



Fresno Fatherhood Collaborative

Inside this issue:

Fan Appreciation	1
POPS Spotlight	1
Shawn's Message	2
Gifts for Kids	2
Peer Group Meeting	3
Announcements	3
Calendar of Events	4

Fan Appreciation Day

By: Jon Hart, Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps

Indiana Pacers, NBA, and Fresno State alumnus star, Paul George, decided to use some of his newfound wealth to make others happy. After signing a max contract in the offseason, Paul George decided to buy every single one of the seats available for Fresno State's Nov. 16 basketball game at the Save Mart Center, against Cal State Northridge and simply give them away for free.

Not only was this a way for Paul George to make others happy, but this was also an

opportunity for the Fresno EOC, Proving Our Parenting Skills (POPS) Program Staff to get tickets to share with the Fathers and families in the POPS program. During this event, POPS Case Manager, Jason Boatwright, and POPS Community Outreach Specialist, Jon Hart, had the opportunity to watch the game with several fathers from the POPS program. This was a great opportunity for the POPS staff and fathers they work with to interact on

a personal level, and build interpersonal relationship skills, away from the class and office setting. It was great seeing the Fathers get together, bond, laugh, and cheer on the Fresno State Bulldogs. The evening ended with the Fresno State Bulldogs ending the game victorious, with a lopsided score of 80 to 63.



IN THE POPS SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight: Dyale Jones

By: Jason Boatwright, Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps



Dyale Jones, POPS Participant

Dyale Jones is a young father in the POPS program who is not only working towards changing his own life, but working on making a difference in the lives of others.

After completing the 24/7 DADS and Love Notes classes, he mentioned wanting to stay involved in the program. It was then that he took the initiative and enrolled in the New Beginnings substance abuse classes offered at the Local Conservation Corps base. He has successfully completed the required 12 classes, but has

continued to attend the classes and is now becoming a voice to the other men in the classes.

When asked why he has continued to attend the classes, he mentioned "I am having another child and now realize remaining sober is important to my own success as a man and as a father. I also want to be an example to others who struggle with substance abuse showing them that living a clean and sober life is possible." He also sits on the student council as

the treasurer and is an shining example to all of the other young fathers in the POPS program.

Dyale recently completed the POPS Ambassadors training and will soon be working with the POPS staff by assisting them with teaching the 24/7 DADS classes to others. He will also be graduating with his diploma in December of 2014, and already has his sights set on attending Fresno City College.

A Message From Shawn

POPS Collaborative Partners

- County of Fresno Veterans Services
- San Joaquin Valley Veterans/ WestCare
- Department of Child Support Services
- **Fresno EOC**
 - Employment & Training
 - Local Conservation Corps
 - Sanctuary & Youth Services
- Fresno Housing Authority
- Fresno Street Saints
- First 5 Fresno County
- Marjaree Mason Center



- Shawn Riggins, Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps Director

Several years ago, while I was playing with Jade when she was around 4 or 5, she told me, "Daddy, you are so funny!" For the past 10 years, every chance I get, I have tried to make Jade laugh. People who know "work Shawn" would never recognize "home Shawn". My firm work exterior is replaced by a silly persona whenever I am around my daughter. I truly am a better person when I am with her. Since Jade was 2, her mother and I alternate every week having Jade at our houses. When she is at Michelle's, I feel old. When she returns to my house, I feel rejuvenated. This has nothing to do with my lovely wife, Andrea. We have a great time together and she is my soul mate, but Jade is my baby girl.

Now that Jade is getting older, I am able to interact with her on a different level. This past Saturday night was the Fresno EOC Christmas Party. Jade attended the party with Andrea and myself and since Andrea could not dance due to breaking her toe, I spent the night dancing with Jade. I know I cannot dance as well as I could when I was younger, but we spent the whole night dancing to mostly everything, including cumbias, one of my favorite genres to dance to.

I hope one day when I am gone, Jade will be able to think back on her father who made her laugh and danced all night with her.

Toys for Kids of All Ages

By: Phoua Vang, Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps

Christmas is just around the corner. Do you need a little help to finish your Christmas shopping for the special kids in your life? To help you, we have come up with a list of five items of the best toys for any aged children.

1. Easy Bake Ultimate Oven: It's perfect for baking up sweet treats for your kid's next tea party, like mini red velvet cupcakes or chocolate chip cookie bites. Ages 8 and up. Available in most retail stores.

2. Red Toolbox Toolset: The tools in Red Toolbox kits are specifically designed to fit a child's grip. Available in a variety of sets—from toolsets like this one (10 pieces, including a hammer, handsaw, and safety goggles) to kids' woodworking kits for building every-

thing from birdhouses to a tabletop air hockey game—Red Toolbox products help to create great parent-kid bonding time. Ages 8 and up. Available at Lowes.

3. Creatory: *Toys of the Year pick.* For Lego fans who are looking for the next great thing, consider this board game that can be built and played. And then rebuilt and played again, in a new way, with a new theme. 7 and up. Available at most retail stores.

4. Crayola Play N Fold Art Studio: This desk offers your little ones a space to express their creativity. The desk can quickly change from an easel to a chalkboard for your kid to paint or draw. Ages 3 and up. Available at major retail store.

5. Remote Controlled Helicopter: With the remote control, kids can take to the air with the helicopter. It is design to help kids learn the basic of remote controlled flight. Ages 8 and up. Available at most retail stores.



Peer Group Meeting: AIDS and HIV

By: Phoua Vang, Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps

Over the years, AIDS and HIV have been prevalent across the United States affecting children, adults, and elderlies. The Center for Disease and Control report that more than 1.1 million people in the US are living with HIV infection and almost 1 in 6 (15.8%) are unaware of their infection. According to Fresnohivtesting.com, Fresno County has about 5,400 people are living with AIDS.

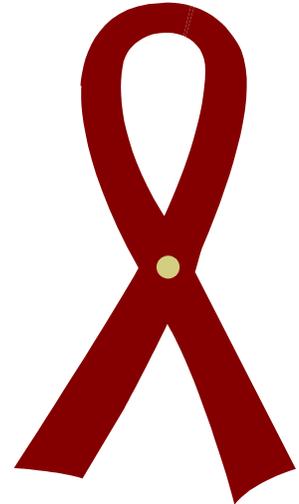
On Friday, November 15, 2013, POPS hosted a peer group meeting on the topic of HIV and AIDS. 28 POPS participants and students attended the peer group meeting. The meeting began with the screening of the narrative film, *Reflection*. The film was created by Scenarios USA designed to bring HIV/AIDS awareness and education for teens across the United States. *Reflections* centers on three teenage friends dealing with real life

relationships and how quickly their life can turn upside down by HIV/AIDS. The three friends found the courage to get a HIV test from the local clinic. After the results, two friends are forced to watch helplessly as their friend battles HIV.

HIV/AIDS is an important topic to dialogue with the young fathers in the program and the young adults presented. In the recent years, the rate of HIV has increased in the teens and young adult populations. According to CDC, 39% of all new HIV infections in 2009 involved young people aged 13-29. Many programs exist to educate the young people about HIV/AIDS. The CDC has reported that HIV awareness and testing programs have prevented more than 350,000 HIV infections every year.

Fresno has several sites that people can receive HIV testing anonymously. HIV counseling referral and treatment referral services are also available on

site. For the nearest location, please visit <http://www.fresnohivtesting.com/fresno-hiv-testing-locations>.



Announcements



Welcome to the POPS Team!
Arturo Reyes (left), Sanctuary POPS Case Manager and Ulysses Dunn (right), Sanctuary Fatherhood Ambassador



Congratulations to Fresno EOC Sanctuary and Youth Services Love Notes grads!

Announcements continued from page 3



New 24/7 Dad Classes

The 24/7 DAD curriculum is an exciting, new and interactive way for fathers 45 years old and under to gain knowledge and learn to use parenting skills to improve their relationships with their children and their children's mother. Come and be a part of a voluntary program that will boost your confidence and build your self-esteem as you learn to be a positive influence in your children's life!

Location: Fresno EOC Sanctuary Drop-In Center
2336 Calaveras
Fresno, CA 93721

Session Dates/Time: December 10, 12, & 19 from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM
December 17 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

SNACKS, INCENTIVE ITEMS, DAILY RAFFLES, & BUS TOKENS WILL AVAILABLE UP-ON COMPLETION.

For more information or to sign up, please contact: Arturo Reyes, POPS/ESG Case Manager at (559) 498-4543 ext. 206 or arturo.reyes@fresnoeoc.org.



Schedule of Events

- 24/7 Dad Classes at Fresno EOC NYC (Open Enrollment)- Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 to 5:30 PM.
- CHOICES Anger Management Monday's at EOC NYC- from 3:30 to 5:30 PM (Open Enrollment).
- CHOICES Anger Management at WestCare (Closed Group)- Tuesdays from 10:00 AM to Noon.
- 24/7 Dad Classes at Fresno EOC Sanctuary Drop-in Center (Open Enrollment)- Tuesday & Thursday from 3:00 to 6:00 PM (Dec. 17th: 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM)

December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 CHOICES	3 24/7 Dad NYC	4 24/7 Dad EPU	5 24/7 Dad NYC	6	7
8	9 CHOICES	10 24/7 Dad NYC 24/ 7 Dad SYS	11 24/7 Dad EPU	12 24/7 Dad NYC 24/ 7 Dad SYS	13	14
15	16 CHOICES	17 24/7 Dad NYC 24/ 7 Dad SYS	18 24/7 Dad EPU	19 24/7 Dad NYC 24/ 7 Dad SYS	20	21
22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28
29	30	31				



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