



Building a foundation for life.

MAY 2022



A Note From Andrea Evans, CEO

Happy 35th Anniversary to Valley Teen Ranch!

In May of 1987, Valley Teen Ranch was birthed into the nonprofit world. With a heart from leaders of Youth for Christ, and the leadership of Connie Clendenan, CEO for over 30 years, thousands of children, teens and young adults have been helped.

VTR Builds a Foundation for Life through our support services that provide for basic needs of vulnerable children, youth, and young adults who are victims of abuse, abandonment, neglect, trauma, homelessness, or have a history of delinquent behavior. Through our four programs, Foster Family Agency, Adoption Agency, Transitional Living Program, and the Residential Therapeutic Program, VTR provides interventions, advocacy, mentorship, education, and personalized care.

Thank you for partnering with us, supporting our services, and truly caring about what is needed not only in their lives, but for their lives. Because of what our work means to us, we are celebrating our anniversary throughout this year. We hope you can join us through sponsorship of our annual event or with a special donation.

This month we take time to honor all the Resource Parents who lovingly open their homes to foster children. As you probably know, our counties have been overwhelmed with the amount of children needing foster care.

If you have ever considered becoming a Resource Family for foster care, please visit our website, or contact ffa@valleyteenranch.org. We have orientation classes every month to educate prospective Resource Parents on the process.

How You Can Help Foster Care Families

You, Your Church, or Community Group!

- Welcome the child/teen in your neighborhood or community with a gift or activity, basket of snacks, or a gift card for the family. The foster child/teen and biological children are going through a significant transition.
- Your neighborhood or church can consider providing dinners for a couple of weeks. As with any new arrival of a child, it is a blessing for families who are acclimating to their new addition to the family.
- As mentioned in the "Becoming a Resource Family" article, it can be lonely at times for the Resource Families. Families are tied up in care, sometimes very specialized care. Even though they have communities to, your time and attention could mean the world to them.
- Sometimes foster children/teens have important needs they have to fill because of age or gender. The costs can add up. Ask how they need help.
- Pray for the family, pray for all families who have offered their home to a foster child, teen, or sibling group. Pray for all those in need right now of a stable home.



Becoming a Resource Family

Saige Cabrera Shares Her Thoughts and Feelings

May is foster care awareness month. And as most of you know my husband and I are Resource Parents. This is hard to put into words, but I'll do the best I can.

Why did we become Resource Parents?

Sometimes I ask myself this same question. Short answer? God. It's hard to explain the calling. I know some think that sounds crazy. In fact a little joke in our foster care community is that "All foster parents have to be a little crazy to do this work" God has called us to do. However, with the experiences I had growing up my childhood wasn't typical. I made peace with it though, and am so grateful now! My past experiences help me to relate to our kiddos on different levels, to show them no matter what life throws at them they can be an overcomer.

Our favorite resources and our foster care community in local Facebook support groups, Parent Life in Fresno, Adoption & Resource Family Support Group at Action Community Church and more. Our VTR community has special gatherings during the year for parents and

children, but the larger community has only heard about each other or seen each other on Social media. But I can tell you, if we ever need anything for our kiddos or are having a rough day, they are there no questions asked, and with understanding. Also without the support of City Without Orphans, Whitney Bunker, our agency Valley Teen Ranch foster care would be harder (I want to say impossible) without them.

Lastly, and what a lot of people think about as they are considering becoming a Resource Family, is the possible good-byes. This is probably one of the hardest topics. Gut wrenching honestly. Goodbyes are NEVER easy. Goodbyes bring grief, guilt, relief, worry, anger, and lots of crying! For me, I cry a lot for awhile and have that heart breaking type feelings. Goodbyes are HARD. But we do it again and again even after we swear we won't. Why? Because these kids/teens NEED to be loved too much, to belong somewhere no matter how long or short, to be safe, have stability sometimes for the first time in their life, and the opportunity to begin healing.

VTR is Recruiting Resource Families for Foster Care-How You Can Help!

SOMEONE YOU KNOW THAT MAY BE INTERESTED

Send them our website link at <https://valleyteenranch.org/services/foster-family-agency/>

YOUR PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR Business

Employers can support Foster Care through an employee campaign for Foster Children and Youth. They could collect funding for Foster Scholarships, investment in excursions, or educational resources for families. If you have an Employee Newsletter, we would love to send you an article too!

YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL

Share information on becoming a VTR Resource Family with your faith community/school. Invite us to speak or present to your congregation, ministry group, or school parent gatherings

Raise hope and foster dreams. Become a Resource Family.

Family Foster Agency
 TEL: 559-437-1144
 EMAIL: ffa@valleyteenranch.org
valleyteenranch.org



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BECOME A RESOURCE FAMILY FOR FOSTER CARE



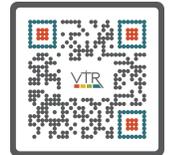
The Ray of Hope fund is dedicated to the children and youth and directly support program services. Give online at valleyteenranch.org

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.



This will take you to our giving portal



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- Foster Family Agency
- VTR 35th Anniversary
- Ray of Hope Fund
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For in-kind donations like gift cards, mail to our office or contact Charise Hansen at 559-288-1003 or charise.hansen@valleyteenranch.org

Please make donations payable to Valley Teen Ranch

Total enclosed \$ _____