



# FOSTER CARE AUXILIARY E-mail Newsletter

October 2006

Issue 36

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

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### *With sympathy.....*

*It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of an Auxiliary family member. Brian Harvey, age 33, died suddenly on September 22, 2006. His kind and gentle nature will be missed by parents, Kathy and Martin Harvey and brother Steven. We offer them our love and support. You are invited to share in his memory at [www.mem.com](http://www.mem.com)*

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### Foster Care Auxiliary Board Member Focus on...Martin Harvey, Membership Chair

Due to a tragedy in our family the membership chair and President will save our letters for next month. Thank you for your understanding and compassion during this difficult time.

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents Letter

Notes from Nina:

It has been a very busy time for us lately at the Foster Care Auxiliary.. As you know we work endlessly to provide fun opportunities for our member sand their families, so hopefully you have been along for the ride and enjoyed some fun times with us.

In August we hosted our annual Beach Party at Newport Dunes. It was a blast. The weather was perfect and everyone had a' funtastic' time. National Charity League along with returning volunteer Melissa Wong helped keep things running smoothly. They kept the kids busy making sun visors, bracelets, treated everyone to snow cones, held a few babies and gave some kids a chance to swim to the whale while their parents enjoyed some adult time. What a fantastic group of young ladies and moms. We are so fortunate to be able to call on them when in need.

Wow! What an awesome time some grateful young girls had in September.

Visit our web site & encourage others to visit & donate with easy Pay Pal. Even \$1 will make a difference & is appreciated.

[www.fostercareaux.com](http://www.fostercareaux.com)

[Click here for FCAOC Membership Form!](#)

[Click here for Quarter Meeting presentation by Sandy McDaniel Flyer!](#)

Visit the link below to see an up to date calendar of

**Auxiliary Activities.**

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

Find answers to many questions on SSA web site

<http://www.oc4kids.com>

Find a tutor for your foster child at Professional Tutors of America

<http://www.professionaltutors.com>

Auxiliary members and their daughters were invited to "A Day Of Beauty" at Bauhaus Hair in Orange. Cathy Dobyns hosted this event as a community service project. What wonderful young women we met that day. The stylists, Theresa, Sage and Michelle gave generously of their time and talents and transformed our daughters with new hair styles and nail painting. One of the best parts was talking to all who attended - those we knew and those who we met as new friends that day. If you did not attend you really missed a great opportunity for yourself and your girls.

Have you noticed any changes in our Thrift Store lately? Maybe it is time to come in and take a look .Maybe it is time to come in and lend us your talent and input. Thanks to the many volunteers (board members, family members and kind hearted others), Operation Organization is in full swing and we are making a difference. There is still more to do and we could always use an extra set of hands. .I must say it is usually a bit tiring, but the joy you get back when you see the transformation happening, it is well worth it, emotionally and physically. Really!

The Annual Foster Family Picnic was a huge success. We were quite pleased with the new location, new game booths, food, prizes and entertainment. Volunteers helped in so many ways and we are grateful for all the hard work by everyone, especially the picnic committee. Next year we will be looking for new ways to make even more improvements. Maybe you have some ideas or connections and would like to join the committee?

If you are not actively involved and participating in a variety of Auxiliary events then you are probably missing out on the opportunity to meet some awesome new friends, work with some really great people and expand your friendships. I encourage you to join in the Auxiliary's efforts to "enhance the lives of all O.C. foster children".

Watch for some upcoming events we are working on for you in the near future. We have a few new ideas that are in the works. Don't forget about the holiday auction in December too.

See you at the next event. ~Nina

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## Members Only Distribution Days

**\*\* Halloween Costumes! \*\***

There is a Nature's Cradle in the Distribution Center for any Orange County Licensed Foster Family to use as long as they have infant placements. If you are interested, plan on picking it up at one of the shopping days.

*\*Please remember to bring your ink cartridges and cell phones in for recycling\**

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

**Monday-Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9am-noon/Friday-Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, 11am-2pm/Saturday-Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-noon**

Every member can shop one time per month choosing between the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, or 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of most months.

**Non member foster parents are welcome to come in on member days for free t-shirts... for every foster family!**

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**Thrift store special-all adult/teen clothes are  
½ off - 75 cents only...last day Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>**

## Contact Us

[www.fostercareaux.com](http://www.fostercareaux.com)

[fostercareaux@yahoo.com](mailto:fostercareaux@yahoo.com)

**FOSTER CARE  
AUXILIARY OF  
ORANGE COUNTY**  
333 S. Brookhurst  
Anaheim, CA  
92804  
Auxiliary  
714 778-3383  
Thrift Store  
714 778-1650

Thrift Store Hours:  
Mon. & Sat. 9am-4pm  
Tues, Thurs, & Fri. 11-6  
Closed Sun. & Wed.

## 2006 FCAOC Board

President & Newsletter  
Coordinator:  
Kathy Harvey  
[kharvey@socal.rr.com](mailto:kharvey@socal.rr.com)  
714 891-2468

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres. & Event  
/Volunteer Director:  
Nina Yamasaki  
[yamasaki5@aol.com](mailto:yamasaki5@aol.com)



## Membership...yours will expire on 12/31/06

Remember that all members who joined before July 1<sup>st</sup> 2006, have memberships that will expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2006.

## Help the Environment - Help the

### Auxiliary

We are collecting ink cartridges and cell phones for recycling. Please bring them to the Thrift Store or Distribution Center and drop them in our recycling bin. You will be helping to earn money for the Auxiliary and reducing the millions of pounds of toxic cartridge and cell phone waste dumped into landfills each year. If you can let your friends and neighbors, children's schools, and local companies know to save them for you, we can make a big difference. If a company is going to donate regularly we can get a collection bin for them.

## Quarterly Meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm (The Auditorium in the SSA Annex Building: 744 N. Eckhoff St.)

Special presentation by Sandy McDaniel, immediately following our 2007 election.

Costco memberships will be available at the meeting and each membership will benefit the Auxiliary.

Training hours will be given for attending this meeting and Sandy McDaniel's books will be available for purchase.

We need someone to fill the secretary position for the 2007 and 8 term. The position would require note taking at our meetings, presenting the minutes for review before meetings and keeping our records in an orderly and accessible manner. Please contact me if you would like the position or if you would like to nominate someone for the position.

First Vice President Position is up for election...Nina Yamasaki will run for another term for this position. Any other nominations are welcome.

There is also a new elected position being added to the board which is Thrift Store Operations Chair. Martin Harvey is running for this position. Any other nominations are welcome.

The Auxiliary is also in the midst of forming committees for a variety of tasks...let me know if you'd like to join us.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:  
Tina Marie Schuhrke  
everydaymom2@msn.com

Secretary: Sharon  
Dooley  
sydnjtd@socal.rr.com

Treasurer:  
Barbara Martinez  
barbdanm@excite.com

Social Services Rep:  
Joanna Hussey  
Joanna.Hussey@ssa.ocgov.com  
714 704-TALK

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

Web Site Design &  
Maintenance:  
Nirzhar & Rachel  
Pradhan  
Rachel@blazeinteractive.com

Furniture Donations  
Chair:  
Chrysty Hodson  
chrystyh@hotmail.com

Immediately following our elections we are proud to present:

## "Getting out of the Spin Cycle"

**A Positive Parenting seminar by author**

### **Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel**

Wrap yourself in laughter as you learn how to get your children to:

- ♦ Make wise choices
- ♦ Do what you ask the first time you ask
- ♦ Stop fighting, arguing, and whining without anger
- ♦ Do chores, homework, listen, etc.

Sandy writes a successful weekly parenting column for the Orange County Register newspaper. The creator of **parentingSOS.com**; She is the author of RECIPES FROM PARENTING, LEAVE YOUR BAGGAGE AT THE DOOR, and co-author of PROJECT SELF-ESTEEM. Sandy has successfully raised two children. She has 44 years of experience in the field of child development. For over 24 years she has used spontaneous humor, warmth and her laser ability to solve everyday parenting problems. Her parenting products are wonderful! They offer at-home support for the techniques learned at her seminars. Please visit our web site to download an entire flyer for the presentation...on the events page.

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## Friend of Foster Families

### **Vicki Andis, one of our 2006 Friend of Foster Families Award Reciepients:**

Vicki has been employed at the Foster Care Auxiliary Thrift Store for about three years and has been volunteering extra hours on almost each day she works for two of those years. Vicki is responsible for maintaining order in the stock area of our thrift store....this is where mountains of donations filter through and decisions are made whether the donation will sell in our thrift store to benefit foster children, or whether someone has 'donated' a completely useless item and we will need to find a way to dispose of it...usually paying for dump trips or extra trash pick up. Vicki's dedication to organizing her area goes way above the normal due diligence of an employee. Vicki is passionate about her work area and comes in early to make sure it is as she wants it. The Foster Care Auxiliary has recently received a grant from Clippers Foundation to make things a little easier on Vicki. We have already ordered sorting bins for her and will soon put up new shelves. A few weeks ago the first set of shelves was put up under Vicki's direction and next Saturday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> we will finish with more shelves and bins for her. The better organized Vicki has the back room, the faster she'll be able to sort through the donations, to price them and put them on our Thrift Store shelves, which is our main source of income to help foster families.

Vicki started out shopping for books at our Thrift Store (we have many), then

started volunteering to straighten the books regularly, then became a part time employee, and has been full time for close to two years. The death of Vicki's husband 13 years ago left her as a single mom of two children now 15 and 18 years old, Ashley and Matt. Vicki is very involved in her children's lives...and spent many years as scout leader, and involved in their school's PTA and sporting events. Vicki's other interest are art, music (she likes Celtic) and reading. She also likes to visit the swap meet or yard sales on her day off....no wonder she is so good at her job! Vicki enjoys her job and spends extra hours because the work is needed. We are constantly telling Vicki that she is not obligated to volunteer on her off hours, but she says that the more she learns about foster care and how her work makes an impact on it, the more she wants to be involved and help. Vicki's work could not be replaced by any one person....and we thank her for her commitment, spirit and dedication. - Vicki is truly... a Friend of Foster Families.

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## **22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Foster Family Picnic**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Foster Family Picnic was enjoyed by foster families from the entire county at Kiwanis land on Saturday, September 16. Families came to relax at the beautiful, private park set up with ten games for children to play as many times as they wished, receiving a prize each time they played. Most children opted to carry their many prizes in handmade pillowcases made and donated by Orange Grove Quilters Guild while the teens were able to choose their favorite shirt from among the popular Volcom brand donations by Garden Grove Elks. There were five other attractions like bounce houses, joust and spin art to keep families occupied as well as the return of DJ Dave Barrios who has a knack for entertaining everyone.

In between the games and entertainment was a fabulous lunch donated by Hometown Buffet and cooked by Miguel Cuevas of Hometown Buffet and a few of his friends and family. The BBQ chicken was done to perfection and the Auxiliary added the children's favorite, hot dogs, as a special request by those who missed them last year. In addition the Auxiliary added ice cream, churros, popcorn and soda, juice and water to make sure everyone was well fed and hydrated. Cathy Adams finished the meal off by donating a cake too large for one person to carry and consisting of four different flavors and decorated beautifully.

The Auxiliary worked on this event for nine months to ensure that it would be a success with a little apprehension about breaking tradition and holding the picnic in a new location. Over 800 volunteer hours were put in on this one day alone by 137 signed in volunteers, plus the Auxiliary picnic committee, and Miguel and his kitchen crew. SSA staff served the many attending families and kept the food line moving smoothly. The Auxiliary obtained prizes for the picnic drawings from many different sources which added to the fun. The Auxiliary awarded one of their two scholarship checks and one of their two 'Friend of Foster Families' plaques at the picnic, which made for a nice presentation for these well deserving individuals.



There were many smiling faces thanks to the funding of Orangewood Children's Foundation to put on this event, and the support of Social Services Agency for getting the word out to the foster families, and to Social Services Agency for helping with sign in and food service. The Auxiliary offers all foster families' membership in their non profit organization which provides monthly distribution of donations from the community in addition to quarterly family events, and some of the mandated training hours as well as a wealth of information and support from many veteran foster parents.

My feet are aching, my back is sore, and the bathroom cleanup was a bear....but I know that the Auxiliary will start planning a 23<sup>rd</sup> annual picnic in the not too distant future- sure to be the best ever with discussion already starting on ways to improve. Please let me know if you'd like to be involved in the 2007 Picnic Committee.

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### Operation Santa to put foster families first...Nov. 15

Ho! Ho! Ho! It's already time to think about the holidays.

I attended the Operation Santa Claus Board meeting last week and have great news for foster parents.

We will be the first to shop and have special days and time. We ask that you plan your time accordingly:

November 14, 2006 - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

November 28, 2006 - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mona Gustafson the Manager of OSC asks that we shop early as she will be accepting the last shoppers at 3:30 p.m.

If you cannot make these dates open shopping will be December 18th through the 23rd at 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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### Thanks 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
- National Charity League, Pacific Coast Chapter  
Clippers Foundation

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

- Gene Noonan
- First Presbyterian Church of Santa Ana
- 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.
- To Pullman & Miller, Attorneys at Law for their sponsorship of our May 2006 newsletter.
- 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 Orangewood Children's Home whose ongoing support contributes to the success of the Auxiliary

- 
- To Miguel Cuebas and Hometown Buffet for their contribution of food at special events
  - To Yvonne and Chris Knutsen and Grocery Outlet for their donation of food at special events
  - To Mary Villamore and Boeing for printing and folding Auxiliary Brochures
  - To Laura Colerick for her continuing contribution of cakes for our children
  - To Costco of Garden Grove for the donation of back packs
- 
- **And to YOU for being a member and participating.**
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Mariners Church offers fun Christmas Party for all children in foster homes...If you are an Auxiliary member it will include Kinship, NREFM's and FFA's. Watch for your invitation in the mail and respond promptly.

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Upcoming events: Visit our on-line calendar for the latest information  
<http://calendar.yahoo.com/fostercareaux>

*October 7 – noon-2pm at the Distribution Center - FCAOC Board Meeting*

*October – Member Shopping will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, Friday and Saturday of the month*

*November 17, 7pm – Elections of 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Secretary, & TS Operations and Quarterly Meeting with speaker, Sandy McDaniel*

*December – Auction at Agency Dinner and Training*

**Monthly Board Meetings are generally the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday evenings of each month...location will be announced. Contact any board member or check the web site for current information.**

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Agent

Lorraine E. Peterson

Tel : 714.329.0139  
Fax: 714-965-0311  
email: aysmobilenotary@yahoo.com

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20462 Kenworth Cr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646



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Director of Customer Relations

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