



The Meeting of January 19th, 2017

Adoption: One Family's Experience

Redding Rotarian, Joe Ayer gave us a first hand look at the process of adopting a child. First there was the family decision to adopt a child. That turned out to be the easiest part of the process. There are multiple agencies to contact when the decision is made to adopt. Joe and Kara contacted Shasta County's Children's Services, Resource Family Approval Unit.

A few facts about foster children:

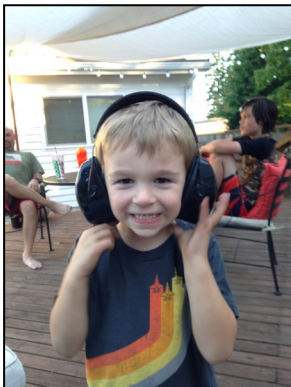
- Over 400,000 children are in foster care in the United States
- Every two minutes another child enters foster care in the United States.
- Shasta County has just over 450 children in foster care.

The process starts with home visits, interviews, background checks, fingerprints, CPR/First Aid testing and financial checking. It seems the process goes on and on. Personal questions about your work, marriage and home life are standard.



Day One

An interesting thought from Joe was when telling his children they were trying to adopt a new family member, the kids thought it was like adopting a new puppy. It all boiled down to letting the kids know we get what comes our way. During the process of selecting the child they were told the child would be a boy and was two and one half years old. He was being taken away from a family and would be available soon. Suddenly Joe and Kara got a phone call and said they needed to take the child that very day. The boys name is Brandon. Once he arrived it was obvious he had been abused. There were bruises on his legs and a knot on his skull. Brandon would not give them direct eye contact. It was difficult if not impossible to get any response from him.



A Happy Brandon

During the first week in the Ayer's home there were 11 appointments to keep. Some were at home, some were at agencies, some were with attorneys. The list went on and on. The child has an attorney, the County has an attorney and the biological parents each have an attorney. The goal during the first six months is reunification with the biological family.

During this time Brandon had nightmares and threw violent tantrums. To the author this sounds like post traumatic stress. This means Brandon was seeing a psychologist as part of his therapy and treatment.

Adoption: One Family's Experience

The usual process takes about six months. In the case of Brandon joining the Ayer's family, it took three years. Joe's comment was the process is almost overwhelming. It is very expensive, with all the people involved it couldn't be anything else. Joe feels the adoption process in California is broken. In the question period one Rotarian, who had worked with the adoption process in another state said people say stay away from California if you want to adopt a child.



Joe and family today.

Diana Wagner from Resource Family Approval was next to speak. She mentioned there are 466 children waiting now to be adopted in Shasta County. Many have been abused. Many have been commercially exploited. Many are from homes whose parents have been drug addicts. All of these conditions are the worst that anyone can possibly imagine.

Once approved the child is placed in the foster home for care. Depending on the Resource Family goals the placement could lead to adoption or legal guardianship. Family Resource doesn't guarantee placement of the child. These decisions are made by the child's County Worker and the courts.

RFA focuses on lifelong relationships. In the case of the Joe Ayer's family Brandon has been legally adopted. He is a happy boy, knowing those around him love and care for him.



Honor to Youth presents Sofia from Turtle Bay. She has been a volunteer coordinator for two and one half years. She excels in education, horticulture, animal care and special events. Her school involvement includes clubs, sports and outside activities. Sofia attends karate classes three nights a week and attained the first rank of Black Belt.

Sofia has always been interested in the stars and space. She is considering a career in astrobiology. She is also looking at medicine.

Honor to Youth is honored to present Melina from West Valley High School. She was selected for her academic excellence, leadership skills and community service. She is on the principals honor role.

Melina has a GPA of 3.66 and achieved other honors and awards. School involvement includes golf, dance and Gear Up. She has been a leader in SOAR, 4-H and Future Farmers of America.

She plans to attend Texas A&M University to major in genetic



Jim Schlueter has achieved his Blue Badge. Congratulations Jim!!!

President Ray's Recognitions

Starting things off came comments from **John Dunlap**. Prez Ray showing his appreciation for John comments acknowledged John by accepting a \$200 donation. Thanks John!!!

Next came **Tom Semingson's** comments that cost him a century note. Thanks Tom.

Gary Engel was then recognized for his continued support of Redding Rotary and his generosity especially by donating a free 8 X 10 picture to those who had a picture taken at the recent Redding Rotary Christmas party. If you haven't received your picture contact Gary.



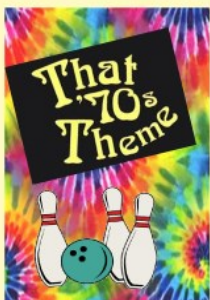
Finally **Kathy Malain** was caught on camera pretending to be a bull fighter. This image was evidently taken in Spain. Kathy made it clear that she was not in the bull ring but only pretending to face the bull. She was also seen in Portugal visiting the places of interest. This great time motivated Kathy to donate \$100 for the Spain visit and another \$100 for her good times in Portugal. Very much appreciated Kathy!!!



Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m. at The McConnell Foundation

Calendar

January 26th	Catalyst Youth Center—Aaron Hayes
January 28th	Wild Game Dinner — McConnell Foundation 6:00 p.m.
February 2nd	Girls on the Run — Joanne Cosetti & Clair Johnson
February 9th	Matilde our exchange student. Valentines Day Special Meeting
February 16th	Oshkosh: For Those Who Love Aircraft, Tom Stovall Greg Balkovek
February 25th	Bowlathon See ad below!!!



Keyway Bowl-A-Thon

Saturday, February 25th
Shasta Lanes (Off Lake Blvd.)

Check-in 6:00pm

Bowling 6:30pm - 8:30pm, Awards 8:30pm

Team Registration Fees are \$200, \$50 per Bowler

Support Keyway
by signing up for a team!

70's Tie-Dye Theme

Email Eva Jimenez for a
Sponsor form

Adopt-A-Family 2016

Adoptions are open November 1 – December 4

We thank you in advance for helping brighten Christmas for a family in need.

Please visit NVCSS.org for details.

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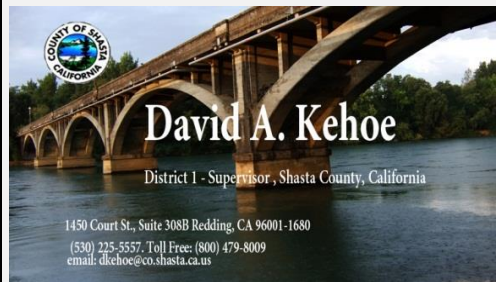
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