

"OUR MISSION IS TO ENHANCE THE LIVES OF ALL ORANGE COUNTY FOSTER CHILDREN, AND TO SUPPORT AND RETAIN ORANGE COUNTY LICENSED FOSTER FAMILIES."

Stay informed, visit our web site often. www.fostercareaux.com

Foster Care Auxiliary anticipates many positive changes in 2006 and we are excited that you've chosen to take part in them with us. As always we ask that you stay informed by checking our web site www.fostercareaux.com, or picking up the latest copy of our email newsletter while you are at the Distribution Center. We would love an email address for everyone as it is the most cost effective way for us to stay in touch. If you don't have an email consider asking someone you know who does have one if it's okay to share it with us so they can let you know when there is an update or special event happening. Our e-mail list will not be shared with anyone else

Did you know that none of the Auxiliary Board Members are paid for their time? We are all doing our best to make a difference to Orange County Foster Families and that is the reward we get. If you or someone you know can spare a few hours each month to help us -you can share in the reward too! We could use many more volunteers to help us make a bigger impact to more families. You do not need to be a foster parent to volunteer...maybe a neighbor, friend or relative would welcome the chance to help foster families. If you have a teen that needs to earn community credits for school, we are the perfect place for them to volunteer! Contact me at kharvey@socal.rr.com or contact any of the Board Members to find out how you can help.



****Shoppers, Bring your own Bags on Member Shopping Days! ****

Member shopping days for March are:

NEW **Friday, March 3rd, 11:00-2:00NEW**
Saturday, March 4th, and Monday, March 6th, 9:00-noon

Every member can shop **one** time per month choosing between the 1st Monday, 1st Saturday, or 1st Friday of most months. *Please try to make other arrangements for your children while shopping. The crowded situations can make shopping very difficult. Also please be considerate and arrive early enough to finish your shopping on time.*

*****Coupon not needed....special valid for all who shop in Thrift Store*****

FOSTER CARE AUXILIARY THIFT STORE SPECIAL

Buy one video - get the 2nd video FREE!

Good March 1st - March 7th (Wednesday-Tuesday...one week only)

No limit ...one free video of equal or lesser value for each one purchased.

Special good only while supply lasts...no rain checks.

Your continued support of the Thrift Store helps foster families in our community.

To find out how you can help more visit our web site www.fostercareaux.com or call 778-3383.

333 S. Brookhurst, Anaheim, CA 92804 778-1650

The Thrift Store hours have changed. Monday and Saturday 9am-4pm

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 11am-6pm

Closed Sunday and Wednesday

We are trying to keep the Thrift Store a profitable business that benefits our Foster Families and have had to make some adjustments for that to happen. Please send suggestions, comments, and criticism to kharvey@socal.rr.com or attend our board meetings. We would love to be able to please everyone – and although that's not possible we won't know what you're thinking if you don't tell us!

Foster Care Auxiliary Board Member Focus on....

Nina Yamasaki- Current 1st Vice President and Volunteer and Event Coordinator for six years

Nina Yamasaki was recently given the position of 1st Vice President at the Auxiliary...she had been performing as 1st VP since Robin became ill. The extraordinary thing is that Nina has been the Volunteer and Event Coordinator for six years and she continues in that capacity along with the extra roll of VP giving more than 175 volunteer hours in 2005 to Foster Families in our community.

Nina does this in addition to her employment with Ocean View School

District as a teacher's aid for the severely disabled while being the mom and wife of a terrific family where Nina seems to be passing on her giving spirit to the rest of her family. You might not know who Nina is as she is always busy behind the scenes. She is the source and organizer of all the Auxiliary events. She coordinates schedules, logs, oversees, and hands out community service credit to many volunteers, especially at our annual picnic. Of course, this only a small segment of what Nina does for the Auxiliary as she is always there, filling in where needed and has a special knack for organizing an amazing array of 'stuff' that the Auxiliary could easily be buried in.



Nina came to foster parenting looking to adopt 10 years ago. Nina and her husband of 15 years, Bob were given the gift of Jaclyn for their first placement in the fos/adopt world. This beautiful, confident, ten year old said of her mother, "She's really, really, really nice. She lets me have as many sleepovers as I want." When asked about her family make-up of adopted sisters, an adult brother and sister, and a mother who works outside the home as well as volunteering many hours for other foster families, Jaclyn said she thought her family was "cool. She puts other people before herself." I ask Jaclyn what she would say about her mom if she was writing an article, "Nina, the amazing Mom", was her response. I think this 10 year old is right. She was talking to me at an annual tea party the females in her family put on each year. A valuable tool that Nina uses to let the girls show those they care about some appreciation. The girls were dressed up, had worked on setting a beautiful table with crystal, flowers and valentine decorations. Gifts were given to each attendee, and very best manners were shown, along with flavored tea, finger sandwiches, scones, and special desserts. Jaclyn had worked hard on making this day special for others...seems like this trait runs in her family.

Valerie and Victoria had also helped at the tea party and at 7 and a half they are a whirl-wind of activity and sometimes, productivity. Victoria, a beautiful, petite, with a touch of spunk girl says "I like my mom. She helps (me) feel good" and she said that her mom was "fun". Valerie, the older of the 7 year old twins, who seems quite mature and like her sister, is also beautiful and petite, says "My mommy's nice" and indicated that her favorite activity with her mom is shopping. Valerie and Victoria were Nina and Bob's 2nd and 3rd fos-adopt placements. Nina remains a foster parent to be able to help her friends out with respite occasionally for now, and leaves the future when her children are a little older open for thought of future fostering.

The eldest of Nina's daughters, Jenelle, 23, was working hand in hand with Nina in all that needed to be done for this tea party of 15. I'm not talking kid's tea party...this was a crystal tea cup, at least 6 choices of finger sandwiches, wonderful spinach salad, homemade scone, fruit and cream parfait or cherries with ice cream hearts for dessert. (At least one of the tea party attendees had BOTH desserts!...some girls just can't make up their minds!) Jenelle, like her sisters is beautiful, and in all four of these girls/women the beauty comes from inside as well as outside. Jenelle is confident, living on her own and supporting herself, and comes back home to help her mom with most family activities. She said that whenever anything needs to be done, Nina is always there and talked of her big heart and how loving she is. Jenelle met Nina when she was two and a half and Nina was her dance teacher. Nina taught dance for 22 years, starting full time right out of high school. Nina continued teaching dance for years after becoming Jenelle's step mom. Jenelle said that she gets to experience the effects of four parents and has gained something from each of them. From Nina she gets her feelings of what being a mom should be, how to run a household, and being a supporter. Jenelle who works for a financial institution who has generously donated gifts to foster children in past years, is thinking of returning to school to get her credential for teaching children with special needs.

From her daughters' perspectives, Nina seems to be doing a great job at parenting, and judging from the outside, I'd have to agree. Nina also has an adult step-son, Brandon, who has just recently expressed an interest in helping Nina in her efforts with the Auxiliary by supplying volunteers for one of our events from the company he works for in addition to the possibility of prizes from his company. With her husband, Bob helping when he can at the Auxiliary, Nina seems to have pulled her whole family into helping foster families. When I asked Nina what was important to her, she said, "Family and teaching 'giving to others' to my children." I'd say she is doing a bang up job by providing a good example. Nina also said that friends are an important part of her life, and because of meeting Nina through the Auxiliary, I'm lucky to call myself one.



Diana and Bonnie Fossum won the \$50. Prize for best chili at the Chili Cook-Off. This was not the first time that their chili was voted the best!



Are you seeking a mentor for a foster child?

The YMCA of Orange County can help!

The ARK program and United For Success, are in need of **female** foster mentees between second and eighth grades. Each program has fully screened and trained female volunteers who would like to be matched with girls. Currently they have a waiting list of boys for our program, but few girls. If you could help locate foster girls in need of a mentor, they would very much appreciate the opportunity to match them with a caring mentor. Please e-mail or call if you have any questions. Thanks!

We offer mentoring and academic tutoring for school age foster youth, 6 to 17. All of our caring volunteers are thoroughly screened and trained. The ARK, Services for Abused Children, program offers monthly "Fundays," in-home tutoring, and yearlong mentor matches. The UNITED FOR SUCCESS program offers fourth through eighth graders 10 hours per month of one-to-one mentoring which includes schoolwork assistance, cultural and educational events, and recreational activities.

For more information or a participant application:

Please call (714) 838-0181 ex. 116

Or email duhl@ymcaoc.net.

Plans have already begun for the 2006 picnic. Would you like to participate? Come to the next Picnic Planning Meeting on March 16th at 6pm. The meeting will be held right before our board meeting so feel free to stay for both if you'd like. If you can't attend, but would like to participate, please let me know. kharvey@socal.rr.com

Please Join The Auxiliary-April 29-11:00!

Tanaka Farms Strawberry Field Event

Let your children experience a real working farm, right here in the heart of Orange Co.

Tour includes; Guided wagon ride around the farm, Learning about different vegetables, Seeing big farm equipment, and Ending up in the strawberry field where children will be picking and eating delicious strawberries!

Mark your calendars and send in your RSVP!
April 29, Saturday at 11:00...you must be prompt!

RSVP to Nina Yamasaki. yamasaki5@aol.com

\$2.50. Adult (1/2 cost!!!)

\$4. Child (1/2 cost!!!) the Auxiliary is paying the remaining cost of the tour for Orange County Licensed Foster Families only...others are welcome to join us at full price.

(adults are non picking / children are over 2 years...adults who wish to pick berries may purchase a child's ticket, non picking children under 2 years are free)

Please RSVP by April 19th. You must rsvp to Nina and mail your check in time for Nina to receive it before the day of the event as we need to plan on how many are attending. You won't want to miss this fun event!

Mail check made payable to FCAOC to Nina Yamasaki

Names and ages of children attending_____

Names of adults attending_____

Long pants and closed toed shoes are suggested. Tanaka Farms is located on the corner of University Dr. and Strawberry Farms Rd. (1/2 mile south of the 405) in Irvine. Address; 5380 ¾ University Dr., Irvine www.TanakaFarms.com

The following resignation from Robin Workman is accepted with regret by the Foster Care Auxiliary Board. The spirit and zest that Robin brought to the Auxiliary will be sorely missed. We wish her continued success in her fight against cancer.

Dear Foster Care Auxiliary,

I am sorry to say that I must resign my position as 1st Vice President. I have enjoyed working on the board for many years, collecting donations, planning events, etc.

I will miss it dearly and will stay as involved as I possible can, but it seems that God has other plans for me now and I must answer the call to slow down and reprioritize my life. Nina has offered to take over my position and I know she will do a wonderful job, as does the rest of the board. I hope you will all give them your full support.

As you all know, I have been fighting cancer for the past year and although I am doing much better and have finished current treatments, it has left some permanent damage. I have lost much feeling in my hands, feet and left leg. I am currently in physical therapy 3x week and learning quickly how to adjust to the changes in my body. My short term memory is effected, but getting better. Since my lung did not re-inflate properly after surgery and with the damage to my esophagus (from excessive vomiting) it is difficult to take deep breaths, raise my voice or speak at my usual loud and fast pace. This actually comes as a relief to my family, I don't know why? LOL

I am sorry to say that I have just learned that there is no remission attainable for my type of cancer. I am adjusting well, but it is in my blood which weakens my immune system, the tumors are is likely to return within a year and be a life long journey, but I have already beat the odds and will continue to do so! I will be put on permanent disability and maintain home health care, which is so much better than weekly trips to the doctors office! This is a battle I will fight with every ounce of mental, emotional and physical energy I have until a cure is found! I have learned so much from this journey, I appreciate everyone and every opportunity I have. I take nothing for granted; God has a purpose for everything!

I am so grateful for all my friends in foster care and the amazing support I have received. I am also really grateful for the Resource Center and those wonderful shopping days. Since I had to get this really expensive disease and my finances are totally depleted, I just can't tell you all how much those freebies really help! The Crate and Barrel donations have helped replace broken beds and furniture that we just could not afford to pay full price for. I seriously hope everyone appreciates it as much as I do and will volunteer to help whenever they can.

I will do my best to attend as many events as possible and hope to see everyone soon and often!

Thanks for being a wonderful part of my life!

Love to all,

Robin



to those who make our mission possible.

To the following who have contributed \$2500. or more:

R.C. Baker Foundation
Boeing Employees Community Fund
Orangewood Children's Foundation

To the following who have contributed \$100. or more:

First Presbyterian Church of Santa Ana, 600 N. Main, 714 542-7253
Wal-Mart #2546
Dr. Richard Mungo
Ellis G. Evans
Wiechelman & Associates, CPA

To Orange Grove Quilters Guild who has made hundreds of pillowcases for our children. www.orangegrovequiltersguild.com

To our 2005 'Friends of Foster Family' award recipients for helping us to keep our distribution center stocked: Crate & Barrel #504, Wal-Mart #2546, Crate & Barrel #510

To the following 51 Albertson's shoppers who support us by shopping with their linked Albertsons'/Sav-On card. A whopping \$ 229.90 was our last quarter total! (If you are not on the following list, ask me how you can be.)

FOSTER CARE AUXILLARY OF ORANGE COUNTY; ID# 49000127792

Contribution Summary		
Total Supporters:	51	
Total Supporter Contributions:	\$241.62	
Admin Fee:	(\$11.72)	
Net Supporter Contributions:	\$229.90	
Name	JAYE DONATO	BONNIE FOSSUM
Anonymous	SHARON M DOOLEY	KATHY HARVEY
BRANDIE AGUILAR	DANA DREIER	TAMMY A HEDSTRAND
KATHERINE BAUGA	KAREN R EACNEST	LILLIAN HONTGOMERY
JUDY S CANADA	PHIL EYSKENS	JOYCE A KREMARIK
JOANNE M DAVEY	LESLIE R FERRIS	ANN KUSIK
NORMA R LARZELERE	DAVID REGER	JEANETTE L WILSON

JERRY R LOOKER	STEPHEN A ROBERTS	SHANE M WILSON
SSIERA N MANZO	ELOISE SADLER	PETER WOOD
MARJORY MAYER	JOAN SHAIKH	ROBERT YAMASAKI
MARILYN J MCFAUL	LINDA SHEPHERD	CINDY ZECHTER
KRISTIANA MCKELLY	NICOLE K SHMUCKLER	Name not provided
DAVID MILLER	KARENE TEMPLETON	Name not provided
SALLIE J MILLER	G. A TITTERINGTON	Name not provided
JOHN P MITSKUS	PATRICK M VANDENAKKER	PSC data pending
LUIS MONTOYA	NANCY VANEGAS	
JOYCE L PAINE	JOSEPHINE M WIBBERT	
MARI S PATRICK	PATRIRIA WIGGINS	
J PAUL	LINDA WILLIAMS	

And to YOU for being a member and participating.



Albertsons donates quarterly based on the amount of money that their customers spend while using their preferred card that has been linked with the Auxiliary. It's easy to do...just go to www.albertsons.com web site and click on In The Community and then log in as a shopper with your Albertsons card number and phone number. Click on 'my account' and then identify the Auxiliary (49000127792) as your partner. Now don't forget to use your card each time you shop! (Your card can be used at Sav-On too.) You can also contact me via email or phone (kh Harvey@socal.rr.com and I'll be happy to enter the information for you...I just need your Albertsons # and phone #.

The Foster Care Auxiliary has several members to represent you on the Foster Care Advisory Board. The Advisory Board is made up of social services and foster parent representatives who meet to discuss and problem solve issues of importance to all of us. If you have issues that you would like to be addressed at their meeting, contact Karen Templeton at KarenCA6@aol.com or if you would like to attend, all foster parents are welcome at the Advisory Board Meetings. No one needs an invitation. They are the 4th Wed morning of every other month. If you have any questions or want to put an item on the agenda that you want discussed, or that you want to present contact Karen.



*Please remember when cleaning out your closets that the Foster Care Auxiliary Thrift Store accepts donations! The Thrift Store is short on much needed **ADULT** clothes donations. Let's ALL help by looking for something with resale value in our closet to benefit the Auxiliary.*

Save these dates!

Visit our on-line calendar for the latest information

<http://calendar.yahoo.com/fostercareaux>

info also available on our website www.fostercareaux.com

March 16, 6pm – Picnic Planning Meeting

March 16, 7pm - FCAOC Board Meeting

March 21, 9am – Social Worker Appreciation

April 10, 10am – Picnic Planning Meeting

April 20, 6pm – FCAOC Quarterly Meeting, - Software & Training for 'Caregiver Recording Information System' (C.R.I.S.)

April 29, 11am – Strawberry Farm Tour

May 6 – SSA Annual Conference

August – Beach Party

September 16 – Foster Family Picnic

November – Elections and Quarterly Meeting

Monthly Board Meetings are generally the 3rd Thursday evenings of each month...location will be announced and will usually be at one of the board members homes. Contact any board member or check the web site for current information.

FOSTER CARE AUXILIARY OF ORANGE COUNTY

2006 FCAOC Board

We're working to make your fostering an enjoyable and successful experience.

333 S. Brookhurst Ave

Anaheim, CA 92804

Auxiliary 714 778-3383 Thrift Store 714 778-1650

President & Web/Newsletter Coordinator: Kathy Harvey kh Harvey@socal.rr.com

1st Vice Pres. & Event/Volunteer Director: Nina Yamasaki yamasaki5@aol.com

2nd Vice President: Tina Marie Schuhrke

Secretary: Sharon Dooley

Treasurer: Barbara Martinez

Social Services Rep: Joanna Hussey

Circle of Concern: Diana Suber

Advisory Board Rep: Karen Templeton KarenCA6@aol.com

Membership: Martin Harvey mharvey@socal.rr.com

Truck Drivers & Maintenance Coordinator: Jerry Looker

Donation Coordinator: Shirley Jandron shirol@socal.rr.com

Past Pres. & Grievance/Allegation Support: David Reger dvdnan@aol.com

Thrift Store Employees: Mary Daetweiler & Vicky Andis

We always welcome members to get involved. If you would like to help just let us know, we will find the perfect job to suit your needs and appreciate the time and effort that so many of our members give to make our group work.

The Board wishes to extend an invitation to ALL who are caring for Orange County dependant children to join. We have much to offer and all have a common interest and our goals can be better achieved with support and networking.

If you have something of interest to other foster parents that you would like included in our newsletter email me and let me know. kh Harvey@socal.rr.com