



Building a foundation for life.

MAY 2021

A Note From Andrea Evans, CEO National Foster Care Month

This month and next month we celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day. On these days, we honor the love given by those that either are our biological family, or those we have personally adopted as ours, or have been given to us as "mom and dad".

At VTR we work with children and youth in need of a safe and stable place to live while their parents work through various struggles (incarceration, addictions, their own history of abuse, mental illness and more). Our staff, along with our resource parents, provide the support for these children as they navigate the separation from their parents.

The first and foremost purpose of foster care is restoration of the family, which means most resource parents will be helping their foster children return to a safer, more stable home. We are grateful for the loving and caring homes that our resource parents provide to these children while often stepping into a mentorship role with birth parents as they navigate the reunification process. While we celebrate both Mother's and Father's Day, please say an extra prayer for not only the birth parents to the youth we serve, but also for our resource parents as they continue to love these children in their care.

This Month we Honor National Foster Care Month. If you have ever considered helping a child or teen, please contact us and find out about becoming a resource parent/family.



For more information on becoming a Resource Family for Foster Care visit our website or Email ffa@valleyteenranch.org

VTR Annual Celebration Online Auction

September 17th-24th

For more information, to volunteer or to provide a donation please contact: charise.hansen@valleyteenranch.org

Valley Teen Ranch is hiring for the position of "Direct Care Staff" at the Ranch. For more information, contact hr@valleyteenranch.org

Visit our WISH LIST

at valleyteenranch.org, Ways to Give



The Boucher Family at their daughter's wedding

Above: Their oldest son with the children, his girlfriend, and their former foster daughter

The Boucher Family

Their faith in God's call

Derek and Renee Boucher are one of our Resource Families at VTR. From 2012 to 2016 three children joined their family. Derek and Renee already had three children, but knew that God was calling them to explore foster care and adoption.

The first children they fostered was a brother and sister who successfully reunified with their biological family. Derek said, "Reunification is like redemption in the Christian faith. When a child is in the process of reunification with their family, the foster parents serve as mentors to support the family. It feels good being a part of working with VTR to assess the tools these parents need to become successful in healing their family."

A second emergency foster placement was unable to reunify with their family and they officially adopted him soon after. They later took an emergency placement of a baby boy that resulted in an adoption 18 months later, his baby sister joined their family, as well. Just this last month, they supported the successful reunification of a toddler after a year in their home. Today, the Bouchers feel called to support emergency placements, when needed.

The Bouchers also talked about how it is not always easy blending foster/adopted children with a biological family. Some friends or family didn't support their choice, and at times, their biological children had a hard time initially accepting more children in the family. Derek and Renee always had open conversations with everyone, supported where they were in the process and considered the best decision for everyone. Now, all of their children are typical siblings! The Bouchers know that their compassionate acceptance of others is pronounced and encouraged by their faith in God's call.

Earth Angels Helped Me

An Interview with Jonathan, Former Foster Youth at the Ranch

When Jon was a teen, he was placed in foster group homes. He was emotionally unstable due to many things that happened in his life. Although placed with his grandparents, Jon ran. He said he would understand later that whenever anyone got too close, his emotions would surface. He believes now that he was running away from his feelings, not the place where he was at.

One of the first things he said was, "Out of 26 foster placements, I was at VTR the longest amount of time". He said VTR staff like Mr. Berry, and especially Dr. Leslie Hoyt, helped him to begin to look at why he created trauma induced experiences

with others, self-sabotaged, and why he could not face nor control all the emotions he had.

Today Jonathan wants to help others face their fears and make a better life for themselves. He works from his studio teaching classes to help others with art expression, breathing exercises, making the heart/brain connection, understanding what it means to be in the present moment, healthy eating, overcoming addictions and more.

Jon said when he looked back through his life, he feels he was surrounded by people (that he calls earth angels) that were always there to help and guide him in his journey toward healing.



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National Foster Care Month

The Assisteens Gift of Blankets for the Ranch

Every year, the Assisteens bring beautiful hand-tied blankets to VTR for the benefit of the foster youth at the Ranch. If you walked through the bedrooms, you would see one of their blankets on almost every bed! The boys find comfort in those blankets, and they get to take them when they leave.

The Assisteens are youth grades 7-12 that volunteer and are a part of the Assistance League of Fresno. Thank you Assisteens!



CHARITABLE
CONTRIBUTION



The Ray of Hope fund is dedicated to the services that directly support program services. Give online valleyteenranch.org

Text "GIVE2VTR" to 73256

To give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply.

For Credit Card Gifts

To donate online go to our website at valleyteenranch.org or use the options below.

For a printout of our Wish List, go to valleyteenranch.org "Ways to Give" and "Charitable Giving"

To Donate Online

