

SB FAMILY & LIFE MAGAZINE

BRINGING YOU THE VERY BEST OF SANTA BARBARA LIVING



SB FAMILY & LIFE MAGAZINE
BRINGING YOU THE VERY BEST OF SANTA BARBARA LIVING

CAREY BRADSHAW
is an innovative Super Mom

Mom to 213 kids
LILLIAN PIPERSBURG
delights in reuniting families

www.santabarbarafamilylife.com May 2017



Bugs...
Outside the Box

SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

May 27-September 10, 2017

NURTURE, STRENGTHEN, LOVE

Mom to 213 kids delights in reuniting families

Lillian Pipersburg encourages others to consider becoming foster parents

Contributed

Sometimes, becoming a resource family to kids in foster care is about celebrating the little things — school improvements, soccer games, and positive attitude shifts — as well as birthdays and anniversaries. At other times, it's about celebrating the sheer magnitude of a family reuniting.

At Lillian Pipersburg's house, it's about both. The Santa Barbara native and her husband regularly take trips to places such as a Yogurtland store to celebrate an achievement with a beloved foster child in their home, treating all the kids they parent as their own. But they also aim to reunite families whenever possible.

"We're hoping bio parents go through classes, training, therapy, and whatever they need to do to begin that process," Pipersburg said. "That's happened to a large degree, but some have gone on to adoption, too!"

Over the past 31 years, Pipersburg has mothered an astounding 213 foster children, of all ages and races, from infancy to 18 years old. She's African-American, and she says that she's learned about different cultures thanks to her foster care work.

"We've become very culturally aware and sensitive to our children's needs," she says. "Kids of all nations feel comfortable with us. And during the holidays we call the families and ask for their recipes to incorporate into our meals."

Despite their unique histories, children in foster care all have one thing in common: they need families to love and support them. Our County, Our Kids, a program of Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services, relies on resource families who are ready for the life-changing experience of helping to nurture and heal a child who needs a place to call home.

Deeply devoted to motherhood for all, Pipersburg has been working with the pro-



Photo by Daniel Dreifuss

Over the past 31 years, Santa Barbara native Lillian Pipersburg has mothered an astounding 213 foster children, from infants to 18-year-olds.

gram for decades now, and shows no signs of slowing down.

"I really enjoy this. We've become mentors to parents, friends with other family members, I've had grandparents in other states that I call about their grandchildren," Pipersburg says. "To me, it's not a task or a complicated thing, it's just natural for me to be a parent to them."

Leaders of the program encourage anyone interested in learning more about the many ways of becoming a resource for local foster children to attend a Resource Family Informational Meeting.

"If you're available to help, it's beneficial to them, to you and to our society," Pipersburg says.

Visit www.ourcountyourkids.org/sbc for more information.