



Foster Power

Foster & Kinship Care Education Program

Director's Message

Dear Caregivers and Networking Professionals,
Welcome back! I hope that you had an enjoyable summer. Our goal is to continue to bring you news about what's happening with Foster Care, Kinship Care, Child Welfare and the many issues that have an impact on our community, region and state; as well as to offer classes that help strengthen your parenting skills.

Our Dean of Instruction, Harry Gossett, retired June 30, 2007 and we wish him the best. Bob Taylor was selected as his replacement and we are looking forward to his supportive leadership.

My open door policy remains in effect and I am here to listen, learn and address your foster education needs and/or concerns. Thank you for your continued selflessness, compassion and empathy as you dedicate yourself, family and homes to children. Parenting another's child is the 'toughest job you'll ever love'. I appreciate you for allowing me to help serve our community's children along with you.

Sincerely,
Veronica I. Oforlea, M.S.
Program Director



Daylight Savings Time
ends
November 4, 2007



Don't forget to turn your
clocks back!

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Trivia



- How many flowers are in the design stamped on each side of an Oreo cookie?
- Who averaged one patent for every three weeks of his life?
- What are painted bright yellow and left out for public use on the streets of Portland, Oregon?

Answers on page 3

Contact Us

If you would like to submit story ideas or letters to the community, please email them to oforlea.v@mccd.edu or send by fax to: (209) 381-6482. This newsletter is designed to keep you abreast of what is going on in and around your community with regards to the FKCE and ILP programs.

Class Highlights



Kinship Parenting: “A Tradition of Caring”

Are you a Grandparent, Aunt, Uncle, Brother, Sister, Sibling, etc. raising your relative’s children?

Then you are a Kinship Caregiver. There is no formal requirement for you to attend classes or work shops, but many kinship caregivers have expressed a desire for more training in specific areas to help them better meet the needs of the children in their care.

Book provided: Love You Forever, by Robert Munsch

Monday Evenings

▶ October 15 - December 10
7:00 - 9:00 pm

NOTE: The last day for this series is December 10, 2007, not December 17, 2007 as originally indicated.

Please mark your calendar accordingly.



Becoming A Love and Logic Parent

Becoming a Love and Logic Parent” is designed to provide parents with practical techniques (using easy-to-learn strategies) that will build their children’s character and level of responsibility in order to prepare them for the “real” world.

Workbook provided: Becoming A Love and Logic Parent

Thursday Evenings

▶ October 25 - December 13
6:30 - 8:30 pm

NOTE: The last day for this series is December 13, 2007, not December 20, 2007 as originally indicated.

Please mark your calendar accordingly.

*No class 11/22/07 - the College is closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday

CLASS	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Educational Issues & Understanding Youth Culture	8/13/07–10/8/07	7:00–9:00 pm	Merced College, V-143
Brain Injury Part I & II	8/14/07–10/9/07	6:30–8:30 pm	Boys & Girls Club
Kinship Parenting: “A Tradition of Caring”	8/15/07–10/10/07	7:00–9:00 pm	Los Banos, B-136
Foster Pride/Adopt Pride	8/14/07–9/15/07	9:00 am–3:00 pm	Tri-College, TCC-4
Goal Setting	9/11/07–10/2-07	8:30–11:30 am	Fairside Center
Nurturing Parent	10/9/07–10/23/07	8:30–11:30 am	Head Start
Gang Awareness & Identity Theft Intervention Workshop	9/13/07	9:00 am–4:00 pm	Hoffmeister Center
Adoption Workshop	9/15/07	12:30–3:30 pm	Tri-College, TCC-4
Understanding the Effects of Domestic Violence on Foster & Kinship Children	10/3/07–10/24/07	6:30–8:30 pm	Total Self-Insight
Asthma Workshop	10/17/07	7:00–9:00 pm	Los Banos, B-136
Español: La Crianza Practica De Los Hijos	8/15/07–10/3/07	6:30–8:30 pm	Centro De Educación
Español: Primeros Auxilios de Asma Y Asma Básica	10/10/07	6:30–8:30 pm	Para Adultos Dos Palos

2nd Annual Destination Greatness Conference

Due to great reviews, our 2nd Annual Destination Greatness Conference, *The Journey Continues*, is scheduled for Friday, November 2, 2007.

Inspirational speakers will share the journey of their lives as former foster youth and what they are doing now. There will be a variety of informative booths to visit, an exciting Silent Auction to participate in, and a delicious lunch to relax and enjoy. We hope you can join us!

If you are a merchant and would like to advertise and donate merchandise to our Silent Auction, please contact the FKCE Office for more information.



Date
Friday, November 2, 2007

Time
8:30 am—3:00 pm

Location
Boys & Girls Club
615 W. 15th Street
Merced, CA 95348

This is a catered event
***Pre-registration is a must**



RSVP*
by October 19, 2007 - 4:00 pm

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Contact

Questions:

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Concerns:

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Did You Know?

Farmer's Market vendors accept Food Stamp EBT.

Merced **Farmer's Market**, located on N & 19th Streets, is open on Saturdays from 7:00 am to 12:00 pm. Local farmers have a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables available, as well as a few specialty items such as nuts, honey, olive oil, and homemade bread.

"75% of eligible people in the county are not signed up for food stamps"



~ Dr. William H. Ruth, MCCA WIC Program

Trivia Answers
A: Twelve. Each has four petals.
A: Thomas Edison
A: Bicycles

Dates to Remember!



September 3rd

Labor Day

October 31st

Halloween

November 11th

Veterans' Day

November 22nd

Thanksgiving Day

December 25th

Christmas Day

September is National Food Safety Education Month

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

November is National Adoption Awareness Month

December is Seasonal Depression Awareness Month



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▶ **The More We Know,
The More We Grow!**

We're on the Web!
www.mccd.edu/programs

To Our VIP:

Very Important Parent

Free Money - Promise Scholars - Great Youth Opportunity

Children who live in foster care are individuals for whom the State has assumed parental responsibility. Although the foster care program is designed to reunite these children, when appropriate, with their natural parents, many children progress through the program until age 18, at which time the State terminates most foster care services.

Foster youth are less likely than their peers to pursue education after high school. Fewer than 25% of foster youth enroll in college.

The mission of the **Promise Scholars** program at California State University, Stanislaus is to provide ambitious college-bound students from foster care situations access to the promise of a better future through education. Funding from donors ensures that the students can live on campus—even during inter-session and the summer—and helps to fulfill financial needs not covered completely through regular Federal and State financial aid programs. The average award is \$3,000 per student per year.

For more information contact:

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