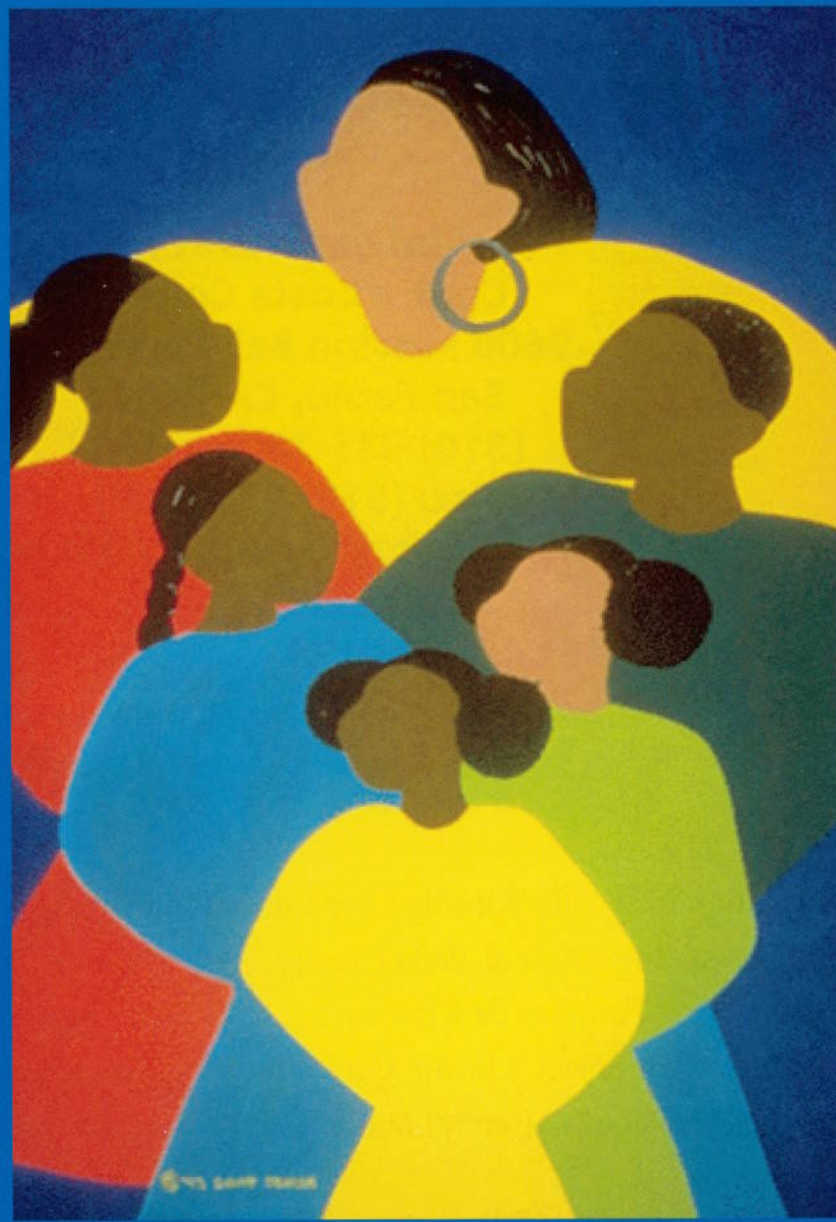


Continuing Education Program

for

Foster / Kinship Care
Education Program

Spring 2012
Class Program



Contra Costa, Los Medanos
and Diablo Valley Colleges

Contact Information

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Diablo Valley College
321 Golf Club Road
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(925) 685-1230 x 2705
Fax (925) 687-0472

email: jblackman@losmedanos.edu

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Pittsburg, CA 94565
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Fax: (925) 439-3675

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Intisar Shareef
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Fax: (510) 232-8030
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Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| Continuing Education for Foster/Kinship Care Education Providers | 1-2 |
| 36-Hour Heritage Training - East & West County | 3-5 |
| Classes en Español Para Familias de Crianza | 6 |
| Continuing Education for Foster/Kinship Care Education Providers - Schedule | 7 |
| Work with Provocative Youth - Central & East County | 8 |

FOSTER/KINSHIP CARE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Provided by Los Medanos College

EAST COUNTY – PITTSBURG

Where: Pittsburg United Methodist Church, 153 West Leland Drive, Pittsburg

When: Tuesday **Time:** 9:30am-12:30pm

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Presenter</u> |
|-------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1/31 | Medical Issues: Childhood Diseases | Dr. Gwen Hamilton |
| 2/07 | Helping Children Deal with Grief & Loss | Debra Bidwell |
| 2/14 | Diagnosis: FAS Spectrum Disorders and Drug Effects | Trudy Emanuelson |
| 2/21 | What's A Learning Disability? | Stephanie Scholar |
| 2/28 | Medical Issues: Cerebral Palsy & the Effect on Children | Dr. Gwen Hamilton |
| 3/06 | Accessing Resources: Family Foster Network | Chris Gery |
| 3/13 | Hip Hop-Words & Meanings | Robin Mills |
| 3/20 | Culture of Abuse in the Family | Child Abuse Prevention Council |
| 3/27 | Medical Issues: Importance of Childhood Immunizations | Dr. Gwen Hamilton |
| 4/03 | EASTER HOLIDAY - NO CLASS | |
| 4/10 | What Happens to Youth on Probation? | PetrenyaBoykins |
| 4/17 | Depression in Children | Dr. Manuel Fernandez |
| 4/24 | Medical Issues: Leukemia and Anemia | Dr. Gwen Hamilton |
| 5/1 | AB12 & the Effects on Youth | TBA |
| 5/8 | Cyber Bullying & Your Child | Cheryl Lazorik |
| 5/15 | Boys Transitioning Into Manhood | Greg Newton |
| 5/22 | Financial Implications of Permanency | Lois Rutten |
| 5/29 | Medical Issues: Sickle Cell Anemia | Dr. Gwen Hamilton |

FAR EAST-BRENTWOOD-NEW LOCATION

Where: DELTA First 5 Center, 760 1st Street, Brentwood

When: Wednesday **Time:** 9:30am-12:30pm

| <u>Date</u> | <u>TOPIC</u> | <u>PRESENTER</u> |
|-------------|---|----------------------|
| 1/25 | Stress Reduction: Massage & Meditation | Alexandra De Avalon |
| 2/01 | Adoption Story: How and When to Tell Your Child | Debra Bidwell |
| 2/8 | Social-Emotional Development: Strong vs. Weak Vulnerability | Greg Newton |
| 2/15 | Types of Children's Therapies & Importance in Foster Care | Paddy Poupenny |
| 2/22 | Talking to Your Teenager about Sex | TBA |
| 2/29 | Enhance Your Relationships in Parenting | Cheryl Lazorik |
| 3/07 | Anger Styles & Dealing w/Anger in the Family | Greg Newton |
| 3/14 | Raising Competent & Confident Children | Cheryl Lazorik |
| 3/21 | The Effects of Trauma on Brain Development | Dr. Manuel Fernandez |
| 3/28 | Attachment Parenting | Vivian Torres |
| 4/04 | EASTER HOLIDAY - NO CLASS | |
| 4/11 | Raising Resilient Children | Cheryl Lazorik |
| 4/18 | Where to Get Help When Your Child is Out of Control | TBA |
| 4/25 | Developmental Stages & Attachment in Foster Care | Vivian Torres |
| 5/02 | Life Books- Where to Start | Chris Gery |
| 5/09 | Managing Birth Parent Relationship | Devin Rubin |
| 5/16 | The Teen Brain: Separation, Sex and Identity | Greg Newton |
| 5/23 | Therapeutic Attachment | Vivian Torres |
| 5/30 | Drug Culture in Schools Today | Dorothy Haynes |

Child activities available for all classes on this page, please R.S.V.P. (925)439-2181 x3338.

FOSTER/KINSHIP CARE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Provided by Diablo Valley College

CENTRAL COUNTY

Where: Families First, 3350 Clayton Road, Concord, CA

When: Tuesday Time: 6:30pm-8:30pm

Date Topic

| | |
|------|---|
| 1/31 | Self Help for the Caregivers |
| 2/28 | When & How to Talk to Children about Adoption |
| 3/27 | Developing Attachment in Adoption |
| 4/24 | Race & Identity: What You Get Isn't What You See! |
| 5/22 | Children Coping with Trauma |

Presenter

Dr. Manuel Fernandez
Devon Rubin
Devon Rubin
Dorothy Powell
Dr. Manuel Fernandez

WALNUT CREEK

Where: - Faith Christian Fellowship Church, 860 Bancroft, Walnut Creek

When: Wednesday Time: 9:30-12:30 pm

Date Topic

| | |
|------|---|
| 2/1 | The Power of Positive Parenting: Enhance Your Parent Strategies |
| 2/8 | Stress Reduction: Self-Regulation Techniques |
| 2/15 | AB12: Good News for Emancipating Foster Youth |
| 2/22 | Types of Children's Therapies & Importance in Foster Care |
| 2/29 | The Real Messages Behind Behavior |
| 3/7 | Grief & Loss in Children |
| 3/14 | Transforming Anger into Love |
| 3/21 | Attachment: Parenting the Adopted or Foster Child |
| 3/28 | Managing Visitation, Transitions & Relationships w/ Biological Families |
| 4/4 | EASTER HOLIDAY - NO CLASS |
| 4/11 | Assessing Resources: Foster Family Network |
| 4/18 | Youth and Drug Culture |
| 4/25 | Raising Your Foster or Adopted Child with Confidence (0-5 yrs) |
| 5/2 | Raising Resilient Children |
| 5/9 | Talking to Your Teens About Sex |
| 5/16 | Hoarding Behavior in Adopted & Foster Children |
| 5/23 | Special Needs Screening for Children Two-Five Years Old |
| 5/30 | Nurturing the Nurturer-Self Care Strategies for Foster/Adoptive Parents |

Presenter

Cheryl Lazorik
Alexandra De Avalon
TBA
Paddy Poupenny
TBA
Debra Bidwell
Alexandra De Avalon
Vivian Torres
Annie Bailey

Kris Gery
Dorothy Haynes
Annie Bailey
Cheryl Lazorik
Robin Mills
Vivian Torres
TBA
Annie Bailey

LAFAYETTE

Where: International Enrichment Center - C.O.P.E Family Support Adoption Program

3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste B100, Lafayette

When: Saturday Time: 10:00am - 1:00pm

Date Topic

| | |
|------|--|
| 2/18 | Loss of Connection & Separation |
| 3/17 | Teaching Integrity |
| 4/21 | Mothers & Sons: The Gift of Emotional Intelligence |
| 5/19 | Healing the Legacy/Healing Ourselves |

Presenter

Greg Newton
Greg Newton
Greg Newton
Greg Newton

All classes above require RSVP

Lafayette classes- please R.S.V.P.2 days prior as classes may be canceled due to low attendance.

Child activities provided with advance notice only - NOT ON a DROP IN BASIS.

Call (925) 778-1229

FOSTER/KINSHIP CARE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Provided by Diablo Valley & Los Medanos Colleges

KINSHIP CARE EDUCATION TRAININGS

East County – Morning

STAND, For Families Free of Violence, 315 G. Street, Antioch, CA

When: 2nd Wednesday

Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Presenter</u> |
|-------------|--|----------------------|
| 1/11 | Effects of Diet on Mental Health | Vivian Torres |
| 2/08 | The Hidden Messages We Send Our Children | TBA |
| 3/14 | Helping Youth Stay out of Gangs | Juli Rositas, MPA |
| 4/11 | Adopting “Dependent” Relative Children | Debra Bidwell |
| 5/09 | The Medicated Child: The Pro and Cons | Dr. Manuel Fernandez |

East County - Evening

STAND, For Families Free of Violence, 315 G. Street, Antioch, CA

When: 4th Thursday

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Presenter</u> |
|-------------|--|----------------------|
| 1/26 | Understanding Your Child’s Attachment Type | Dorothy Powell |
| 2/23 | Adopting “Non-Dependent” Relative Children | Debra Bidwell |
| 3/29 | Issues with Drug Exposed children | Dorothy Haynes |
| 4/26 | Sexual Abuse & Its Effects on Children | Dorothy Powell |
| 5/31 | Bi-polar Disorder in Children | Dr. Manuel Fernandez |

Far East County - Evening

United Methodist Church, 809 2nd Street, Brentwood, CA

When: 4th Wednesday

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Presenter</u> |
|-------------|--|------------------|
| 1/25 | The Effects of Bullying on your Child | Juli Rositas |
| 2/29 | Effects of Abandonment on Children/Youth | Dorothy Powell |
| 3/28 | Child Development 0 – 5 | Reena Torres |
| 4/25 | The Cycle of Domestic Violence & it Effects Families | Dorothy Powell |
| 5/30 | The Teenage Brain | Robin Mills |

Child care provided with advance notice only - **NOT ON A DROP IN BASIS**

East & Far East County contact Juli Rositas (925) 237-8970

Central County - Evening

Where: Church of the Nazarene, 1650 Ashbury Dr., Concord, CA 94520

When: 2nd Wednesday

Time: 6:30pm – 8:30pm

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Presenter</u> |
|-------------|---|------------------|
| 1/11 | Rebuilding Children’s Lives – on-going series | Beth Bottorff |
| 2/8 | Rebuilding Children’s Lives – on-going series | Beth Bottorff |
| 3/14 | Rebuilding Children’s Lives – on-going series | Beth Bottorff |
| 4/11 | Rebuilding Children’s Lives – on-going series | Beth Bottorff |

FOSTER/KINSHIP CARE EDUCATION PROGRAM

LA CRIANZA PRACTICA DE LOS HIJOS

Provided by Diablo Valley & Los Medanos Colleges

El Programa de Educación para Familias de Crianza y Cuidado Parentesco
de los colegios de la comunidad de Los Medanos y Diablo Valley

Presentan

Clases en Español Para Familias de Crianza

Algunos temas de interés:

**Disciplina, Auto - Estima, Como Mejorar Problemas de Comportamiento, Apoyo, Consecuencias Positivas y Negativas
Recursos y mucho mas...**

CONCORD

Child Care Council

1035 Detroit Ave, Ste 200

Miércoles: 6:30-9:30pm

22 de Febrero, 2012

28 de Marzo, 2012

25 de Abril, 2012

30 de Mayo, 2012

PITTSBURG

Pittsburg United Methodist Church

153 W. Leland Drive, Pittsburg

Lunes: 6:30-9:30pm

6 de Febrero, 2012

12 de Marzo, 2012

9 de Abril, 2012

7 de Mayo, 2012

! Se ofrece actividades para los niños durante el cuidado con avance de aviso!

Para registrarse, reservar espacio para actividades/cuidado de sus niños o si tiene preguntas,

Favor de llamar a

Blanca Perdomo (925) 439-2181 x 3328 o (925) 685-1230 x 2705

PRIDE TRAINING

This 27-hour course of pre-service training is for those interested in becoming a family resource for a child or sibling group. Many of the prospective parents who enter this course are already working with Contra Costa County Children & Family Services and have applied for foster care licensing. Some attendees may be thinking of becoming therapeutic foster parents. All are welcome.

Required Trainings for Foster/Adoption Licensing SATURDAY TRAININGS

Date:

April 28th, May 5th, 12th, 19th

March 17th, 24th, April 14th & 21st

January 28th, Feb 4th, 11th, 18th

Location

Diablo Valley College, 321 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill, CA

Los Medanos College, 2700 East Leland Road, Pittsburg, CA

Contra Costa College, 2600 Mission Bell Drive, San Pablo, CA

Must Register with Contra Costa County Children & Family Services

Call Sheree : 925-602-6914

FOSTER/KINSHIP CARE EDUCATION PROGRAM

SPECIAL TRAININGS ON DIVERSITY, SAFETY, PERMANENCE AND WELL-BEING

This three hour presentation covers basic Child Welfare and the TDM process

- Please RSVP if you plan to attend – (510) 262-5199
- No child care is available

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|--|-----------------|
| WEST COUNTY: | Jan 11 th or July 11 th | * 151 Linus Pauling Dr., Hercules <i>Briones Room</i> | *9 am -12 noon |
| EAST COUNTY: | May 9 th or November 14 th | * 4549 Delta Fair Blvd, Antioch <i>Black Diamond Room</i> | *9 am -12 noon |
| CENTRAL COUNTY: | March 14 th or Sept. 12 th | *500 Ellinwood Way, Pleasant Hill <i>Icebreakers Room</i> | * 9 am -12 noon |

Please register through our RSVP line (510) 262-5109.
For other questions, call (510) 262-5100

36- HOUR Heritage TRAINING

In partnership with County Costa College and Los Medanos College
Perinatal Substance Abuse/HIV Infant Program

Heritage Project is a program offered by the county and the California Department of Social Services to address the needs of babies and children who are born exposed to drugs and/or alcohol, are court dependents, and are under 5 years of age.

*The training is designed for county licensed foster parents, approved relative caregivers,
and prospective foster parents who are applying for a county foster license.*

| <u>Location</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> |
|------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Central County | Tuesdays: May 1 ST , 8 th , 15 TH , 22 ND , 29 TH June 5 TH , 12 TH , 19 TH Saturday: June 16 th & 23 rd | 6pm -9pm 9am -3pm |
| East County | Monday: March 5 th , 12 th , 19 th , 26 th , April 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th Saturday: April 28 th , May 5 th | 6pm -9pm 9am -3pm |

Must Register with Contra Costa County Children & Family Services
Call Colleen Smith, Heritage, Recruiter: (925) 602-6930 or (925) 602-6914 *Fax (925) 602-6989

FOSTER/KINSHIP CARE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Provided by Diablo Valley College & Los Medanos Colleges

Prerequisite: You must have completed a minimum of 8 hours per year of Continuing Education units prior to renewing CPR & First Aid

- Please wear comfortable clothes.
- **No child care is provided.**
- Training is located at Diablo Valley College, Los Medanos College and Contra Costa College
 - Preference is given to foster parents, adopting parents and kin care providers.
 - Plan to arrive between 8:00 – 8:15am

Favor de llamar para más información y fechas de clases en Español

- Feb 4th CPR & First Aid DVC
- Feb 25th CPR & First Aid LMC
- Mar 10th CPR & First Aid DVC
- Mar 24th CPR & First Aid LMC
- April 14th CPR & First Aid DVC
- April 28th CPR & First Aid LMC
- May 5th CPR & First Aid LMC
- May 26th CPR & First Aid DVC
- June 16th CPR & First Aid LMC

Triple P Parenting Class for Parents with Teenagers, School Age Children & Children with Special Needs

NINE (9) WEEK - Evidence based program with an educative approach to develop your confidence & competence in parenting

- *If you are a parent with a child/teen with social & emotional problems,*
- *If your child/teen has problems such as aggression or oppositional behavior,*
- *Or you have specific concerns about your child/teen's behavior,*
- *And you need specific coaching tips to help you parent.*

| Date | Location | Time |
|--|--|--------------|
| Jan. 5 th -May 17 th | Bethlehem Church, 684 Juliga Woods, Richmond-English Class | 6:00-9:00 pm |
| March- TBA | East county – Call LMC for location- Spanish Class | 6:30-8:30 pm |
| April 6th - June 8th | Central County- call DVC for location- English Class | 9:30-11:30am |

*Child care is NOT available for Richmond classes * Child activities provided in East and Central County * advance notice only*

For all classes on this page, call Blanca or Glenda to pre-register as space is limited.

East County Residents: 925-439-2181 x 3328, Central County Residents: 925-685-1230 x 2705

West County Residents: Call Glenda to pre-register at 510-235-7800 x 4603.

Funding for this evidence based parenting class is provided through a grant from Mental Health Services & First 5 Contra Costa in partnership with Los Medanos, Diablo Valley College & COPE Family Support Center

FOSTER/KINSHIP CARE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Provided by CONTRA COSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Please contact Glenda Roberts for additional information, 510-235-7800 ext 4252

| Day, Time & Date | Subject | Presenter | Location |
|--|---|--|--|
| Echd95A 1055 2 nd & 4 th Monday 9:30am-11:30AM 1/9, 1/23, 2/13, 2/27, 3/12, 3/26, 4/9, 4/23, 5/14, 5/28 | Compassion Care of Children in the Kinship System | DrShahara Godfrey and Selena LeBlanc | Youth Service Bureau 84 Broadway, Richmond |
| Echd95C 3323 1 st and 3 rd Thursday 6pm-9pm 1/5, 1/19, 2/2, 2/16, 3/1, 3/15, 4/5, 4/19, 5/3, 5/17 | Triple P – Positive Parenting Program | Dorothy Powell | Bethlehem Church 684 Juliga Woods Street, Richmond |
| ECHD95B 5351 Saturday, 9pm-5pm, 3/31 | CPR and First Aid | Stacy Hayes | Contra Costa College 2600 Mission Bell Dr, HS1, San Pablo |
| ECHD95D 1858 Sat, 9am-3:45pm 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11 | Foster PRIDE/Adopt PRIDE | Dr Intisar Shareef | Contra Costa College 2600 Mission Bell Dr, HS1, San Pablo |
| ECHD 95E 1860 Sat, 9am-3:30pm 2/18, 2/25, 3/3, 3/10, 3/24 | Heritage Project | Dr Intisar Shareef | Contra Costa College 2600 Mission Bell Dr, HS1, San Pablo |
| ECHD 95C 3169 Fri, 11:40am-1:30pm | | Dr Intisar Shareef | Contra Costa College 2600 Mission Bell Dr 3 Seasons Restaurant |

Provided by Los Medanos College/FKCE Program

Adoptive Parent Education Program-“Parenting Your Porcupine”

Issues related to children exposed to substances in utero, developed for adoptive parents of children with alcohol and related birth disorders. This program provides information about the cognitive development of individuals who were exposed to alcohol and other drugs in utero and identifying sources of stress and adapting the child’s environment to enhance coping skills.”

Professionally Facilitated by Trudy Emanuelson, MA

Where: C.O.P.E Adoption Support Center, 218 Pine Street, Brentwood

Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm ***When:*** 4th Monday of the Month in 2012

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> |
|-------------|--|
| Jan. 23 | Normalizing Experiences of Raising Children with Prenatal Exposure to Substances |
| Feb. 27 | Hidden Stress Threshold that Lead to Behavioral Deterioration |
| Mar. 26 | Diagnosis: FAS Spectrum Disorders and Drug Effects |
| April 23 | Diathesis: Relief, Grief & Resolution |

Child activities available for the Adoptive Parent Education classes, please R.S.V.P. (925)439-2181 x3338.

WORK WITH PROVOCATIVE YOUTH? THESE TRAININGS ARE FOR YOU!



Diablo Valley & Los Medanos Colleges Foster/ Kinship Care Education Program

Credits (CEUs) are available

For More Information Call Jennifer Blackman or Patsy Sherman

CENTRAL COUNTY: (925) 685-1230 x 2705, **EAST COUNTY:** (925) 439-2181 x 3328

No Child Care Available

Thursday training is located at ILSP, 1875 Arnold Drive, 2nd Floor, Martinez, **Time:** 9:30am – 2:00pm

Friday training is located at ILSP, 1875 Arnold Drive, 2nd Floor, Martinez, **Time:** 8:45am – 2:15pm

| THURSDAY | TOPIC | PRESENTER |
|-----------------|---|------------------|
| Feb 02, 2012 | Burnout & Renewal | Cotton |
| Feb 09, 2012 | Ten Habits of Highly Successful Parents & Professionals (1 & 2) | Cotton |
| Feb 16, 2012 | Communication Anchored in Truth | Cotton |
| Feb 23, 2012 | The Astonishing Listening Training (No Kidding!) (1 & 2) | Cotton |
| Mar 1, 2012 | Living Anxiety Free in Anxious Times | Cotton |
| Mar 08, 2012 | The Astonishing Listening Training (No Kidding!) (3 & 4) | Cotton |
| Mar 15, 2012 | Being Therapeutic with Sexual Minority Youth (1 & 2) | Cotton |
| Mar 22, 2012 | Effects of Abandonment on Youth | Cotton |
| Mar 29, 2012 | What to Do When Your Buttons Get Pushed (1&2) | Cotton |
| April 12, 2012 | How to Help Children Become Thoughtful Decision Makers (1 & 2) | Cotton |
| April 19, 2012 | How to Help Children Become Thoughtful Decision Makers (1 & 2) | Cotton |
| April 26, 2012 | Child Development and Attachment (Part 1) | Cotton |
| May 03, 2012 | Child Development and Attachment (Part 2) | Cotton |
| May 10, 2012 | Self-Injury (Part 1) | Cohen-Bennett |
| May 17, 2012 | Self-Injury (Part 2) | Cohen-Bennett |
| May 24, 2012 | Creating Healthy Teams & Partnerships (Part 1) | Cotton |
| May 31, 2012 | Creating Healthy Teams & Partnerships (Part 2) | Cotton |
| FRIDAY | TOPIC | PRESENTER |
| Feb 10, 2012 | How Trauma Affects Child Development & How Trauma Affects Separation and Attachment Milestones (Part 1) | Cohen-Bennett |
| Feb 17, 2012 | How Trauma Affects Grief and Loss & External Stressors for Families of Origin (Part 2) | Cohen-Bennett |
| Mar 09, 2012 | How My Buttons Get Pushed & Challenging Behavior Management (Part 3) | Cohen-Bennett |
| Mar 16, 2012 | Pre-Teens & Teen Culture (Part 4) | Cohen-Bennett |
| April 13, 2012 | Cultural Identity: Creating a Safe Environment & Emancipation: Helping our Youth to Leave Home (Part 5) | Cohen-Bennett |
| April 20, 2012 | The Abuse Spectrum & Helping to Heal Childhood Wounds (Part 6) | Cohen-Bennett |

Independent Living Skills Program

Contra Costa County

“Our VISION is to move every youth from stagnation to motivation; from limitations to possibilities; from dependency to self-sufficiency; from the past to the FUTURE.”

From the ILSP Files

**“All our dreams
can come true, if
we have the
courage to pursue
them.”**

~Walt Disney



Mimi Marrocco
Youth
Development
Specialist

It's half way through summer! Have you found a summer job yet? It's not too late to land a summer job. In the last few years, summer jobs have been difficult to come across considering tough competition between youth and adults. However, it is gradually improving for teens and young adults. Did you know that this past Febru-

ary, President Obama and the Department of Labor launched the Summer Jobs+ Plus program in an effort to provide summer job opportunities for low income and disconnected youth? The Summer Jobs + Bank is a new online search tool to connect young people to jobs, internship and other employment opportunities. You can visit the Summer Jobs + Bank tool here: <https://webapps.dol.gov/summerjobs>.

Although online job searching is one easy way to LOOK for a job, LANDING a job will require you to be creative if you want to get noticed. Here are some tips and advice you should take while searching for your summer or first job:

1. Know Your Goals

Knowing who you are and what your career goals will help you further your opportunities. Employers want employees to know what their goals are. Think about your career goals. Where do you see yourself in a year? Five years? In addition to money, a job or an internship can provide you with new skills and a chance to investigate careers you might be interested in pursuing.

2. Know Yourself and Your Resume

Think of your resume as a marketing tool -- you have to sell yourself, promoting your abilities and skills.

Continued on page 2

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| A Community Response | 2 |
| ILSP Files cont'd | 2 |
| Youth in Action | 2 |
| Congratulations Class of 2012 | 3 |
| ILSP Question & Answer | 4 |
| Calendar of Events | 4 |

SAVE THE DATES

SENIOR KICK OFF!

**Wednesday
July 25th, 2012
10am-1pm**

**ILSP Office
1875 Arnold Drive
Martinez, CA 94553**

FALL RETREAT BBQ

**Saturday
August 25th, 2012
11am-2pm**

**Concord Community Park
3501 Cowell Road.
Concord, CA 94518**

A COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO CELEBRATE AN EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

DON GRAVES, ILSP COORDINATOR

On Tuesday, June 19th, 2012, 300 dignitaries, community partners, and guests came out to celebrate the Contra Costa County Children and Family Services high school graduates of 2012 at the Independent Living Skills Program's 24th Annual Recognition Dinner. The Independent Living Skills Program serves youth in the foster care system between the ages of 16 and 21 in the areas of education, employment, housing and resources. Overcoming many obstacles, 92 youth from the foster care system were honored for their accomplishments.

The program began with a Poem titled "I was, I am, I will be" written by Cal State East Bay bound high school graduate, Jessica Schaffer. It set the tone for a night filled with inspiration and generosity.

The venue was generously donated by The Calvary Temple Church of Concord and volunteers from the church helped with the set up, lighting, sound and video.

The dinner itself was sponsored by The Wellness City Challenge, Tom's Classic Catering, The National Association of Social Workers, Foster a Dream and The Orinda Woman's Club. Guests were treated to a full course meal prepared by Cindy Gershen of Sunrise Bistro and her 7 amazing assistants. Dinner was served by volunteers from Calvary Temple and The Golden Hills Churches.

The night was highlighted by presentations by the Honorable Judge Lois Haight, acting Child Welfare Director, Lois Rutten, alumni speaker, Jeannette Quintero, and University of Stanford bound high school graduate Joelle Williams.

Graduate Joelle Williams gave the most stirring speech of the evening when she spoke of life being like a house that we build it to be. "For humans and the lives they create, I believe, are most similar to houses. We are delivered onto this earth with our own individual plots of land made up of our names, our family, and our physical traits. Our concrete personal values and principles keep us grounded and secure, as they lay the foundation on which we build ourselves, on which we live our lives." Her message that we control the way that our houses will be constructed was a powerful statement to cap the evening.

Our Mistress of Ceremony, former ILSP participant, Daniella Poy-Wing, a graduate of Samuel Merritt and St. Mary's College and is now a Public Health Nurse for the Public Health Department summarized the spirit of the evening by saying, "It's great that we can now give back to a program that has given so much to us."

From the ILSP Files Continued from page 1

You want to show them that you are the best candidate for the position. This means the more work you're willing to put into your resume the better it will pay off.

3. Be Confident

Many teens and young adults show a tendency to be hard on themselves and minimize their accomplishments. Learn to talk about yourself in a positive, confident manner without boasting. Stay focused on what you can do for the company

with the skills or knowledge you have. Remember that a job interview is not the place to beat yourself up. Instead, emphasize flattering details about yourself, such as volunteering in the community.

4. Don't Give Up

Don't give up. Consider volunteering as a good way to network and gain experience/skills that are valuable in increasing your job opportunities. You can find volunteer opportunities at

your local community center, library, hospital, youth center, church, etc.

If you are interested in having an individual resume review or additional assistance in finding a job in the summer or year you can contact me,

Mimi Marrocco, at

mnguyen@ehsd.cccounty.us to set up an appointment or call at (925) 957-2420. Good luck and have a great summer!

The ILSP Newsletter is ALWAYS looking for new and fresh information.

If you are interested in writing poems, short stories, or articles please give SanT're'sa Berry a call at 92-957-2423.

We are waiting to hear from you!

Youth In ACTION!

I went to many of the life skills classes and I can honestly say that ILSP has changed my life. I had an amazing social worker, I was connected with an awesome tutor that I worked with for 2 years that helped me to pass my classes and graduate on time, I was connected to a housing program for emancipated foster youth that provided me with housing, further life skills classes, and more case management. I completed all these programs successfully and I owe my start to ILSP. If it weren't for their classes, resources and support I DON'T KNOW WHERE OR WHO I WOULD BE TODAY. I'm very grateful for this program and all they have done for me. I started ILSP when I was 14; I am now 24, a student and working for AmeriCorps a non-profit providing services for youth.

Kendra White

ILSP Alumni

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES OF 2012!

A total of 92 graduates....

71~ will be attending college

10 ~ will seek employment

2 ~ joined the military

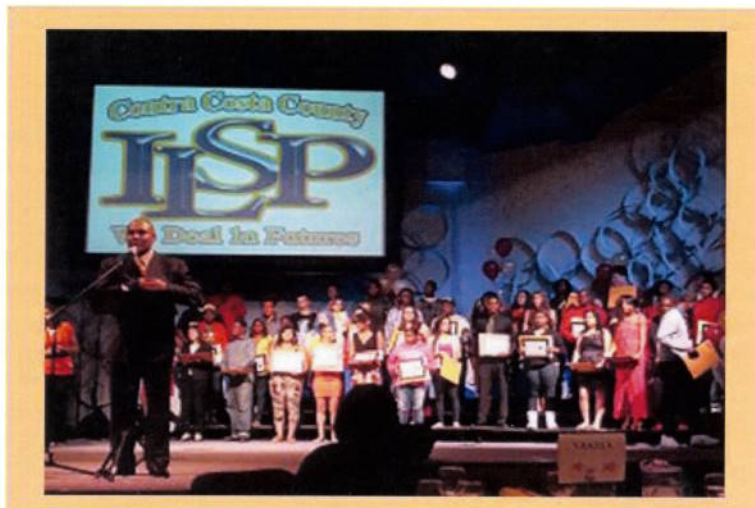
9 ~ youth are planning on pursuing
other dreams either in vocational programs
or apprenticeships.

Eighty-six scholarships worth over \$60,000 were presented to 55 different young adults pursuing higher education:

- The Judge Lois Haight Foundation provided 23 scholarships
- VESTIA, Inc. provided 10 scholarships
- The Orinda Woman's Club provided 9 scholarships
- ILSP Wilhelmina Johnson scholarship fund provided 9 scholarships
- The Assistance League of Diablo Valley provided 8 scholarships
- Foster a Dream provided 7 scholarships
- Youth Homes, Inc. provided 7

scholarships

- Alamo Women's Club provided 5 scholarships
- Fostering Futures provided 4 scholarships
- Families First/ Amador Institute THPP programs provided 3 scholarships
- Don and Roy Splawn provided 1 scholarship



Contra Costa County ILSP Independent Living Skills Program

Contra Costa County

1875 Arnold Dr.
Suite 200
Martinez, CA 94553

Phone: 925-957-2400 or
1-866-994-ILSP (4577)

Fax: 925-957-2427

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.COCOILSP.ORG
FRIEND US ON FACEBOOK:
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/COCOILSP

"We Deal in Futures"

Question: What is ILSP about and what can it do for my youth?

Answer: The Independent Living Skills Program is a federally sponsored program that empowers in-care and emancipated foster youth with the skills and resources needed for successful emancipation from the foster care system. ILSP offers workshops, one on one assistance and resources. Some of the information/resources that they can expect to receive in workshops and while working with ILSP include (but are not limited to):

- locating, budgeting applying for and maintaining rental housing
- housing programs for dependent, emancipated and non-minor dependents.
- how to locate, apply and maintain gainful employment, summer jobs, internships
- interviewing tips and techniques
- employment and educational fairs
- tips on selecting a college or vocational program
- how to apply to college, vocational programs, apprenticeships
- how to pay for college and vocational programs using financial aid, grants and FAFSA applications and ILSP stipends
- the difference between loans, grants and scholarships
- locating and applying for scholarships
- saving/budgeting for school and independent living
- writing checks, securing credit, personal accounting, opening a checking account
- using credit effectively
- to make sound choices regarding partners, friends and acquaintances
- cooking basics
- navigating your neighborhood and local government agencies and services
- financial incentives for completing their high school diploma, GED, and enrolling in college or vocational training.
- a clothing closet where youth shop for free
- an emergency food pantry

About ILSP Standard ILSP

The Standard Independent Living Skills program provides services to youth still in care between the ages of 16 through 19. The primary focus of the standard ILS program is to identify all eligible youth and provide emancipation services with the goal of preparing them for responsible adulthood.

After Care

The Post Emancipation Program was developed to provide after care services for our emancipated youth. Youth are eligible to participate until their 21st birthday. The post emancipation program is staffed with Specialists to assist with educational, employment, and housing needs.

An array of workshops, classes, and activities are offered to meet the needs of the youth.

STAFF:

Joan Miller
ILSP Division Manager

Jacque Butcher-Rankin
PTU Division Manager

Don Graves
ILSP Coordinator

Tim Hamp
Assistant ILSP Coordinator

ILSP Specialists
Alfred Arroyos
SanTre'sa Berry
Pat Ensley
Toney Peterson

Youth Development Specialist
Mimi Nguyen

Carl Nishi
Social Work Supervisor

Social Workers
Stacey Anderson, ILSP
Zenaida Fujisaki, SPP
Gabe Kaplan, ILSP
JoAnn Lofton, ILSP
Kelli Taylor, SPP

Dorsh deVoe
TDM/YTM Supervisor

TMD/YTM Facilitators
Dorothy Powell
Janet Theobald

Barbara Smith
ILSP Lead Clerk

Neely McElroy
Division Manager-AB12

What's Happening: Calendar of Events

July 25th, 2012

Senior Kick Off
ILSP Office
1875 Arnold Dr.
Martinez, CA 94533

August 25, 2012

Fall Retreat BBQ
Concord Community Park
3501 Cowell Road.
Concord, CA 94518

Los Medanos College CCP Work plan

Completed at the CCP Convening, May 2011

| Strategy | Who / what group(s) play a role? Who leads? Partnerships Needed | Activities / Tasks | Timeline: (Fall 2011, Spring 2012, beyond...) | Explanation of enhancement / extension |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| Pilot workshops for students on financial literacy, college success | Patsy, Tawny, Devon, Blas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review curriculum from RCC, other available Connect with LMC student services, including financial aid, EOPS, counseling | Summer 2011 – Fall 2011 | Currently not aware of financial literacy available directed towards foster youth – will provide critical information and skill building to students to help them better manage resources – personal and financial |
| Convene LMC/Co Co County meetings | Patsy, Tawny | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convene meetings of LMC departments – student services and instruction Convene county-wide meetings with all stakeholders – LMC, LLP, County Office of Education | Summer 2011 – Spring 2012 and beyond | Strengthen awareness of former foster youth on campus to provide better access to these youth |
| Research and pilot Life Skills modules | Patsy, Tawny, Blas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with counselors and the Dean of Student Life to determine where information/modules on life skills can be implemented | Summer 2011 – Spring 2012 and beyond | Improved life skills for former foster youth |
| Explore mentoring options | Jennifer, Patsy, Tawny | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore low- or no-cost mentoring options | Summer 2011 – Spring 2012 | Improve success of former foster youth through increased confidence and a greater sense of connection to the college and the community |
| Research the “YES” grant | Patsy, Tawny | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research the availability and requirements of the YES grant Determine institutional capacity and where it should be housed | Summer 2011 – Spring 2012 | Increased opportunities for Former Foster Youth |

The Career Ladders Project

Community College Pathways May 27, 2011