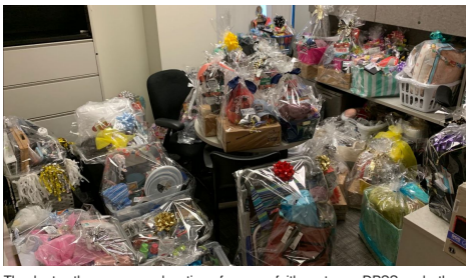


Graduation A Success

Smiles of happiness were on the faces of foster youth who each received a bountiful Graduation Basket. Foster youth graduate, Esmeralda Rendon, thanks faith community and shares her story.

"I feel so special and important to have received such a wonderful basket for my graduation. I can't thank the faith community enough. My life has had rocky moments but with many blessings. I am the first child of seven. At the age of 13, I lost my uncle to police brutality. For my mom, losing her brother was devastating, and in turn, she lost herself. I had to take care of my siblings. Eventually, my siblings and I were separated and placed in foster care in 2014. It was hard for a couple of months because, I mean, what hurts more than losing your siblings? Actually, let me rephrase that, your kids, because I took care of them. We did have some visits, which helped. My mom was always coming in and out of our lives but never did I hate her for it. In the past 6 years, I've been in 2 homes. I stayed with my first foster family for 3 years. It was a good home and I am still in touch with them. I decided to move into my second home so that I could be with my brother. In the past two years, my mom has gotten clean and I reunited with her; I have been living with her since June 12, 2020. I had long talks with my siblings and now we all come together once a month with mom. I don't have any grudges towards her because, at the end of the day, my mother sacrificed a lot as a single mom for my brothers and me when we were younger. I now have graduated from high school and will be attending community college for 2 years. I plan to transfer to a university majoring in psychology to maybe one day become a social worker and to give back to those in foster care."



Thanks to the generous donations from our faith partners, DPSS and others who gave hundreds of gift cards, laptops for college-bound students and baskets of goodies. On the day faith partners and volunteers assembled the baskets, news crews from ABC, NBC and Telemundo were there. Thank you to all!



RIVERSIDE COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

DPSS Update

COVID has hidden our children. We are all stuck at home and we are unable to see children going through troubles that we were able to see when we were "normal". Referrals (suspected abuse calls) have drastically dropped with COVID, but that does not mean that there are less children who need help.

By the numbers:

Children in care - 4,999

Families under maintenance – 1,229 (reunified or preventing child removal)

Children in foster care – 3,770

Monthly referrals dropped in half during COVID from an average of 3,000 referrals to 1,500 a month. DPSS is anticipating a surge of calls once we start getting back to "normal," which means the need for foster families will be greater than ever.



THE GROVE COMMUNITY CHURCH

FIM and the Quality Parenting Initiative are collaborating with The Grove for a virtual recruitment event scheduled for October 2020. Interested parents from The Grove will have the opportunity to learn and ask questions about fostering and adoption via a zoom session with a panel from FIM, DPSS, resource parents and QPI. FIM and OPI would like to collaborate with your faith community to help us find more loving and safe homes for children. Please contact Irene Capen, FIM Manager, icapen@fosterall.org.

Our prayers are with you, your family, and your congregation. God Bless You.

What is Faith in Motion?

Faith In Motion is a collaborative that engages faith communities throughout Riverside County to find safe and loving homes for children in need and connect with the children and families who have been impacted by abuse and neglect.




Objectives

- Broaden awareness of foster care
- Increase the number of prospective Resource Families
- Provide resources and support to foster youth

Goals

- Engage faith communities to collaborate with FIM
- Assist with events for foster youth
- Conduct donation drives
- Coordinate outreach efforts with community organizations

For more information on how your congregation can get involved, contact Irene Capen - faithinmotion@fosterall.org

 @RiversideCountyFaithinMotion  @faithinmotion_riverside  FosterAll.org

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