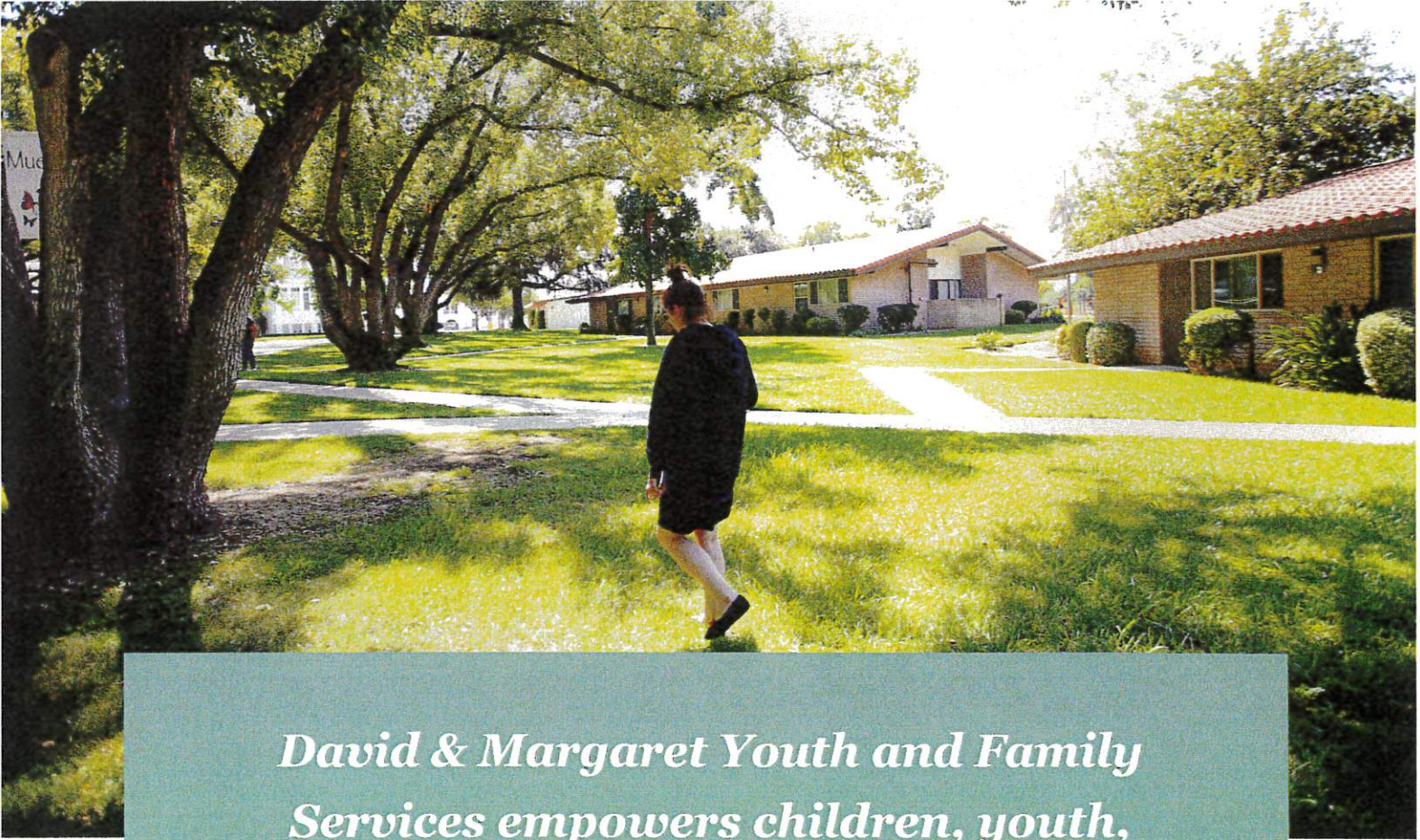


FOSTERING COMMUNITY

The David & Margaret Youth and Family Services Quarterly Newsletter

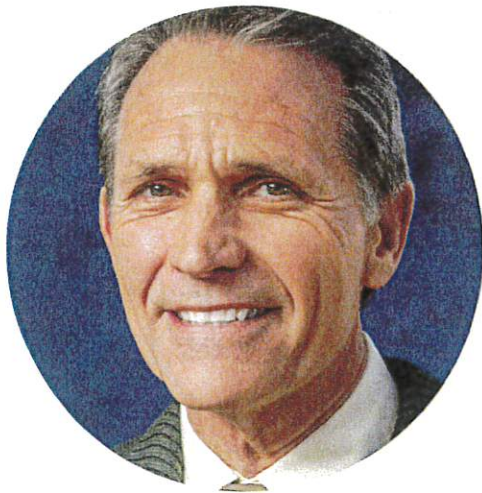
VOL 1, ISSUE 2 JULY 2019



David & Margaret Youth and Family Services empowers children, youth, and families through culturally diverse services that foster emotional, educational, spiritual, and identity development.



David & Margaret
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES



A Note from Executive Director

The state of California recently mandated that all residential programs such as David & Margaret Youth and Family Services be converted to Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTP). The goal is to have as many youth as possible be in a foster home or a relative's home, rather than in residential placement. As a result, many more youth are being placed in relatives' care.

This means that those who are placed in an STRTP are those who don't have other options, generally due to their high need for more intensive therapeutic services because they have experienced so much trauma in their lives. As a result, we are caring for youth who have a higher level of needs than ever before. We've had to make quite a few adjustments to our services to be able to meet their needs, but it's exciting to be able to make a difference in the lives of these young women who need love and stability in addition to therapeutic services.

We've been working internally and with partners in the community to create a safer environment for both youth and staff, while working to reduce the number of contact with emergency services. By doing so, we will become a stronger and more effective agency, providing services to youth and families and improving outcomes. If you have any thoughts you'd like to share with us in this regard, please feel free to contact me at (909) 596-5921, ext. 3140 or RichC@DavidandMargaret.org.

Charles C. Rich

Executive Director



David & Margaret
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

1350 Third St., La Verne, CA 91750
(909) 596-5921 www.DavidandMargaret.org

Executive Director, Charles Rich
(909) 596-5921, ext. 3140
RichC@DavidandMargaret.org

Chief Community Outreach Officer, Maggie Bohlman
(909) 596-5921, ext. 3246
BohlmanM@DavidandMargaret.org

Publicity Coordinator/Editor, Julie Griffith
(909) 596-5921, ext. 3180
GriffithJ@DavidandMargaret.org

Volunteer/Mentor Coordinator, Linda Vahrson
(909) 596-5921, ext. 3311
VahrsonL@DavidandMargaret.org

Foster Family and Adoption Agency
Manager Deena Robertson
(909) 596-5921, ext. 3189
DominguezA@DavidandMargaret.org

Mental Health Services
Administrative Assistant Jackie Gonzales
(909) 596-5921, ext. 3510
GonzalesJ@DavidandMargaret.org

Residential Services
Manager Cheryl Kroll
(909) 596-5921, ext. 3215
KrollC@DavidandMargaret.org

Transitional Housing Program
Program Support Brianna Ascensio
(909) 596-5921, ext. 3606
AscensioB@DavidandMargaret.org

Joan Macy School
Education Director Monica Kirk
(909) 596-3173, ext. 5456
KirkM@DavidandMargaret.org



NATIONAL FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH

Foster Care Awareness Month is a big deal at David & Margaret! Throughout the country, May is dedicated to raising awareness about all the children and youth in foster care. It's also a time to honor the foster parents, families, volunteers, child welfare professionals, and members of the community who have a role in supporting youth who experience foster care.

Becoming a foster parent and welcoming a young person into your home is a tremendous commitment and unparalleled act of love. We are so grateful for each and every foster parent who chooses to do this life-changing work, and are honored to support them through the process of becoming certified, as well as after a foster child or children has been placed with them.

They're changing the future – one life at a time. At their annual parent training, we gave foster parents who work with our Foster Family and Adoption Agency (FFA) a special tote bag filled with goodies. We also raised more than \$1,800 toward mental health services for foster parents through an opportunity drawing for Disneyland Park Hopper passes.

There is an acute shortage of foster families, also known as resource families, to love these vulnerable children and youth. Could you be one? A foster family consists of a parent or parents who provide short- or long-term care and a safe harbor for children in foster care while their family receives

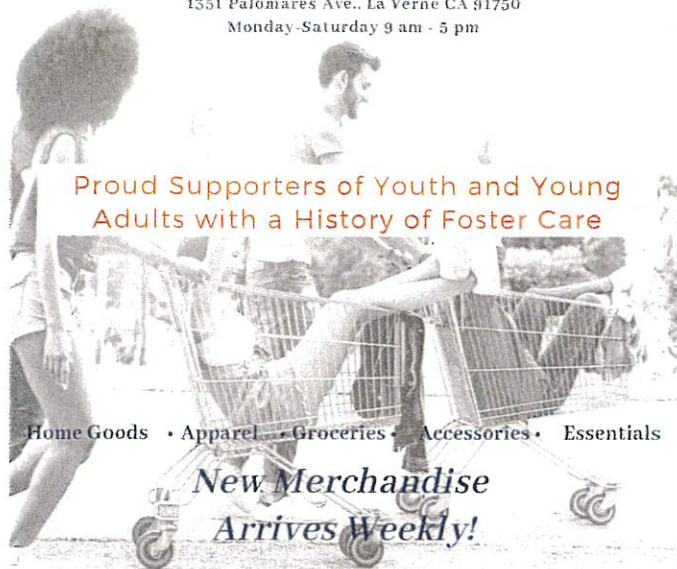
family strengthening services (referred to as reunification services). Their role is critical and life changing. Resource families work tirelessly to provide children with stability, love and a healthy future. As an open and affirming agency, our resource parents come from all races, religions, sexual orientation and walks of life.

Want to find out more? A good place to start is our website, www.DavidandMargaret.org. Click on News & Events, then Calendar, to find out when our next orientation will be (we have them in English and Spanish). You can also set up a private meeting with Social Worker/ Recruiter Ana Dominguez at DominguezA@DavidandMargaret.org, or (909) 596-5921, ext. 3189. We would love to share with you what it takes to be a foster parent, so if you'd like us to come talk to your church, civic group, or business, contact Publicity Coordinator Julie Griffith at GriffithJ@DavidandMargaret.org or (909) 596-5921, ext. 3180.

Summer Service Day
Thursday, August 1

Indoor and Outdoor Projects Available
Free Breakfast and Lunch!

For Information or to Volunteer, Contact
Volunteer/Mentor Coordinator Linda Vahrson
VahrsonL@DavidandMargaret.org
(909) 596-5921, ext. 3311



Shop for Good

The Store @ David & Margaret has a new name: Dave & Maggie's Center! As it has for more than three decades, it benefits the community as a retail store offering fresh, frozen and packaged foods; toiletries and over-the-counter medicines; housewares; clothing; toys, and other goods at discounted prices. Most importantly, though, it's a training center for youth transitioning out of foster care who need work experience to build their futures. Dave & Maggie's Center offers multiple paid internships for foster youth who are ready to work but lack the skills and experience needed to land a job.

Like many other young adults, these young adults aren't ready to be out on their own at age 18. They also face their own unique challenges, such as a high incidence of learning disabilities and low graduation rates. Your patronage of Dave & Maggie's Center creates new pathways and new opportunities for them as they transition to self-sufficiency.

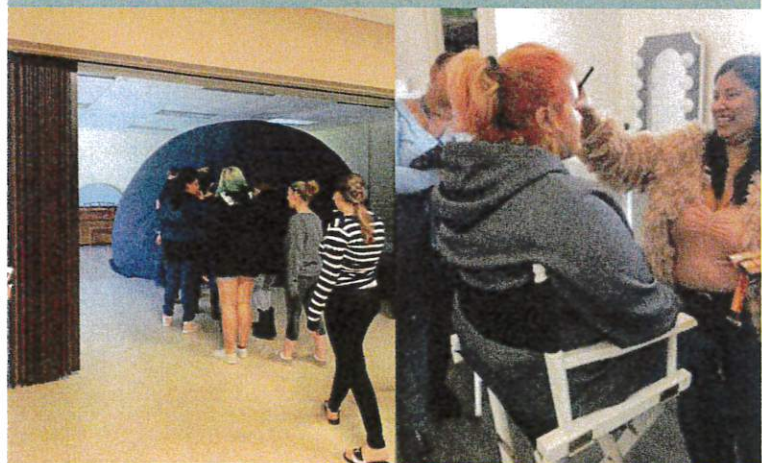
We're always getting new items – many name brand – so stop by often! Dave & Maggie's Center is located at 1351 Palomares Ave., on our south campus. Hours: Monday-Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Donors Like You, Make Learning Fun

Thanks to thoughtful donors like you, the youth at David & Margaret and students at Joan Macy School have been able to enjoy a variety of fun, enriching, and educational field trips during April and May:

- *Knott's Berry Farm*
- *Pop-Up Planetarium*
- *A performance of The Little Mermaid*
- *Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden field trip*
- *Glamsquad Headquarters field trip*
- *Mariachi Band Concert at Citrus College*

Would you like to help youth expand their educational experience? Contact Community Engagement Associate Noemy Maciel at (909) 596-5921, ext. 3217, or MacielN@DavidandMargaret.org



Grants Fund Campus Improvements

Grants from generous foundations are funding much-needed remodeling and refurbishing around David & Margaret's campus. Most visibly, we were able to smooth out the gopher holes in our spacious lawn, a favorite place for outdoor activities, as well as install new, energy efficient LED lighting to provide consistent lighting while saving money and the environment.

Many residential cottages also received some much-needed upgrades: furniture for Turner

and Wynn cottages, as well as ADA-compliant bathroom remodels and other work on Turner Cottage. Wynn and Gillette cottages received kitchen remodels complete with Energy Star appliances, which will help cut operating costs by reducing energy use without sacrificing performance.

We are grateful to these donors for enabling us to improve services to our residents who call David & Margaret home, as well as for visitors and clients in the community.

The Joy of Having a Vision

Joy Clarke's recent graduation from Cal Poly Pomona with a bachelor's degree in sociology with an emphasis in social work – she's the only one out of her eight siblings to graduate from college – is a testament to her laser-sharp focus on her future.

Thanks to what she describes as “a really skilled social worker who made sure I was really okay,” she was placed at a foster home in nearby Claremont and graduated from Claremont High School. “I went to four different high schools, but I always loved school and knew it was the only way out of being neglected and being let down by people,” she says.

“*I'd always been in individual foster homes, as opposed to a group home like David & Margaret,*” says the 24-year-old, whose energy and enthusiasm are evident as her words tumble out. *“I was put into foster care when I was 2 years old, where I grew up in the system, including kinship.”*



Emancipation was a hard dose of reality, but Joy was accepted into Cal Poly Pomona's Renaissance Scholars program, which provides current and former foster youth with critical educational resources and a supportive environment that are key in assisting them to obtain their bachelor's degree. The program meets the needs of students by providing workshops, mentoring, tutoring, academic advising, life skills seminars, year-round housing, financial assistance, educational enrichment, and community building activities.

She lived on campus for her freshman year, but wanted to "get out of the bubble of just going from my dorm room to my classes and back," so she applied for and was accepted into David & Margaret's Transitional Housing Program (THP). The program, which lets her live in the community instead of on the school campus, provides housing and supportive services for youth aging out of foster care. As long as the youth are in school or working, they will have housing for the length of the program. (Joy chose to do both work and attend school.) They have weekly check-ins with their case manager and are strongly encouraged to participate in life skills and career readiness classes. They are also provided with an allowance for food, clothing, and a gas card or bus pass for transportation.

Joy's first job was at a McDonalds, and she later got a paid internship through THP at another nearby restaurant, where she learned how to function even more effectively in the workplace. Wanting to advance her career, she began combing the internet for local jobs in social work. "Oddly, no one told me that there was a counselor job open at David & Margaret," she says with a smile. "I saw that they were hiring, so I applied. I wanted to give back because David & Margaret has helped me so much. I have no shame in talking about my story because I could help another youth

“ When I got into THP, it laid a foundation by giving me a roof over my head,” Joy says. “I took advantage of the life-skills classes they offer and learned how to establish credit, how to cook, how to use public transportation because I didn't have a car. That was humbling. I got food and a clothing allowance along with working, which enabled me now to be responsible for my own apartment and to buy my own car,” which she still proudly drives.

overcome the stigma of being a foster youth. And David & Margaret appreciates diversity – they welcome everyone as they are. I love this place.”

She is now a newly minted counselor in one of the agency's on-campus cottages, working with adolescent girls in the Transitional Shelter Care Program. While tackling her job, her main goal is to “just understand where these girls are coming from and be their support system. If a client has an outburst, I try to understand why and help them to prevent more triggers by doing activities together, and building a positive relationship. I find the youth pretty amazing and cool.” And with her personal history, ambition, education, and now job experience, Joy Clarke is well on her way.

Do you know someone who might benefit from our Transitional Housing Programs? Contact Program Supervisor Briana Ascencio at AscencioB@DavidandMargaret.org, or (909) 596-5921, ext.3606.

Faithful Volunteers



“We get a great deal of volunteers through United Methodist Women,” Jeanne says. “We also donate to David & Margaret both in-kind and financially through UMW.”

Volunteers have always been a vital part of David & Margaret Youth and Family Services. Volunteering allows individuals, groups, and businesses to connect with the agency and make it a better place. Helping out with even the smallest tasks can make a real difference to the lives of people that David & Margaret serves. And the agency is blessed to have some volunteers of very long standing!

While David & Margaret is not formally affiliated with any church, the agency was founded by the group that evolved into United Methodist Women, establishing a relationship that goes back more than a century. Service is a core tenet of the faith, and the habit of ‘giving back’ is deeply rooted in Jeanne Stover and Jane Croyle, who are lifelong Methodists. They bring donations from New Beginnings United

Methodist Church in San Bernardino all the way to David & Margaret in La Verne – more than 60 miles round trip – several times each year.

“I started with the church when I was a little girl, then I got married, had kids, and became a Sunday school teacher,” says Jeanne.

“I was born into the church,” Jane adds. “I’m from the Midwest, and my mom became the organist in our church one week after I was adopted. They wanted her to come to the service and play, and she said, ‘I can’t do that! I have a new baby at home!’ But she had her mom babysit, and went to church anyway.”

Through the years, agency representatives have spoken at New Beginnings United Methodist Women’s meetings, and in return, members would provide donations of things the residents wanted or needed. Jeanne, Jane and their UMW ‘circle’ became regular benefactors of Wynn Cottage, bringing seasonal treats to the girls.

“We tie the donation to a holiday if possible,” Jane says, “but the last time, we gave money so they could go to a show. We also found out that they really like snacks, so we’ll start adding some of those to our next donation.”

People like Jeanne and Jane – and maybe you! – have a tremendous impact on the youth and families served. Are you interested in donating to the youth at David & Margaret? Contact Chief Community Engagement Officer Maggie Bohlman at (909) 596-5921, ext. 3246 or BohlmanM@DavidandMargaret.org. Would you like to volunteer? Contact Volunteer/Mentor Coordinator Linda Vahrson at (909) 596-5921, ext. 3311 or VahrsonL@DavidandMargaret.org.

“ I think the work David & Margaret does within our community is amazing,” says Jacob Bash. “It touches so many young people to help them better their lives.”



Jacob Gives Back

The Southern California native found out about David & Margaret through TEAM Referral Network; he belongs to one of two chapters that meet once a week at Dave & Maggie’s Café. After graduation from Glendora High School, he went to Arizona State University, earning a bachelor’s degree at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication. After a brief stint with a local station, he earned his real estate license and joined the family firm, Century 21 Masters The Richard and Barbara Sales Team, June 2013.

“I have worked in real estate full time ever since,” he says. “I’m third generation in real estate - my grandpa had his own company for 30 years in La Puente, my dad’s been in real estate for 30-plus years, and now it’s my turn. I pride myself on my knowledge of the market, my patience and personal touch I give to every one of my clients.”

Jacob is also an amateur actor, working with a community theater group in Pasadena and performing in two shows per year. Most recently, he had the lead role in Neal Simon’s “Fools.”

Jacob donated a portion of a recent real estate commission to David & Margaret, telling his fellow TEAM members that he would do that for every referral they gave him that resulted in a sale. He was inspired by his exposure to the agency, including the youth who intern in the café.

“ It means a lot to me when I see them helping kids try and better their lives,” he says. “Kids who don’t have as much as most, and trying to bring a smile to their faces, or help prepare them for an independent future. I think it is wonderful organization that makes our community a better place.”

1-800-4-FOSTER
foster@davidandmargaret.org
<http://bit.ly/FFAdm>

 David & Margaret
CALIFORNIA REAL ESTATE & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Foster Parent Information Session

July 16, 2019 • August 5, 2019 • August 20, 2019

Learn everything you’ve ever wanted to know about becoming a foster parent in a conversational setting as our Foster/Adopt expert answers any and all questions and discusses the steps and requirements to becoming a foster/resource parent!

Join us at Dave and Maggie’s Café 6pm-9pm
1351 Palomares Ave 91750 La Verne California 91750

Make Your Legacy Supporting David & Margaret

Engaging in estate planning is a generous way to show your commitment to the mission of David & Margaret Youth and Family Services and the children, young adults, and families served. A legacy gift can help provide David & Margaret with stable and lasting support that will continue to improve the lives of youth in our communities. There are many ways to make a legacy gift to David & Margaret:

- *Bequests, wills, and trusts*
- *Retirement plans and life insurance policies*

- *Gifts of stocks, bonds, and other securities*

For example, it is through a recent generous bequest by the Martha Anne Roberts Family Trust that we are able to upgrade doors and windows on our residential cottages to create a safer, more esthetically pleasing environment for the girls who call David & Margaret home. We recommend consulting with an attorney or professional estate planner to determine the option that's best for you.

Kuns' Circle of Kindness

In 1892, First National Bank President Henry Kuns purchased 18 acres of property and completed the construction of the La Verne Hotel. In 1910, he donated the hotel to the Women's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Church to establish the David & Margaret Home for Children as the area's first orphanage, named after his parents.

David & Margaret has established the Kuns' Circle of Kindness to honor those who play a critical role in our future by leaving a gift to David & Margaret in their estate plan. If you have already provided a future gift to David & Margaret through a will, living trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy, or if you are considering giving a gift, we encourage you to become a member of the David & Margaret family and join Kuns' Circle of Kindness. We honor our Kuns' Circle Members in our reports.



Members also receive exclusive invitations to select events. Most importantly, your gift changes the lives of youth who need it the most.

For more information on planned giving, contact Chief Community Engagement Officer Maggie Bohlman (909) 596-5921, ext. 3246, or Bohlmanm@davidandmargaret.org.

Upcoming Events at David & Margaret

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1:

Annual Summer Service Day. Info: Volunteer/Mentor Coordinator Linda Vahrson, (909) 596-5921, ext. 3311, or VahrsonL@DavidandMargaret.org

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 5:30 PM:

Annual Gala, Glendora Country Club. Info: Chief Community Engagement Officer Maggie Bohlman, (909) 596-5921, ext. 3246 or BohlmanM@DavidandMargaret.org <http://bit.ly/DMgala19>

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 8:30 A.M.:

Annual Winter Service Day. Info: Volunteer/Mentor Coordinator Linda Vahrson, (909) 596-5921, ext. 3311, or VahrsonL@DavidandMargaret.org

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 3:00 P.M.:

Annual Holiday Open House. Info: Community Engagement Associate Noemy Maciel, (909) 596-5921, ext. 3217, or MacielN@DavidandMargaret.org

To schedule a David & Margaret speaker for your next church or service group meeting, contact Publicity Coordinator Julie Griffith at (909) 596-5921, ext.



LEARNING ENHANCEMENT CENTER

Brain training for learning disabilities

(909) 596 - 5921 x3152

Learning Enhancement Center

According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, less than one third of children with reading disabilities receive the proper support at school to address these issues.

Since 1990, David & Margaret's Learning Enhancement Center (LEC) has helped hundreds of children and adults turn their learning disabilities into abilities. The LEC accomplishes this by training the brain to accurately and effectively take in information, process it, and respond appropriately.

We help our clients by evaluating visual, auditory, and motor skills. Based on the results of assessments, individualized programs are developed to target areas of need.

For more information or to schedule a free evaluation, contact Program Manager Sharon Skinner at (909) 596-5921, ext. 3152, or SkinnerS@DavidandMargaret.org.

Foster Friendly Workplace

David & Margaret Youth and Family Services is proud to announce our new Foster Friendly Workplace Policy

David & Margaret is dedicated to providing support to children, youth and families involved in foster care. Through the Foster/Adoption Agency, Residential Services, Mental Health support, and Transitional Aged Youth Programs we have made it our mission to renew hope and inspire change in a functional manner. In recognition of Foster Care Awareness Month we are pleased to announce progressive steps to further support team members involved in the foster care system.

All benefit eligible employees who are actively fostering children in their home may take up to 2 weeks bonding time and/or 12 weeks off during the first 12 months of a placement. Bonding is crucial for all families, and providing the time and opportunity for children and foster parents to form a connection is highly beneficial to everyone involved. With nearly 500,000 children and youth in foster care in the United States and a Foster Parent retention rate of only 30% there is a dire need of open homes for these children. All employees interested in becoming a certified foster/adoptive parent have access to onsite information and training sessions.

David & Margaret will also extend efforts in providing a Foster Friendly Workforce by continuing paid internships for youth aging out of foster care as well as actively recruiting older youth and adults with a history of foster care as part of the employee recruitment program. 20% of all children who age out of the foster care system will become instantly homeless and only 1 out of every 2 youth who “age out” will

receive employment by the age of 24. Ending former foster youth homelessness and poverty is a communal issue and we hope to magnify our support efforts for Transitional Aged Youth by actively including foster youth in our candidate search for new hires.

About David & Margaret's Foster Care and Adoption Agency

David & Margaret Foster Care and Adoption Agency provides an individualized and caring process for individuals and all families wishing to become foster parents. D&M offers around the clock staff support, ongoing training, child and family therapy, home screening and approval, home visits and family support, monthly stipend (as set by DCFS) as well as complete adoption services.

If you are interested in foster care or adoption, we offer multiple free Foster Parent Information Sessions a month in English and Spanish and are also happy to do individualized sessions.

If you'd like to get in contact with us or find out more information regarding these Information Sessions we're available by phone 1(800) 4-FOSTER and email foster@davidandmargaret.org

About David & Margaret Youth Workforce Training Program for Transitional Aged Youth

If you would like more information or are interested in providing an internship for youth & young adults with a history of foster care please contact Jessie Sandoval Employment & Education Specialist (909) 964-1446 SandovalJ@davidandmargaret.org

For additional information please visit <http://bit.ly/TAYywtpt>



David & Margaret

YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

1350 Third St.,
La Verne, CA 91750

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San Dimas, CA

ONLINE ORDERING NOW AVAILABLE!



bit.ly/onlineDMC

- Schedule your pick up time
- Receive text message updates when your order is ready
- Earn reward points with each purchase

Check out our new menu items!

#foodforhungryhearts

Dave & Maggie's Cafe

SAVE THE DATE

David & Margaret
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Fostering Community

12TH ANNUAL GALA

Saturday, September 21, 2019
VIP Reception 4:30pm
Gala 5:30pm
Glendora Country Club

