

RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL

January and February 2020

THE VILLANUEVA FAMILY

BY MONICA MONCADA



THE RFA NEWSLETTER IS HONORED TO FEATURE BROOK VILLANUEVA FOR PROVIDING GENUINE LONG LASTING RELATIONSHIPS LEADING TOWARDS IMPROVED OUTCOME OF FOSTER CHILDREN. BROOK SHARED HER PAST EXPERIENCES AS A CHILD, EMPOWERED HER TO WELCOME FOSTER CHILDREN AND YOUTH TO A STABLE AND CARING HOME. AS A FOSTER PARENT FOR OVER 12 YEARS, SHE HAS SEEN PROGRESS WITHIN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM. BROOK RECALLS THAT WHEN SHE BEGAN TO FOSTER CHILDREN, AT TIMES, THE MEDICAL INFORMATION AND EDUCATION RECORDS WERE NOT PROVIDED. NOWADAYS, FOSTER CHILDREN ARE PROVIDED WITH THE HEALTH AND EDUCATION PASSPORT, WHICH FACILITATES THE PLACEMENT TRANSITION. BROOK SUGGESTED THAT WHEN POSSIBLE, AN INTRODUCTION WITH THE CHILD'S FAMILY COULD BE BENEFICIAL, AS IT WILL RESULT IN A SMOOTH TRANSITION AND COLLABORATION TO BETTER SERVE THE CHILD. ONE PIECE OF ADVICE SHE WISHED SHE COULD HAVE KNOWN IS HOW ATTACHED FAMILIES BECOME WITH THE CHILDREN ENTERING HER HOME. BROOK RECOMMENDS BUILDING FRIENDS WITHIN THE FOSTER COMMUNITY, LEARNING TO GO WITH THE FLOW AND BECOMING FAMILIAR AND UTILIZING THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY HOPE'S ANCHOR.

BROOK'S TIP FOR NEW FOSTERING PARENTS IS "LET THE KIDS TEACH YOU AND NOT MOLD THEM INTO WHAT YOUR FAMILY IS." ANOTHER TIP SHE PROVIDED IS TO KNOW CHILD WELFARE TEAM AND THE ROLES OF THE TEAM MEMBERS. BROOK IS VESTED IN HELPING FOSTER YOUTH, AS EVIDENT BY HER HIGH LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE CHILDREN'S WELLBEING AND PROVIDING UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT AS THE FOUNDATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP.

LGBTQ Youth IN Foster Care

LIKE ALL YOUNG PEOPLE, LGBTQ YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE NEED THE SUPPORT OF A NUTURING FAMILY TO HELP THEM NEGOTIATE ADOLESCENCE AND GROW INTO HEALTHY ADULTS. HOWEVER, LGBTQ YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE FACE ADDITIONAL CHALLENGES. THESE INCLUDE THE LOSSES THAT BROUGHT THEM INTO CARE IN THE FIRST PLACE, AS WELL AS TRAUMAS THEY MAY HAVE SUFFERED WHILE IN FOSTER CARE.

DESPITE THESE CHALLENGES, LGBTQ YOUTH-LIKE ALL YOUTH IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM CAN HEAL AND THRIVE WHEN FAMILIES COMMIT TO ACCEPTING, LOVING AND SUPPORTING THEM AS THEY GROW INTO THEIR POTENTIAL AS ADULTS.

THE EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT LGBTQ YOUTH ARE OVERREPRESENTED IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM AND THAT THESE YOUTH FACE SERIOUS RISKS AND CHALLENGES BEYOND THOSE EXPERIENCED BY OTHER YOUTH. REJECTION BY THEIR FAMILIES AND OTHER CAREGIVERS EXACERBATES THESE RISKS. IF LGBTQ YOUTH ARE TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AND BECOME HEALTHY, HAPPY ADULTS, THEY-LIKE ALL YOUTH IN CARE-NEED FAMILIES WHO CAN PROVIDE PERMANENT, SUPPORTIVE HOMES DURING THEIR CRITICAL ADOLESCENT YEARS. WITH A LITTLE ADDITIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING, YOUR FAMILY CAN PROVIDE A WELCOMING HOME TO LGBTQ YOUTH.

BE YOURSELF: QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL
& TRANSGENDER YOUTH. CLEAR,
STRAIGHTFORWARD ANSWERS FOR LGBTQ
YOUTH.
[HTTP://WWW.PFLAG.ORG/FILEADMIN/USER_UPLOAD/PUBLICATIONS/BE_YOURSELF.PDF](http://www.pflag.org/fileadmin/user_upload/publications/be_yourself.pdf)

RFA newsletter is honored to feature Danielle Cox-McPherson. Danielle shared that she loves children and has always wanted a big family. As a foster parent, she feels that every child deserves a home where they are welcomed and not just a bed to go to. Danielle shared that having upfront information about a child being placed in her care is important in order for her to be the best foster parent that she can. Danielle encourages new foster parents to be open to the process as this is an opportunity to learn about the child and yourself. Danielle also appreciates the support of the supervisors and social workers and strongly believes that building a village with your support system is critical to better serve her children. Danielle is looking forward to finalizing an adoption.

Danielle finds that communicating with the children and learning to be patient and kind are beneficial parenting skills. Enrichment activities such as sports are important for her children and every child who comes in her care. She stated that giving the child something to take away from the experience in her home is significant and therefore offers to register them in any sport that they enjoy.

THE COX-MCPHERSON FAMILY

BY IVORY JONES



UPCOMING RFA and COMMUNITY CALENDAR

RFA UNIT

- FEBRUARY 25TH FROM 5:30PM TO 7:00PM-FOSTER CARE FORUM (TOPIC: ADOPTION) AT 137 N. COTTONWOOD WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA
- MARCH 9TH FROM 6:30PM TO 9:30PM-PRE-APPROVAL ORIENTATION AT WOODLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE 2300 E. GIBSON ROAD WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA
- MARCH 28TH FROM NOON TO 4:00PM-CPR FOR YOLO COUNTY RESOURCE FAMILIES AT 137 N. COTTONWOOD WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA

Foster & Kinship Care Education (FKCE) at 2300 E. Gibson Road Woodland, California

- FEBRUARY 21, 2020 FROM 6:30PM TO 8:30PM AND FEBRUARY 22ND FROM 10:00AM TO 4:00PM ROOM 101: BORN FOR LOVE, LEARNING HOW TO FIND SAFETY AND TRUST
- MARCH 9TH FROM 6:30PM TO 9:30PM-PRE-APPROVAL ORIENTATION AT WOODLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE 2300 E. GIBSON ROAD WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA
- MARCH 17 & 19TH, 24TH AND 26TH, 2020 FROM 6:30PM TO 8:30PM IN ROOM 101: LOVE & LOGIC PARENTING

HOPE'S ANCHOR CLASSES HELD AT: 137 N. COTTONWOOD WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA

- FEBRUARY 18, 2020 FROM 6:00PM TO 7:00PM- CREDIT CARE MAKEOVER
- MARCH 25, 2020 FROM 6:00PM TO 7:00PM-COLLEGE FINANCING 101