



Resource Family Approval November Newsletter



A message from the RFA supervisor

Hello everyone,

We had a great event at Bobbi Dazzler's Pumpkin Patch this month. I want to give a shout to my team and Cherie Schroeder for assisting with this event, great job everyone. We are all working diligently to bring a wonderful holiday event for our RFA community on December 18, 2021, at the Yolo County Health and Human Services office. We could not make this event possible without the assistance of numerous donors, FKCE (Cherie Schroeder), and the RFA Team. If you have not RSVPed for this event please respond immediately to Mariah.Lopez@yolocounty.org We will not be able to accept anymore RSVP's after November 5, 2021.

We look forward to going into the New Year within the RFA program to focus on Recruitment and Retention within our community. We hope to have focus groups and discussions with your input about this and we are open to ideas/suggestions you might have.

Please feel free to share those with me at

Alicia.Wasklewicz@yolocounty.org

Thank you everyone,

Alicia Wasklewicz, MPA

Upcoming RFA events

December 18, 2021 Holiday Drive Thru Event please RSVP to Mariah.Lopez@yolocounty.org if you have not yet.



2021 RFA CAREGIVER FALL EVENT



On Thursday, October 28, 2021 we hosted a drive-thru Fall event at Bobby Dazzler's Pumpkin Patch!

Thank you to everyone who came to enjoy special treats and for an evening at the patch!



Trick or Treat!



We made over 120 candy bags, enough for each child, and passed out a collection of other goodies.

Hope everyone had a safe and sweet Halloween!

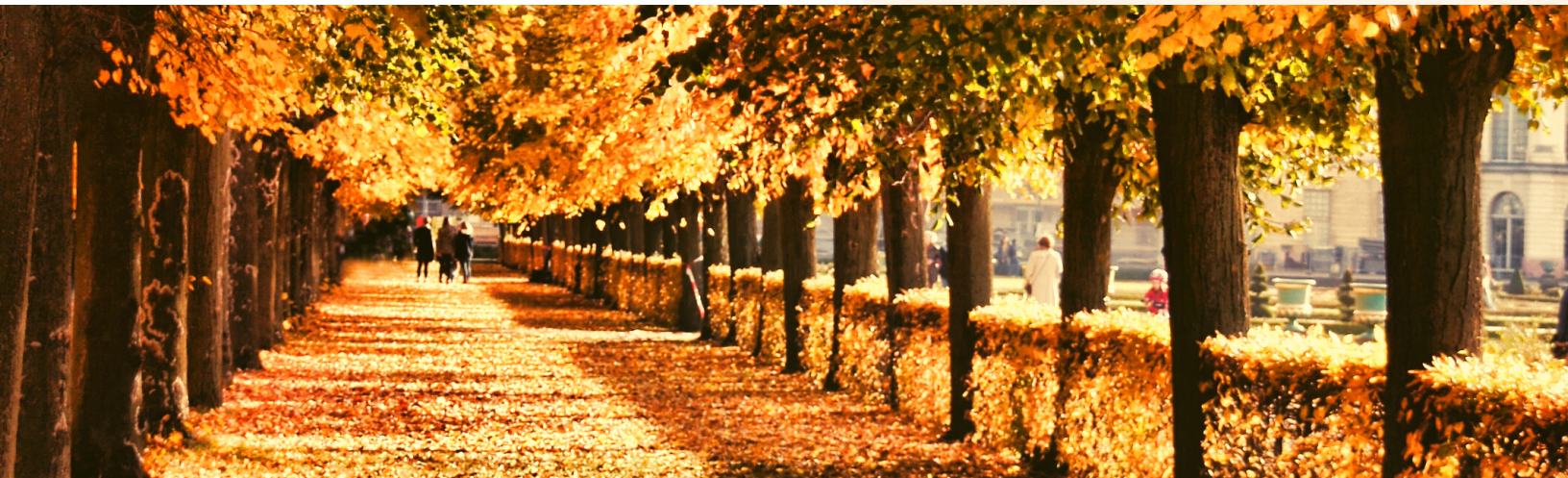


BOO!

The letters "FKCE" are written in a stylized, handwritten font on a brown ribbon banner.

*A REMINDER FOR FURS FOR TIMES
OF URGENT SUPPORT AS A
CAREGIVER OR YOUTH IN CARE.*

A friendly reminder to stay up-to-date on annual continued education. Resource Parents are expected to obtain 8 hours of continued education annually. If you are unsure how many hours you have, please contact your RFA social worker. Double click on the image to view FKCE class calendars to sign up for valuable education classes with Woodland FKCE!



DID YOU KNOW NOVEMBER IS

Child Safety Protection Month



Keeping children safe is a full time community effort. As the time tested proverb goes, it takes a village to raise a child. Below are a couple articles for continued reading on tips and advice on how child safety starts at home.

Double click on the images below:



November is Child Safety Protection Month

What kind of things can you do to protect your teen while simultaneously allowing them to live a full life and learn lessons on their own?



Why Sex Trafficking Victims Need Mental Health Treatment

Because sex trafficking is a complex, multilayered issue, teen victims can benefit from therapy to delve

How Teens Are Changing the Way We Collaborate on Permanency

BY NICK BAUMGARTNER

.....

"TEENS WANT US TO ENGAGE THEM IN CONVERSATIONS ABOUT PERMANENCY. BUT THEY MIGHT NOT SAY IT."

*In this article by the North American Council on Adoptable Children the message is about how to create a relationship between caregivers and teens when it comes to permanency. This collaboration includes everyone on the child's team to be clear and consistent. That includes **"Empower youth to authentically be themselves"** by allowing youth an opportunity to tell their own story and allowing them space **"Teens change their minds about permanency. As adults, it's our job to be consistent with them"**. The theme is communication and centering the child's voice in discussions about the future and most importantly, the present. The link to the full article is available on the bottom of the page.*



double click above to
read more

Caregiver Spotlight

AMANDA AMUNDSON



This month's caregiver spotlight goes to Amanda Amundson! She is a long time care giver with a lot of valuable experience and incredible insight. Thank you for all your support and care for our youth and community! See the next page to learn more about her family and advice for caregivers.

Caregiver Spotlight -----> Amanda Amundson



How long have you been a care provider with Yolo RFA?

I obtained Legal Guardianship through Probate of my cousin's daughter in 1993, through Yolo County. She is now almost thirty! During that time I also had a full time plus job as a Licensed Funeral Director and Location General Manager of three funeral home locations in Sacramento and Placer counties. In 2014, I became an RFA Foster Parent when my daughter's infant cousin came into care. Before I knew it she had a sibling that needed care. After twenty-five years I retired from Funeral Service and began caring for children in foster care full-time. To date we have shared our home with 17 children, most of whom we are still in contact with! Currently we have and adopted youth, guardianship youth, Foster youth and a big old fur baby in our home.

What would a perfect day for the family look like?

A perfect day, well, everyone would sleep in until at least 8 am, take their nap, have no meltdowns and be in bed by 8:30 pm! No, seriously, our family loves road trips and we are Disney fanatics, so I would have to say the perfect day would be spent with all of us at Disneyland soaking up the Southern California sun and riding the rides and eating all of the fabulous snacks.

Are there any special traditions you like to do together as a family during the holiday season?

Oh yes! The holiday season is our favorite time of the year. For us, it begins in October where we go to as many pumpkin patches as humanly possible with our family and friends. Then on Halloween, we go trick or treating with all of the kids and their cousins. On November 1st, we begin decorating for Thanksgiving and putting up the Christmas tree. Then we head to Apple Hill for pumpkins and pies. The month of December is always busy, we get together with family and friends, head to Starbucks, and travel around looking at Christmas Lights. We also decorate Christmas cookies and gingerbread houses, have a Cookie and Ornament Exchange Party and get our pictures taken with Santa. On Christmas Eve, which is also my oldest daughter birthday, we go to a relative's home for a Christmas and Birthday celebration. When we get home everyone is able to open one present. Interestingly enough everyone always gets a box with Christmas pajamas, hot chocolate, snacks and a Christmas movie. We like to prepare all of our holiday meals from scratch and we always stay home on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, where we have about 25 friends and family members over to our house. On New Year's Day the tree comes down and we try to recover from the last few weeks.

What is some advice for new caregivers around balancing end of year and/or holiday activities?

Postpone all unnecessary appointments, meetings and responsibilities until after the New Year. Discuss what is important to your "kiddos" during the holidays. Try merging some important traditions that your children share from their bio families into your traditions. Delegate responsibility and activities. Choose experiences over "stuff". Watch for depression and sadness in kiddos missing their bio families. If needed reach out to Mental Health.