



Santa Barbara social services host wellness day for foster kids and parents

BUELLTON, Calif - Santa Barbara Social Services is hosting a wellness day in the park to celebrate community members and foster parents who provide care for children in need.

May is National Foster Care Month.

“So today we are here to honor resource families, volunteers, mentors, child welfare professionals, and community members who all make a difference in the lives of foster children,” said Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services Program Manager Mary Anne Reagan.



Resources families are the people who care for foster children, opening their hearts and homes to more than 350 kids who are in foster care in Santa Barbara County.

“All they need is a smile, a hug, someone that can care for them,” said Lompoc foster parent Julia Parra.

Parra has cared for over 200 children in need.

“There is a lot of foster children that need to be placed with siblings in homes, so we need homes where we can do that and keep them in the same school,” said Parra.

Kids enjoyed visiting with exotic animals from the Conservation Ambassadors Zoo To You non-profit. The animals included a baby owl, a lemur, and even a baby alligator.

And it would not be a day of wellness without some exercise.

“It's a great production for us to be out here working with the kids, you know keeping them off the streets, just giving them something healthy, giving them motivation. Giving them something productive for the kids and also for the parents,” said Custom Workouts owner Marc Gatson.

There are roughly 100 kids the county is currently hoping to place in foster care right now, if you would like to get involved you can go to [OurCountyOurKids.Org](https://www.ourcountyourkids.org).

<https://www.keyt.com/news/santa-barbara-social-services-host-wellness-day-for-foster-kids-and-parents/1079294081>