



FOSTER CARE AUXILIARY E-mail Newsletter

May 2006

Issue 31

"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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This newsletter is sponsored by Pullman & Miller, Foster Family Legal Resource Center
<http://www.fosterparentlawyers.com>

Foster Care Auxiliary Board Member Focus on.... Sharon Dooley-Current Secretary



You can find out more about Sharon by visiting the Orange County web site www.ocgov.com where she is recognized as one of their "2006 volunteers of the year". With all she does, I sure am glad that Sharon has time for us!

I'm married to my husband, Joe, for 40 years (in June). We have 3 daughters, a son, two son-in-laws and 4 grandchildren.

I have always loved babies, therefore, when a friend at church mentioned the need for foster parents of infants voluntarily placed in foster care for adoption planning, Joe and I made a phone call to Children's Home Society, attended training and had our first foster infant placed in our home 23 years ago in June. During the 10 years as foster parents of CHS, we provided foster care for many infants and adopted our son and 3rd daughter who are siblings. Gradually CHS phased out foster parents so, along with my best friend, Diana Suber and her husband, Jack, Joe and I applied to Orange County Social Services to become foster parents.

We began our journey with OCSS in the Special Medical Unit and received our first placement in Feb, 1995. We have fostered 77 infants during the last 23 years- of those 77, we adopted 2; have had 2 sets of boy-girl twins and (as I like to refer to him) 1/3 of triplets (the medically fragile one).

In November, 1995, Diana and I attended a meeting of the Foster Care Auxiliary to see what it was about and to get to know more foster parents. I'm not sure how it happened but before I knew it, I was the Secretary of the FCAOC. Even though I was the Chair of the Preschool Board at St. Olaf Lutheran Church; a PTA board member, a wife, a mom and a foster mom, somehow my hand went up when the need for a Secretary was mentioned!! What an awesome journey began that night. I have met some very dedicated foster parents and have been proud to say that I am a part of an organization that works so hard for foster parents and foster children.

Category of Links

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

<http://www.fostercareaux.com>

Visit the Foster Family Legal Resource Center

<http://www.fosterparentlawyers.com>

Click below for the Strawberry Farm Event Flyer

<http://www.fostercareaux.com/O6StrawberryFarms.htm>

Click below to find out about FCAOC Scholarships for foster and former foster youth

<http://www.fostercareaux.com/scholarship.html>

Click below to find out about April 20th Quarterly Meeting and CRIS Training

<http://www.fostercareaux.com/FinalCRISFlyer.pdf>

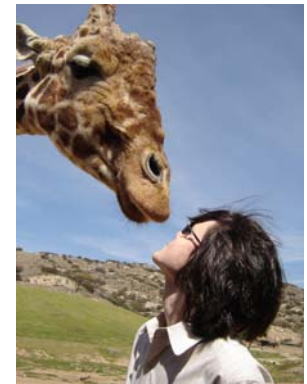
Check out Sharon Dooley's recognition as one of the county's 2006 "Volunteers of the Year"

<http://www.ocgov.com/hr/volunteer/volunteers06.asp#9>

Check out the Spirit of Volunteerism Honorees where you'll find FCAOC Board Members Tina Marie Schuhrke and Nina Yamasaki

<http://www.volunteercareaux.com>

Presidents Letter



I went on a photo caravan safari tour at San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park to celebrate my younger son's birthday in March. It was a wonderful experience and allowed close up views - some feeding and petting of the beautiful animals with practically no walking. While it's quite expensive it does allow the experience for those like my son who is not able to walk long distances. More information can be found at <http://photocaravans.wildanimalpark.org>

Our May newsletter is being sponsored by Pullman & Miller, an attorney team who has put together a very informative web site for foster parents in addition to offering services specifically geared toward foster parents. Visit their web site and check out their FAQ page about de facto parents as well as other information you might want to know. They offer services through out the Orange County area. www.fosterparentlawyers.com

This month has flown by...especially since this May newsletter is being mailed out mid April to make sure all members know about the Strawberry Farm Tour - a great way to spend a few hours with your children and the FCAOC Quarterly meeting where each registered family receives a software program to help with foster child record keeping and training hours for attending the meeting. I encourage you to RSVP so you can participate in these events.

Have you noticed the scholarship fund donation wall behind the cash register at the Thrift Store? Christine Cano helped to put it up and already we have collected more than \$65 to put toward our scholarships. I want to thank every one who has donated so far to help with our 2006 scholarship fund and remind any graduate who is or has been in the Orange County Foster Care System to apply for one of our grants.

Thank you to all those members and volunteers who keep popping in to help. We really appreciate it and hope that we have made you feel worthwhile for volunteering. There is always something to do if you happen to have an extra hour or two.

Kathy Harvey, President
Foster Care Auxiliary of Orange County

Visit the link below to see an up to date calendar of Auxiliary Activities.
<http://calendar.yahoo.com/fostercareaux>

Contact Us

<http://www.fostercareaux.com>

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.

PULLMAN & MILLER, Attorneys at Law explain- New Law...Senate Bill 218

New Law as of January 1, 2006

Senate Bill 218

Senate Bill 218 allows foster parents of a child who want to adopt their foster child to ask the juvenile court to designate them as "prospective adoptive parents" once the legal rights of the child's biological parents have been terminated. If a foster parent has already been designated by the court or is eligible to be designated, the child welfare agency cannot move the child without giving the foster parent the opportunity to ask the juvenile court judge to review the decision to move the child. The new law means that the Department of Social Services is required to notify both the foster parent and court of a proposed change of placement. This is a major change in the law and long overdue. We would be happy to discuss this change in the law and what it means to every foster parent. [See Welfare & Institutions Code Section 366.26(n)(1)]

The above information is provided by Pullman & Miller, attorneys at law. The Law Office of Pullman & Miller is one of the only law firms in the United States devoted to the representation of foster parents and relative caretakers in juvenile dependency and agency-related matters. We have represented foster parents and relative caretakers throughout the State of California, including San Diego, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, Imperial and Mendocino Counties. Our attorneys and their support staff combine a wealth of expertise and experience in all aspects of juvenile law with individual attention and prompt service.

More than ever, foster resource families need to know what their legal rights and responsibilities are. Toward that end, we have designed legal plans to help foster resource families with the cost of quality assistance for the legal aspects of foster care. Our plans emphasize preventative law, taking care of potential problems before they reach crisis proportions emotionally and financially. These plans provide legal services that foster care resource families need at an affordable price. For more information please visit the Foster Family Legal Resource Center at www.fosterparentlawyers.com

RJMiller
Pullman&Miller
Attorneys at Law

2006 FCAOC Board

President & Web
/Newsletter Coordinator:
Kathy Harvey
kharvey@socal.rr.com
714 891-2468

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

2nd Vice President:
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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
714 891-4098

Truck Drivers &
Maintenance Coordinator:
Jerry Looker

Donation Coordinator:
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shirol@socal.rr.com

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/Allegation Support:
David Reger
dvdnan@aol.com

Members Only Distribution Days

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

Monday, May 1st, 9:00-noon & Friday, May 5th, 11am-2pm

NOTE*Saturday, May 13, 9-noon* IS THE 2ND SATURDAY not the usual 1st

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

Thrift store special

May marks the beginning of a new lower pricing policy in the store!

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

Membership



Hello my name is Martin Harvey and I am the membership chair for FCAOC. What this means is I keep track of the membership list. Not a big deal, but I realize if we had more members we would all benefit. At the moment we have 130 family members that supply a small portion of our costs. I think we should all think about ways to increase membership.

Do you know any foster family friends or new foster families that would benefit from our service? Ask them to sign up! A membership form can be found on our web site or you can bring them with you on a member shopping day to sign up.

Free Program for Adopted Children

Adrian Chaves, a Youth Development Specialist at the Oak View Family Center, 17241 Oak Lane, Huntington Beach has provided the following information about their program for teen adopted children in the Huntington Beach area.

-“Chill Skills” Program is geared towards youth who have been adopted and have a hard time anger issues. The curriculum helps children gain new skills on how to deal with situations that are difficult at times.

-Other Programs for teens available!

Contact J. Adrian Chavez for more information
Youth Development Specialist
CSP, INC
Phone: 714-847-7090
Email: achavez@cspinc.org or

I have flyers of the two mentioned programs including one in Spanish which I will be happy to email to you ... kharvey@socal.rr.com

Social Worker Appreciation

Sharon Dooley, Nina Yamasaki, Jackie Looker and Kathy Harvey handed out a 'breakfast to go' to our social workers to let them know how much FCAOC appreciates them. The day was cloudy and gloomy but our social workers were cheery and thankful as they stopped by to say 'hey' and accept our small offer of some breakfast snacks for their on the go jobs.



Volunteers need to be thanked.

I hope all of our volunteers get thanked...I know I'm guilty of getting busy and sometimes failing to recognize all the efforts that are needed to make our organization work smoothly. FCAOC Board Members put in countless hours doing what we can although we rely on the help of our members and community to make our services available.

One volunteer who spends a few hours most days she works is Vicki Andis ...the tiny little thing with the big muscles who works mostly in the stock/sorting area of the Thrift Store. Somehow she manages to organize our donations and get them ready to stock in the store - a daunting task! Without her we would be lost and I'm sure she has racked up more volunteer hours than anyone.

Another consistent volunteer recently is Gail Hallman. Gail comes in to offer her much needed help while her foster son is in school. We sure do appreciate Gail's hard work and dedication to helping foster children.

We have had several new volunteers in April pitching in to help on member shopping days and I'd like to thank them in addition to those who show up to help each month. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Christine Cano, Kaja Donikowski, Maribel Nava, Deborah Ocegueda, Amanda Jejia, Kim Kyungsoo, Bobbie Prentice, Mary Villamore, Jackie Fogal, Lupe Carman, Patti, Ted and Angela Palmer.

***Receive your
own Software
Program Free
\$100+ value!**

**C.R.I.S.
Caregiver Recording
Information Systems**

**Join us at 5pm for Quarterly Foster
Care Auxiliary Meeting with Dinner**

Annex Training Room A1003, 744 Eckhoff, Orange

**April 20, 2006
5:00 to 8:30pm**

Make Record Keeping Easy! This is one of the most innovative programs made specifically for caregivers and foster families. Imagine being able to keep all the children's information in your home on one simple program.

Register Early Limited Space! Deadline is April 17th!

*One software program per household.

Sponsored by Saddleback College Foster & Kinship Care Education Program

To Register call 949/ 582-4884 or email fkce@saddleback.edu

Any Auxiliary Member may register

A short meeting for the Quarterly agenda, dinner and prize drawing will be held first to be followed with the C.R.I.S. training. Please let me know by April 17th if you will be attending the meeting at 5-6, but not the CRIS training so that we'll have dinner for you 714 891-2468

kharvey@socal.rr.com

Upcoming events

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 714 846-7470

\$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, 6421 Weber Circle, Huntington Beach, CA 92647

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 ³/₄ University Dr., Irvine www.TanakaFarms.com

Thanks to...



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

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 Pullman & Miller, Attorneys at Law for their sponsorship of our May 2006 newsletter.
www.fosterparentlawyers.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 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 the following who have contributed to our 2006 scholarship Fund.
 - \$1 - Cypert Family, Cabanas Family, Villamor Family, Linda Meyers, Cypert Family, Dolores G Miranda, Denise Anderson, Cypert Family, Matt & Ashley Andis, Harvey Family
 - \$5 - Patrick & Le Family, Vicki Andis, Harvey Family
 - \$10 - Deborah Adisin & Sheila, The Cano Family, Sheila Cantrell, Harvey Family
- And to YOU for being a member and participating.

Visit our on-line calendar for the latest information

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

info also available on our website www.fostercareaux.com

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

April 29, 11am – Strawberry Farm Tour

May 6 – SSA Annual Conference

August 13– Beach Party at Newport Dunes

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.

To be removed from this email list send an email to kharvey@socal.rr.com with 'remove me from FCAOC e-mailings' in the subject line. Make sure you include your name as that's how the emails are filed.