



Department of Children and Family Services
Kinship Support Services Division
Providing Assistance and Support to Relative Caregivers
Volume II, Issue 11: November 2012
SPECIAL THANKSGIVING EDITION

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: “Although we are in different boats, you in your boat, and we in our canoe, we share the same river of life.” [Chief Oren Lyons \(born 1930\); Ona Ndaga Nation, Faithkeeper](#)

November is here. Just as the leaves change, signifying a new season, we are seeing many new leaves changing here at DCFS Kinship! A Kinship satellite office has opened in Pacoima and another satellite in Long Beach will open this month. (See stories below). DCFS Kinship Staff has been very busy supporting our Kinship Caregivers, DCFS Social Workers and the Community. We look forward to another busy month ahead. As always, DCFS Kinship... "Providing a helping hand to relative caregivers".--*Marianne Yamato, CSA I*

KINSHIP CAREGIVERS IN ACTION



(L-R: Caregiver, Annette Hightight; Kinship Division Chief, Michael Gray, Presiding Judge of Children's Court, Michael Nash; and Caregivers, Deann Dantignac; Mary E. Lee; Betty Halle; and Dr. G.M.Cormier)

At the October 25, 2012, Los Angeles Policy Workgroup on Disproportionality and Disparity Meeting, held at Edmund D. Edelman's Children's Court, the DCFS Kinship Support Division, lead by Division Chief Michael Gray, presented a report on "Expedited Supportive Services: A Strategy for Improving Placements of Youth in Relative Care." As part of the report, a panel of over 10 Kinship Caregivers came to provide insight and feedback to the workgroup. The Kinship Division is happy that so many kinship caregivers came out to be advocates for kin care and look forward to working even closer in the year ahead.

DCFS KINSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES SECOND SATELLITE OFFICE GRAND OPENING-NOVEMBER 8, 2012 AT ASPIRANET IN LONG BEACH, CA...



DCFS Kinship Support Services will open a second Satellite Office at Aspiranet on November 8, 2012. Grand Opening event will take place between 2:30 pm -5:00 pm at: 1043 Pine Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813. Kinship invites caregivers, the community and DCFS staff to come to the satellite to learn more about kinship services as well as Aspiranet Services. For more information please call Kinship at: **(323) 298-3515**.

DCFS KINSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES SATELLITE OFFICE OPENS AT BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF SAN FERNANDO VALLEY...



(Left Picture: L to R-Kinship Division Chief Michael Gray and Deputy Director, Eric Marts cut the ribbon at the satellite office. Right Picture: L to R-Deputy Director, Eric Marts, Kinship Division Chief, Michael Gray, and Kinship Staff, Michael Scoggins, Marianne Yamato, Charles Brown, Harriet Minke and Rosella Yousef.)

On October, 17, 2012, DCFS Kinship Support Services opened a Satellite Office at the Boys and Girls Club of San Fernando Valley located at: 11251 Glenoaks Blvd., Pacoima, CA 91331. Services to Kinship Caregivers will include: consultation with social worker; limited one time emergency financial assistance; caregiver education and mentoring, support groups; advocacy in meeting the educational needs of a child, tutoring referrals; case management assistance and policy clarification; many other services through referral and linkage to other County or Community Based agencies. For times of operation, please call Kinship at (323) 298-3515.

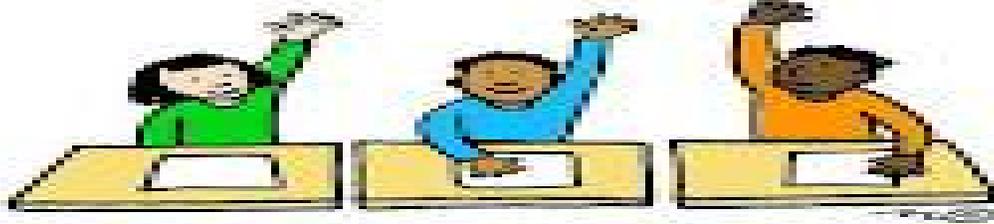
KINSHIP ON THE GO...10th ANNUAL ABILITIES AWARENESS FAIRE



(L-R: Kinship Manager, Marianne Yamato and 2011 Miss Whittier, CA, Jessica Ann Ramirez.)

On October 22, 2012, the DCFS Kinship Support Division gathered at the Whittier Community Center with about 50 other community agencies to support, "Living Life without Limits," the 10th annual Abilities Awareness Faire and Celebration of Disabilities Awareness Month. The event was jointly sponsored by the City of Whittier Accessibility Committee, Park, Recreation and Community Services Department, Southeast Area Social Services Funding Authority (SASSFA) Work Source and the Whittier Union High School District.

KEPS (KINSHIP EDUCATION PREPARATION AND SUPPORT) ORIENTATIONS



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:

Thursday, November 8, 2012: Boys and Girls Club of San Fernando Valley, 11251 Glenoaks Blvd., Pacoima, CA. 91331, 9:30 am-11:30 am.

Thursday, November 15, 2012: Kinship South, 9834 Norwalk Blvd. Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670, 9:30 am-11:30 am

Thursday, November 15, 2012: DCFS Pomona Office, 801 Corporate Center Drive, Pomona, CA. 91768, 1:30 pm-3:30 pm

Thursday, November 29, 2012: Kinship North, 5035 W. Slauson Ave. Suite G Los Angeles, CA 90056, 9:30 am-11:30 am.

If you are interested in attending any of these orientations, you **must RSVP** as soon as possible to: **(323)298-3515**. Snacks provided.

MOTIVATING THE TEEN SPIRIT EVENT FOR KINSHIP TEENS



Motivating
the
Teen
Spirit

The Department of Children & Family Services Kinship Program Presents Motivating the Teen Spirit

A national program that has: Taught over 150,000 teens how to positively help themselves; helped several thousand young adults to fall back in love with themselves; Prevented over 3,050 teen suicides.

EMPOWER, INSPIRE, TRANSFORM: Experience a day of World Class Life Changing TEEN Training

Saturday, November 10, 2012

11251 Glenoaks, Pacoima, CA 91331

10:00 am to 5:00 pm, 9:30 am registration, 5:30 Graduation Celebration

CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE AND RSVP TODAY (seating is limited) For additional information or to RSVP please contact: (323) 298-3515 or Visit: www.MotivatingTheTeenSpirit.com

*Motivating the Teen Spirit is designed for all teens. All teenagers deserve to have the right to learn what their emotional prosperity looks like.

*Motivating the Teen Spirit offers life-changing, interactive empowerment skills programs designed to address the challenging issues of the Teen Experience, one teenager at a time.

*We empower teens to make smart choices about alcohol, drugs, sex, and the pressures they face today.

*Rooted in strong self-esteem, teens who graduate our program communicate more effectively with their families, with the adults in their lives and with their peers.

*We focus on teaching teens to fall in love with themselves (some for the first time) and to make integrity-based decisions.

*Including the teen who may not have wanted to join us initially, on average over 80% of our teen participants choose to return for more.

*Bring them to us, come join us....and we will do the rest!

Student community service hours available for teens.

MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE TOUR

Free to Kinship Caregivers and **children 13 or older**, however, space is limited. Call (323) 298-3515 immediately to reserve your spot. Date /Time: **Friday, November 30, 2012**, 10:30am tour. Please plan on arriving by 10:00 am. No late entries. Tour starts promptly at 10:30 am. Address: 9786 W. Pico Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90035. Parking and Directions: The Museum of Tolerance does not charge any fee for its underground parking. The entrance is on Pico Blvd. Please do not park on residential side streets. You will be ticketed and/or towed. Bus and Rail Information: (323) 466-3876

ANTI-BULLYING WORKSHOP

SAN FERNANDO-SANTA CLARITA VALLEY CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL PRESENTS:

"Something can be done to end child abuse & neglect..... and together, we can do it!" Bullying: Parents Rights, Responsibilities and Response. "Building Successful & Happy Children"

Learn: Signs your child is being bullied - What are the policies of the school district?-How to advocate for your child? - Where you can go for help? - How to stop the bullying?- How to overcome the barriers you face and/or feel.

Thursday, November 15, 2012 from 9:00 AM—12:00 Noon

Continental Breakfast provided

LAUSD Educational Service, Center North, Conference Room North

6621 Balboa Blvd. Van Nuys, CA 91406

Guest Speaker: Judy Chiasson, PhD., Program Coordinator with Los Angeles Unified School District

Please phone or email: Friends of the Family to register at: Phone: (818) 988-4430 Email: sfscapc@gmail.com

Limited child care for children 2-10 years of age.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR, "KINSHIP SOLDIERS" WHO TOOK THE NUMBER 1 SPOT IN THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE LA COUNTY MIX IT UP HEALTHY CAMPAIGN.



Kinship Soldiers

Providing A Helping Hand To Relative Caregivers

You all Rock...We are so proud of you!

(L-R: Rosella Yousef, Jennifer Balvaneda, Martha Forbes, Chase Coleman, and Division Chief, Michael Gray.)

THANKSGIVING CELEBRATIONS IN LA COUNTY

A number of free Thanksgiving meals are being served throughout Los Angeles County. A few of the places where you can celebrate Thanksgiving this year are at the following:



Thanksgiving at the Laugh Factory, (Hollywood, CA)

DATE: Thursday, November 22, 2012

WHAT: The Laugh Factory in West Hollywood will provide free Thanksgiving meals for the underprivileged, "struggling and/or lonely" comics, actors, writers, directors, others in the entertainment community and anyone who is alone for the holidays.

TIME: Pending, call Laugh Factory.

PLACE: 8001 Sunset Blvd. Hollywood, CA 90046.

CONTACT: (323) 656-1336

Grace Resource Center, (Lancaster, CA)

DATE: Thursday, November 22, 2012

WHAT: Home cooked meal featuring turkey with all the trimmings prepared by volunteers.

TIME: 12:00 pm -2:00 pm

PLACE: 45134 North Sierra Highway, Lancaster, CA 93534

CONTACT: Call (661) 940-5272 for more information. **Grace Resource Center also will be giving out a limited number of Thanksgiving baskets for Antelope Valley Residents Only. Signs ups begin at 8am on November 10, 2012. You must bring a photo idea, social security card, and proof of residency in the Antelope Valley.

24th Annual, JACKSON LIMOUSINE THANKSGIVING TURKEY DINNER GIVE-AWAY, (Los Angeles, CA)

DATE: Tuesday, November 20, 2012

TIME: 8:00 a.m. – until approximately 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: The Jackson Limousine Service fleet yard, 3669 West Slauson Ave, Los Angeles (btwn West Blvd & Deane)

WHAT: See over 10,000 people (senior citizens on fixed incomes and the needy families) lined-up for the 24th Annual Jackson Limousine Service Turkey Dinner Give-Away + Celebrities and community leaders bring greetings and assist in the dinner give-away.

PURPOSE: To put the “Happy” back into Thanksgiving for senior citizens on fixed-incomes and the needy families, by giving them a turkey and all the dinner fixings- cornbread, greens, yams, cranberry sauce and more- to prepare and enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving dinner at their home.

CONTACT: Lyn Tavai – (800) 522-9955 for more information.

Los Angeles Mission, (Los Angeles, CA)

DATE: Wednesday, November 21, 2012

TIME: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm (arrive early)

WHAT: Los Angeles Mission will serve meals to the needy.

CONTACT: (213) 629-1227

Midnight Mission, (Los Angeles, CA)

DATE: Thursday, November 22, 2012

WHAT: Meals to the Needy.

TIME: 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

PLACE: 601 S. San Pedro St. Los Angeles, CA, 90014

CONTACT: (213) 624-9258

Fred Jordan Mission, (Los Angeles, CA)

DATE: Thursday, November 22, 2012

WHAT: Meals to the Needy.

TIME: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

PLACE: 445 Towne Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90013

CONTACT: (626) 915-1981

Union Station Homeless Services, Thanksgiving Day in the Park, (Pasadena, CA)

DATE: Thursday, November 22, 2012

WHAT: The Union Station Homeless Services group will serve meals to the needy.

CONTACT: (626) 240-4550

Mario's Tacos, (Pico Rivera, CA)

DATE: Thursday, November 22, 2012

WHAT: Thanksgiving meal for needy.

TIME: Pending, call Mario's.

PLACE: 9247 E. Whittier Blvd. Pico Rivera, CA 90660

CONTACT: (562) 692-0339 for more information.

6th Annual Thanksgiving Community Dinner by Pomona Salvation Army, (Pomona, CA)

DATE: Wednesday, November 21, 2012

WHAT: Thanksgiving meal for free.

TIME: 5:00 pm

PLACE: Salvation Army, 490 East La Verne Avenue, Pomona CA 91767

CONTACT: (909) 623-1579

Westside Thanksgiving Celebration, (Santa Monica, CA)

DATE: Thursday, November 22, 2012

WHAT: Celebrate Thanksgiving Day with a hearty traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Last year many students, singles, low-income families, seniors and those who were homeless joined the Celebration. Community members who need assistance with food services are especially welcome but the Celebration is open to everyone. No reservations are necessary.

TIME: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

PLACE: The Santa Monica Civic Auditorium is located at 1855 Main St. Santa Monica, CA.

CONTACT: For more information, donations or volunteers please call (310) 394-3153 or www.westsidethanksgiving.org.



