FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS AND CHILDREN

DCFS Kinship is in the process of setting up a computer center for Kinship caregivers and children at both Kinship South and Kinship North. Stay tuned for more information!

**KINSHIP ON THE GO...**

DCFS Kinship has been busy this summer from our Kinship Conference in June, weekly KEPS--The Next Generation New Caregiver Orientations, to Recreational / Respite Activities for Kinship Families including but not limited to: SPLASH! Water Park, Museum of Tolerance Tour, Gentle Barn Outings, and summer camp sponsorships.

One of the many activities that DCFS Kinship helped sponsor was a summer camp called Sharefest. Eighteen 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in relative care attended the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Sharefest Youth Development Academy on the campus of Cal State Dominguez. One of our relative caregiver families even traveled back and forth from West Covina to Carson every day so the young teens recently placed in their care could attend and be part of this month-long academy.

Kinship staff had the opportunity to see the Academy in action and were warmly greeted by staff, volunteers and kids. Pictured from left to right: Chad Mayer—Sharefest Executive Director, Rosella Yousef—Kinship Manager, Martha Forbes—Kinship Supervisor, Shannell McMillan—Sharefest Program Director, and Dr. Mike Ernst—Sharefest staff and professor at Cal State Dominguez Hills.



**THANK YOU ALL FOR  
MAKING 2012 A SPECIAL  
SUMMER!**

**DCFS'**

**Kinship Support Services**

**Providing Assistance and Support to Relative Caregivers!**

**Visit our Kinship Resource Centers at:**

**9834 Norwalk Blvd.  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670  
(562)777-1751**

**AND**

**5035 W. Slauson Ave., Suite G  
Los Angeles, CA 90056  
(323)298-3515**

**Open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through  
Friday!**

**Kinship is here to assist YOU!**

**Check our website at**

**<http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/kinshippublic/default.html>**

