

County launches foster care campaign

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Santa Barbara County's Department of Social Services launched a new campaign Wednesday aimed at increasing awareness of the need for supportive homes for the more than 425 children and youth in foster care across the county.

The Our County, Our Kids program is meant to inspire people to learn more about the life-changing experience of becoming a resource family for a child or youth in need.

"We are so excited to see Our County, Our Kids come to life and we know that this initiative is just what the county needs to raise awareness about the needs of children and youth in foster care," said Amy Krueger, division chief for Adult and Children's Services.

The county will host an informational meeting for those interested in getting involved at 1 p.m. May 14 at the Santa Maria YMCA, located at 3400 Skyway Drive.

"It's important to understand why recruitment campaigns like Our County, Our Kids are launched," Krueger said. "We have noticed that families sometimes have reservations about opening up their homes because it's truly unknown territory for them."

She added: "We want to share the amazing and heartwarming feedback we often hear from our resources families about how rewarding it is when they make the decision to support a child through some very challenging circumstances."

While the campaign's focus is on foster care, there will be mentoring opportunities as well.

For more information or to RSVP to the upcoming meeting, call 694-8070.

http://santamariatimes.com/news/local/county-launches-foster-care-campaign/article_88a8d326-7cb2-54af-86d1-316515ef9c5f.html