



The Blue Ribbon

An Important Update for Orange County
Child Abuse Prevention Council Newsletter

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A Call for Resource Families



Every month, approximately 2,200 children in Orange County cannot live with their birth parents because of abuse and neglect and are placed in out-of-home care. For many of these children, resource parents provide them with security and a nurturing home. Currently, there is a great need for resource parents in Orange County who are willing to care for children struggling with complex trauma. These children are brothers and sisters, teenagers, and young adults – and some may have medical challenges. These children need the support and commitment of a dedicated adult. They need you.

Supportive resource parent relationships are characterized by a sense of safety, compassion, and commitment. Resource parents can create a secure base for children in their care by being available, helping them manage their behaviors and feelings, building their self-worth, and helping them feel like they belong in the family.

Those interested in becoming resource parents are not required to have prior parenting experience or special qualifications. What children need most are loving individuals in their lives who are willing to meet the challenges of parenting and make a lifetime commitment to them. However, there are some basic requirements that need to be met in order to be approved as a resource parent:

- Be 18 years old or older and in good health
- Own or rent your residence
- May be single, married or in a domestic partnership
- Have sufficient income to meet your own financial needs
- Provide a child their own bed and space to store their belongings
- Support and maintain the child's family ties, which include their biological parents, siblings and extended family members
- Work in partnership with Social Services staff to ensure the best care for the child

Create a safe place for children where healing happens, hope is restored and spirits are renewed. Become a resource parent. For more information about the process to become a resource parent, visit www.oc4kids.com or call (888) 871-5437.

CAPC Trains Professionals in Child Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Intervention



The fields of social work, public health, and law enforcement continue to grow and change over time. With new advances in technology, medicine, and treatment models,

now more than ever, it is important, to receive timely, useful, and accurate information. Starting fall of 2018, in response to the call for year-round training, Orange County's Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC), will focus on providing Continuing Education Units (CEUs) at no charge to professionals.

The goal is to provide trainings that will better equip those in the field to serve clients, grow in the latest knowledge, and reinforce consistent professional standards and expected practice behaviors. In addition, these trainings will provide opportunities for attendees to network with other professionals, share and learn about upcoming events, and serve as a free resource for renewal of credentials. The trainings will help satisfy continuing education requirements for the following licensed professionals:

- Continuing Medical Education (CME)
- Continuing Education Unit (CEU)
- Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) credits
- Continuing Legal Education (CLE)

Whether or not CEUs are needed, these trainings are valuable for professionals listed above. CAPC continuing education follows a trauma informed care approach and focuses on the most relevant topics for professionals today. Look for the launch of CAPC trainings this fall.

Give Newborns Hope



California Safely Surrendered Baby
There Are Options. Don't Abandon Your Baby.

No Shame | No Blame | No Names

1-877-222-9723 (1-877-BABY-SAF)

In 2006, the Safely Surrendered Baby Law was signed as a state law with the purpose of saving the lives of newborn infants at risk of abandonment. All 50 states in the U.S. have such laws in place. The law states that the parent, or person with lawful custody of the newborn, can safely surrender him or her within 72 hours of birth to any public or private hospital or to a designated fire station that displays the Safely Surrender Baby logo at its building. The person

can do so confidentially and with no fear of prosecution.

Once surrendered, the baby is examined and provided medical treatment as needed, and placed in a licensed foster home by child welfare workers who then work on finding the best adoptive family. Should the person who safely surrendered the newborn change his/her mind, he/she has 14 days from the time of surrender to reconnect with the infant.

The law allows them to give that baby hope. Just ask Nicholas Dyer, the first baby in Orange County saved under the Safely Surrendered Baby Law. When he was 14, he was featured on CBS Channel 2 where he expressed gratitude for being safely surrendered by the birth mom. He said, "If she didn't make that choice, my life would be completely different. I wouldn't have my family (that I have now) that I love so much." It's important to note that the law protects the identity of abandoned and safely surrendered babies, however, the Dyer family went public because the law directly and positively impacted them and their son.

The County of Orange Social Services Agency reported that from 2002, there have had 79 safely surrendered babies in Orange County. According to the California Department of Social Services, from 2001 through 2015, there were 770 newborns safely surrendered in California, accounting for an 80 percent decrease in infant abandonment in the state. Sadly, there were still 169 infants abandoned during this period, underscoring the need for continued child safety advocacy and increased public awareness about this crucial child welfare law.

For more information, go to www.babysafe.ca.gov or call California Safely Surrendered Baby toll-free **(877) babysaf (222-9723)**.

CAPC Council Member Spotlight

Katherine Ahlswede



*Community Leaders Serve on
Orange County's Child Abuse Prevention Council*

Raise: Tell us a little bit about yourself. What inspired you to promote the well-being of children through your work?

Katherine: I was born and raised in Orange County where my parents instilled in my brother and me that we have a responsibility to act with generosity and help those around us. For me, helping the well-being of children was a natural fit because the first time I gave back to the community was when I was a child. I wanted the children around me to live a good life and to be happy. I have carried that throughout my life with my work and have seen how so many factors (e.g. society, the economy, environment, the family unit, education, and policy) can impact us. I think the best place to start is with children so that we can keep the future on a positive trajectory!

Raise: How are you or your organization contributing to the mission of child abuse prevention?

Katherine: I am a member of the Junior League of Orange County, CA Inc. (JLOCC), whose vision is to build a better community in which the health, safety, and education of all individuals are promoted and supported. We have been training volunteers and solving issues in Orange County for over 60 years and in particular, have taken to heart helping at-risk youth. We provide hands-on volunteering opportunities for our members to train and mentor youth through our community projects. We also educate the community, our partners, and stakeholders on issues associated with family support, violence prevention, human trafficking, health, and education.

I have worked with legislators and community stakeholders on developing policy to help stop child abuse. An area that I have helped move forward includes expanding services for victims of human exploitation and trafficking. This encompasses efforts like making sure commercial sexually exploited children (CSEC) victims can testify in judges' chambers. I also worked with community stakeholders and legislators on long-term housing solutions for foster and/or homeless youth who don't have a forever home. I will continue to be an advocate and speak up to end the cycle of child abuse.

Raise: As a result of your efforts, what do you hope to see accomplished in Orange County to keep children safe, healthy, and happy?

Katherine: I want to see more people at the table fighting for our children. I hope to open the eyes of others as to how horrible and wide spread human trafficking and exploitation is and that it sees no socio-economic boundaries. I want to see all our children understand that they are important, they are valued, and they are loved.

The Raise Foundation convenes Orange County's Child Abuse Prevention Council as officially designated by the Orange County Board of Supervisors (Resolution No. 74-492) in 1974. This is in keeping with the California Welfare and Institutions Code (Section 18982) which requires every county to have a child abuse prevention council. As a "community council," its primary role is focused on coordination of the community's efforts to prevent and respond to child abuse. Child Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council Member Katherine Ahlswede shares her passion for keeping Orange County's kids safe, healthy, and happy.