



Rebekah
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Spring 2024 Newsletter



NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH IS HERE!

Help foster children find their forever homes.

Celebrating National Foster Care Month!

National Foster Care Month, observed every May, serves as a platform to acknowledge the challenges faced by children and youth in foster care and the dedication of foster parents, social workers, advocates, and community members who work tirelessly to provide them with stability, support, and love.

"Every child deserves a champion – an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best they can possibly be."

-Rita F. Pierson

Meet our Director of Family Linkage

Serena Misley has been with RCS for over 17 years and is the Director of Family Linkage, our foster care and adoption program based in Campbell. Read more below about what she has to say about our wonderful Family Linkage program and their team!

RCS Program Spotlight: Family Linkage

Family Linkage is a small and close-knit program whose staff have a collective 50+ years at RCS being dedicated to supporting children in the foster care system to find loving and stable homes. Our mission is to find these vulnerable children a caring foster family within hours of being removed from their parents and then continue to be a committed support for them throughout their entire foster care journey. It takes a village to support the vulnerability of children in foster care and we work diligently throughout the community to recruit foster families that can open their hearts and homes to these children. Our team then walks alongside our youth and foster families through all the difficulties of foster care. We attend community events, work with other community foster care programs, and spend dedicated time educating the community about the needs of foster care.

After recruitment, these families are provided in-house training, background checks and a lengthy assessment before being approved as a foster family with RCS. Once approved, the Family Linkage team works to match foster families with children taking into consideration space, ability, and fit. Once a child joins the foster family, the RCS team works closely to monitor and support the placement. Staff are in the home, attend school meetings, court hearings, and work directly with other service providers to promote a safe and healing journey for the foster child.



How can you support or get involved with the Family Linkage Program?



The biggest need in the foster care community is foster families. We are in continuous search for families to are willing to have foster children join their family and provide them with stability, and love and meet their basic needs. If you are not able to be a foster family, you can still create a positive change for foster youth by supporting our emergency placements. Often children coming to foster care come with nothing but the clothes on their backs. The first 12 hours of foster care is a whirlwind and not having your basic needs met make it that much harder. Family Linkage program creates 'go bags' that have some essential items and gift cards to help our kids and families that first night.

If you may be interested in becoming a Foster Parent or would like to support our Family Linkage Program: Please contact Rebecca Gabuat 408.846.4925 or email contactlinkage@rcskids.org.

[More Info on Family Linkage](#)

Save the Date! AlumNight 2024

Join Us for Our 8th Annual Pop A Cork Fundraiser at Clos LaChance Winery! 🍷



We are thrilled to be hosting our 8th Annual Pop A Cork benefiting the Kneaded Culinary Academy. Your taste buds will thank you as you savor the delicious one-of-a-kind tapas and wine pairings while viewing the beautiful hillsides at Clos LaChance Winery. The Kneaded Culinary Academy at Rebekah Children's Services is committed to helping disenfranchised youth in our community overcome obstacles such as poverty, mental health conditions, and involvement in the foster care and/or juvenile justice system by improving their lives through a no-cost, supportive, vocational arts training program. Students learn hands-on culinary skills in a commercial kitchen under the supervision of a credentialed, professional chef. Since 2009, over 2,500 youth have graduated from the program, with 98% of students pursuing jobs or higher education over the last 9 years. Join us on May 9th at Clos La Chance Winery from 6:30 PM - 9 PM for a night of food, fun, and giving!! Ticket sales close May 3rd!

[Buy Tickets Here](#)



Join CalSOAP for their 9th Annual AlumNight awards and celebration fundraiser on June 20th, 2024, 6 PM - 8:30 PM, at Little Uvas Vineyards in San Martin. Alum Night is a fundraising event that brings together Cal-SOAP alumni, donors, and community members to connect while contributing to the fundraising efforts for the Cal-SOAP Senior Scholarship fund. Alum Night is an event featuring food, wine, raffle prizes, and special guest speakers.



The Squeeze Music Concert

Join us for The Squeeze on Saturday, July 20th, 2024, 5 PM - 10 PM at Leal Vineyards in Hollister. Get ready to kick up your boots and let loose as we bring you the best in live bands, delicious food, and plenty of opportunities to dance the night away.

[More Info](#)

Rebekah Children's Services Chamberlains Campus in Hollister

Rebekah Children's Services (RCS) formally acquired Chamberlains Youth Services (CYS) located in Hollister, California in the summer of 2022. RCS acquired the property to expand RCS's services to San Benito County residents because the need for housing, support and mental health services outweighs the supply of providers. In honor of Clara Chamberlain's legacy and her lifetime of services to the community the campus was renamed "Rebekah Children's Services- Chamberlains Campus."

Thanks to the generous support of Housing Industry Fund (HIF), Prometheus, Advanced Restoration, and over 30 supporting vendors, the 5 housing units on the (7) acre campus have been completely remodeled. On April 18th, over 100 volunteers came to the campus to touch up paint, stain fences, and finish other projects on site. After the Day of Service, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held with the San Benito Chamber of Commerce, representatives of Speaker Robert Rivas, community organizations and members, and many local supporters.



These remodeled units will help provide 3-6 housing insecure (homeless, living in hotels, cars, couch surfing, etc.) families (including 3-8 youth per home) and transitional aged youth being served by RCS safe and stable housing for 6-12 months (or possibly longer based on need) while they transition to permanent housing. RCS will integrate services, including outpatient mental health support, the RCS Culinary Academy for potential job placement, financial literacy training, food, clothing, and other housing services and assistance. RCS will also coordinate outreach with other agencies to provide a continuum of care to leverage community resources. These residents may also be eligible for support from HIF's Emergency Housing Fund once they move onto permanent housing to help pay for rent and/or security deposits.

Although we have come a long way, there is still work to be done as we continue to transform our Hollister site to better serve our clients in the community. Please stay tuned for updates on the ongoing process. If you would like to be involved or donate, please contact us at FD@rcskids.org.

Philanthropy Corner: Transforming Therapy Spaces



We want to showcase the incredible generosity of organizations that have supported our mission to enhance therapy rooms across our Gilroy and Campbell offices. Community grants and donations have allowed us to revitalize our therapy spaces, creating nurturing environments for healing and growth.



Thanks to the unwavering support of our philanthropic partners, we've been able to purchase essential therapeutic supplies and undertake extensive remodeling projects in these treatment rooms. These renovations not only enhance the physical environment but also deepen the emotional and psychological comfort for our clients and therapists alike.

Big shout out to RAC Services, Christina and Raul Tovar, for supporting our renovation. We would also like to thank Starbucks, Cline Glass, Chameleon Like, and Heritage Bank for supporting this project.

Dine for A Cause: May

Get ready to indulge in generosity! 🌟 We're thrilled to continue our "Dine for a Cause" fundraising event, where local restaurants will help to support our organization. Be on the lookout for our May participating restaurants and follow us on social media for the latest news and updates.

Thursday, May 2nd, 2024 11 AM - 9 PM:
Burger Lounge 1875 S Bascom Ave,
Campbell CA 95008
Order online with code FUNDRAISER,
visit in-person, or takeout.

**EAT SOME GOOD.
DO SOME GOOD.**



Embrace Diversity: Celebrating June Pride Month! 🌈

Join us this June as we commemorate Pride Month, a time dedicated to celebrating the LGBTQ+ community, its rich history, and its ongoing struggle for equality and acceptance. Stay tuned for exciting updates, events, and resources to support and uplift the LGBTQ+ community! Let's make this Pride Month a celebration of love!



YouthLINK Appreciation: Empowering Communities, Inspiring Change!

YouthLINK is collaborating with our Family Resource Center to bring fun and informative workshops to our Parent Cafes! Through their generosity and compassion, YouthLINK also donated essential clothing and shoes, ensuring that every child has the necessities they need to thrive. YouthLINK is a group of Turkish immigrants whose mission is to provide support to communities through a multitude of projects that will illustrate a profound impact and shared passion in fostering positive change! Thank you for coming to RCS to meet with our staff and community to bring them fun interactive activities.

youthlink

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS FOR POP A CORK AND OUR RECENT PROJECTS!



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