



FOSTER CARE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

Gail Bardin

Jay Belloli

Nikoo Berenji

Nancy Dannevik

Patrice Gibson

Tim Hartley

Rosemary Hyde

Liz Jackman

Jeanette Mann

Kim Miles

Anne Riffenburgh

Nicole Rodger

Judi-anne Simmons

Melanie Williams

Dwana Willis

Pamela Wilson

Anne Wolf

Trula Worthy-Clayton

Coach-Monitor Pat Spalding –

A 2018 Los Angeles County Volunteer of the Year

“I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything; but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.”

--Edward Everett Hale

If you ask people acquainted with Pat Spalding to come up with adjectives to describe her, “warm,” “compassionate,” and “reliable” consistently make the list. So it should come as no surprise to learn that Pat has been honored by the County of Los Angeles as a 2018 Volunteer of the Year. A ceremony commending her and other volunteers for their service was held on Monday, April 23 at the 36th Annual Volunteer of the Year Awards Luncheon at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in downtown Los Angeles. This year’s theme was “Volunteers: The Power of One,” a compelling reminder of the capacity of every individual to make a difference.

Pat began participating as a volunteer Coach-Monitor in the Family Connect Pasadena Visitation Program a little more than a year ago. Her role consists of monitoring court-ordered visits between children and their parents--in support of the ongoing efforts of the Department of Children and Family Service (DCFS) to reunite families separated because of neglect or abuse. Visits take place in one of seven family visitation sites located in Pasadena, South Pasadena, El Sereno, Echo Park, and Baldwin Park. Each visitation site features comfortable surroundings and a wide array of games, toys, and art supplies designed to help children and their parents enjoy positive experiences together.

As a volunteer Coach-Monitor, Pat helps ensure an atmosphere of safety and support--a key part



Helping Reunify Families: Coach-Monitor Pat Spalding was honored as a 2018 Los Angeles County Volunteer of the Year.

of the reunification process. Joanna Grasso, Program Manager of Family Connect Pasadena, notes, “Being a valued Coach-Monitor means creating a physically and emotionally safe space for families going through the tumultuous process of reunification. In addition to being a highly respected and admired member of our team...Pat is indispensable. Her amazingly unassuming presence while working with families, and compassionate demeanor that puts everyone at ease, have made her one of our most effective volunteers.”

The Foster Care Project salutes Pat Spalding for doing “the something that she can do” and for her ongoing commitment to helping broken families reconnect and heal.

For information on how to become a volunteer Coach-Monitor in the family reunification process contact: inbox@fostercareproject.org

Mission Statement

All Saints Church Foster Care Project provides community education, public policy/advocacy and direct services for children and youth who have been removed from the care of their parents to the supervision of the state. The Project recruits and sustains volunteers who serve in public and private agencies or work on special projects designed to enhance the lives of foster, homeless, transitional and incarcerated children and youth.

Spotlight on Caring: FCP and Friends of Foster Children San Gabriel Valley



**From left to right:
Cathy Cota,
Carol Kolla, and
Hanne Johnson
of Friends of
Foster Children
San Gabriel
Valley. FOFC has
been supportive
of Foster
Care Project's
programs and
goals.**



For the past four years, Foster Care Project (FCP) has enjoyed a growing partnership with Friends of Foster Children San Gabriel Valley (FOFC). Since 1976, FOFC has provided goods, volunteer services, and financial support to children living in residential treatment centers, as well as to newly emancipated teens. Beth Gertmenian, an FCP point person for the Adopt a Child Abuse Case Worker Program, has worked closely with FOFC members. She notes, “The hard work and accomplishments of this small group continue to astonish me.”

FOFC’s signature project, the Sugar Plum Trees, is located in Arcadia’s Westfield mall at Christmastime. The project yields hundreds of gifts for foster children and their residential centers. Through their Special Friends Committee, FOFC provides backpacks and school supplies for all the children in the six homes they serve, as well as goodies at Halloween and Thanksgiving. Throughout the year, the group’s Foster Caring Committee offers funding for special needs as requested by the homes. Members also sponsor monthly bingo games at Hathaway-Sycamores.

The FOFC Scholarship/Emancipation Committee deserves special mention. Since 2003, more than 70 students have been helped toward graduation by FOFC. Students receive funding, as well as ongoing mentoring from FOFC members. Students attend community colleges, transition to four-year colleges, and often go on to attend graduate programs. Success stories include a

student who obtained a master’s degree in psychology from CSULA, another with a master’s degree in social work from UCLA, and a third with master’s degree in social work from Rutgers.

Each year FCP is fortunate to have growing numbers of FOFC members assist with our annual back-to-school shopping spree, Family Connect Visitation Centers, summer backpack project, and fall Thanksgiving food drive. In turn, FCP volunteers happily serve as “elves” at FOFC’s Sugar Plum Trees during the holiday season.

Over the past four years our partnership has flourished, with much of the credit going to Hanne Johnson, an FOFC member since the group’s inception 42 years ago. When Hanne learned that FCP continually requests donations of diapers, she asked members to bring packages of diapers to FOFC’s 2014 Annual Meeting. FCP was inundated with more than a thousand diapers! Later that same year, Hanne asked the FOFC board to approve placing 25 gift tags on their Sugar Plum Trees for gifts for babies and toddlers in FCP’s Adopt a Child Abuse Case-worker Program. This proved a great success, and FCP was thrilled to give our DCFS families scores of brand new outfits and toys.

FCP feels very fortunate to be in partnership with FOFC. We look forward to our continued work together to help enhance the quality of life for the children we serve.

Art Speaks:

Join Us for FCP's

10TH ANNUAL ART SHOW

"I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way -- things I had no words for."

-Georgia O'Keefe



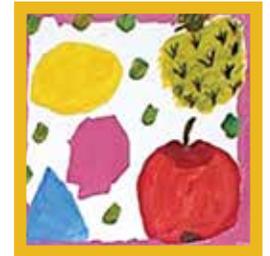
On Sunday, May 6, nearly 40 pieces of vibrant, captivating art will speak to us from All Saints Church as part of Foster Care Project's 10th annual Art Show. Featured artists will include foster youth, as well as young adults who have recently transitioned out of foster care. Art patrons will find a variety of paintings, drawings, photographs, and sculpture available for

purchase. One hundred percent of the proceeds are earmarked for the young artists.

Once again, FCP steering committee member Jay Belloli will serve as Art Show Curator, a role close to his heart. Jay notes, "What is most important about the Foster Care Art Show is that the foster youth know they are creating art that will be seen by the public. And the public's appreciation and purchasing of what these youth have created gives these artists a positive sense of validation and recognition."

Please join us on Sunday, May 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Sweetland Hall at All Saints Church, as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of Foster Care Project's Art Show. Prepare to be energized as these young artists challenge and inspire us by sharing their creative energy and talent.

For more information contact:
inbox@fostercareproject.org



FCP Welcomes Newest Steering Committee Member Liz Jackman



Liz Jackman, FCP's newest Steering Committee member.

For the past 8 years, Liz Jackman has worked as the Associate Director of Student Programs at the Caltech Y, a non-profit affiliated with Caltech. At the Caltech Y Liz wears many hats, but her largest responsibility is the Rise Tutoring program, an afterschool

math and science tutoring program for 8th-12th grade students struggling in math and science. Caltech undergraduate and graduate students are matched with one to two students primarily from Pasadena Unified school district. The program allows Caltech tutors to build meaningful tutoring/mentoring relationships with students from different backgrounds and provides a wonderful opportunity for high school students to receive high quality STEM tutoring. In addition to the Rise Program, Liz works to match Caltech volunteers

with service opportunities in the community. She is committed to finding ways to partner with and better serve the community of Pasadena.

Liz has long been passionate about educational equality and that's what brought her to Foster Care Project. She feels foster youth deserve equal opportunities for a quality education. She was thrilled when Jeanette Mann and Anne Wolf asked her to serve on the Steering Committee.

Liz received her Bachelor's degree in German and Sociology from the University of Redlands and a Master's Degree in College Counseling and Student Development from Azusa Pacific University. Prior to joining the Caltech Y, Liz worked as an English teacher in Japan for four years, where she met her husband. They have two children ages two and five. In her free time she enjoys snowboarding, reading, going to the gym, and playing with her two beautiful children. FCP feels fortunate to be "on the list" of things Liz likes to do, and we look forward to her collegiality and contributions with enthusiasm.

LOVE MADE TANGIBLE:

2017 Alternative Christmas Market Benefits Foster Children and Youth



FCP Steering Committee members assisted with the Angel Tree and answered questions about Foster Care Project at the 2017 Alternative Christmas Market. From left to right: Kim Miles, Trula Worthy-Clayton, and Anne Riffenburgh.

Last year's Alternative Christmas Market at All Saints Church proved a resounding success. More than 800 children and youth in foster care received gifts via the Angel Tree, a meaningful annual collaboration between Pasadena's Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Children, Youth and Families at All Saints Church, and Foster Care Project (FCP). Kim Miles, an FCP Steering Committee member, helped staff the FCP table at the Alternative Christmas Market, which was held on December 10th. The morning provided many heartwarming moments. Kim says, "I am always amazed at the number of children who come to the Angel Tree to pick out gifts for children in foster care. They read every tag carefully and suggest gift ideas to their parents. They hold on to the green tags tightly as if it will transport their love to each child receiving a gift."

In addition to a plethora of Angel Tree gifts, FCP received \$1,700 through Alternative Christmas Market donations. FCP will distribute the money to a variety of programs that serve the needs of children and youth in foster care, such as Family Connect, the ACAC back-to-school shopping spree, the Birthday Club, and My Friend's Place. The monetary donations help provide needed items and services, including:



A little girl examines an Angel Tree tag displaying a foster child's Christmas gift wish.

- A shower and hot breakfast for a homeless teen
- A holiday dinner basket for a foster family
- Diapers and clothing for an abandoned infant
- A birthday gift for a foster child
- Household items (i.e. sheets and blankets, pots and pans) for a transitioning youth entering college
- Back-to-school clothes and shoes for a foster child.

As we review the success of the 2017 Alternative Christmas Market, FCP would like to offer sincere thanks to All Saints parishioners and community supporters for providing Angel Tree gifts and financial donations earmarked for FCP. Such support helps sustain and brighten the lives of foster children, youth and families throughout the year--a powerful gesture of love made tangible.

Springing into Action

ACAC and the Easter Bunny Achieve a “Personal Best”

Two weeks before Easter, volunteers with FCP’s Adopt a Child Abuse Case Worker (ACAC) Program spent a fun-filled morning (and some of the afternoon) stuffing baskets with a variety of goodies for children on the caseloads of our two “adopted” DCFS caseworkers. Forty-seven baskets were completed—an ACAC “personal best.” The individualized baskets were chockfull of age-appropriate items—diapers, stuffed animals, fleece blankets, toy cars, mini footballs, gift cards and more—all donated by FCP Steering Committee members and community supporters.

ACAC caseworker Ruth Lee reported that the children were thrilled with their baskets and treats, which she called a visible reminder of the love and caring present in the world. One child told her, “I know the Easter bunny told Jesus to bring me the Easter baskets since He is risen.”

Our newest “adopted” ACAC caseworker, Eric Pan, filled us in on some of the reactions from the children on his caseload (note: names have been changed to protect privacy):

- “Jeannie instantly ate all the chocolates.”
- “Andy gave me a hug (which is a first) and was shocked to be getting a basket.”
- “Jay and Benny were playing with the fidget spinners as soon as they opened the basket, and Benny added the Hot Wheels car to his Hot Wheels collection.”
- “Ari took the huge egg and kept shouting at his dad, ‘LOOK AT THIS!’”

Many thanks to all who made contributions. You helped send a powerful message to our children—that they are loved, valued, and cared for.



A Bounty of Baskets: ACAC volunteers filled Easter baskets with toys, eggs, stuffed animals, fleece blankets, and more.

“Jeannie instantly ate all the chocolates.”



Thumbs Up: Eric Pan, ACAC’s newest “adopted” DCFS caseworker, signals his appreciation for the 17 Easter baskets he received for children on his caseload.



“That was so much fun,” Jane Burtis said, after helping prepare Easter baskets for 47 foster children. It was her first volunteer experience with the ACAC group.

Partnering Agencies

50/50 Leadership
Aspire West, Pasadena
Barrio Action Youth and Family Center
California Youth Connection
Cal Tech Y
CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)
COLORS
County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services
County of Los Angeles Probation Department
Cultural Brokers
EOPS Resilient Scholars Program, California State University Northridge
First Place for Youth
First United Methodist Church
Five Acres
FosterAll
Friends of Foster Children
Hathaway-Sycamores
Hillsides
Hillsides YMO
Holy Family Services Adoption and Foster Care
Junior League Los Angeles
Imagine LA
Kidsave Los Angeles Weekend Miracles
Learning Works Charter School/Home Boys
Maryvale (Rosemead address)
My Friend's Place
National Congress of Black Women
One Simple Wish
Optimist Youth Homes and Family Services
Pasadena YouthBuild
Pacific Clinics
Public Counsel Law Center
Raise-A-Child, US
Rosemary Children's Services (Pasadena address)
STARS at PCC
The Alliance for Children's Rights
Violence Intervention Program
Vista Del Mar Child and Foster Care Program
Young and Healthy

In Memoriam

Kathleen Rodarte

Kathleen (Kathy) Rodarte, a former Assistant Dean at Pasadena City College and member of the Foster Care Project's Steering Committee from 2012 – 2014, has died. She was 70. During her 33 years at PCC, Kathy held a variety of positions--from student employee early on to Assistant Dean of Extended Opportunity Programs and Services in later years. Her interests included social justice and a strong commitment to educationally and economically disadvantaged youth. She took special pride in helping first generation students thrive at PCC. During her time with Foster Care Project, Kathy focused her attention

on young people aging out of foster care, the Computers for Kids program, and Town Hall meetings—all a logical extension of her work at PCC. Beth Gertmenian, point person for the Adopt a Child Abuse Case Worker (ACAC) Program says, "When I think of Kathy, I remember her gentle manner, her devotion to family, and her willingness to dig in and help wherever it was needed. She would quietly go the extra mile to make things better for someone else."

We salute Kathy Rodarte for her lifelong commitment to "going the extra mile" to enhance the lives of youth in our community.

Celebrate Foster Care Awareness Month:

Join us for a Foster Care/Adoption Reception, May 6, 2018

Parenthood requires love, not DNA.

--Anonymous

Join All Saints' Foster Care Project and Five Acres on Sunday, May 6, 12:30–2:00 p.m. in the Seminar Room for a reception for those interested in learning more about the benefits of building their family by becoming a foster, adoptive, or weekend host parent. Foster and adoptive parents and staff from Five Acres will be there to answer questions about the foster and adoption process and the requirements and rewards of foster parenting.

Foster/Adopt coordinator Rosemary Hyde says, "Whether you're ready to take the first steps toward becoming a foster/adopt family

or just starting to think about the idea, we have helpful information and support geared to your needs."

Refreshments will be served. For questions or to RSVP please contact:
inbox@fostercareproject.org



**FOSTER KIDS
ARE OUR KIDS**



For Volunteer Opportunities
visit our website:
www.fostercareproject.org
or email
inbox@fostercareproject.org