

~A Special Letter for Special Friends~



This Month, FSN Gives Thanks: A Letter from the Executive Director



Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on how blessed we are as an organization and how thankful we are to the individuals and organizations that allow us to serve some of the most vulnerable families in Orange County. It is truly a privilege to be able to help families who come to FSN with a variety of needs. Some families come for information and resources, emotional support, or the opportunity to bond with other families. Other families come because they do not have enough food to feed their children, diapers for their baby, or warm clothing. It does not matter why they come, what is important is that we are there for them. There are so many of you that help us make a profound difference in the lives of these children and their families. Thank you to the Board and staff of

FSN. It is a humbling experience to work with such dedicated, passionate individuals. Thank you to COSTCO and WalMart for the almost daily donations that allow our staff to provide many of our basic needs items to families. Thank you to VANS for the shoes that bring smiles to the faces of our teens who have always wanted to own a pair of VANS shoes. Thank you to our funders for the continued support that makes our work possible. And thank you to the countless people who volunteer at Camp TLC, send donations, make COSTCO runs, help with Christmas, and acknowledge our work for your ongoing support.

As John F. Kennedy once said, "as we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." All of us here at FSN will

continue this next year to work daily to give our families hope and to let them know that the community cares.

--Linda Smith, Executive Director



Your "One-Stop Shop" for FSN News

FSN's "Possible Dream" Will Soon Be a Reality

For the last two years, FSN has participated in the Carousel of Possible Dreams, a unique opportunity provided by the Festival of Children Foundation that allows nonprofits to raise funds for their organization's dream. With the continued support of our donors, staff, and board, FSN was able to raise over \$32,000--the most of any organization that participated! FSN will dedicate the money to its 2016 "Possible Dream" to ensure that every child feels accepted, supported, and motivated to reach their dreams--for better health, stable homes, and fuller lives. An enormous thank you to our 5 riders--Damon Iammarino, Nicole Hite, Alyson Aurigemma, Janet Warren, and Joan Pohl--who dedicated months of time and effort to raising awareness for children with special needs. Check out the Festival of Children Foundation and the Carousel of Possible Dreams event in the OC Register's article here:

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/carrousel-734829-dreams-charities.html>.



Putting the "Give" Back in Thanksgiving

This year, FSN had the chance to provide 22 of our most vulnerable families with a Thanksgiving dinner. Several of our families were given gift cards to supplement their Thanksgiving Day grocery items, and others were provided with a collection of ingredients--hand-picked by our volunteers who adopted an FSN family for

Thanksgiving. One of the families adopted lost their father a little less than a year ago, leaving the responsibility of caring for their child with Down Syndrome and their two other children solely to the mother. Although their child has recently been in and out of the hospital, our volunteer, Angela, was more than happy to make the delivery,

providing everything the mother needs to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner as soon as her child arrives home again.

Share in the Spirit and Visit FSN this Holiday Season!

The holidays are already in full swing here at FSN! Just last week, FSN was able to provide the gift of VANS shoes to a 12-year old girl who had never owned a pair of VANS before and who was overjoyed at receiving one in her size. When our FSN staff also provided her siblings with toys, the parents teared up. Maria Enriquez, Parent Mentor Services Coordinator, shared: "It's these moments that remind us why we do the job that we do." If you are interested in wrapping presents, donating toys, or adopting a family for the holidays, please contact Caroline at [\(714\) 447-3301 ext. 214](tel:7144473301) or carolinep@familysupportnetworkca.org for more information.



Looking Forward to 2017: Camp TLC & More!

It's that time of year again! We are currently recruiting volunteers for our annual Camp TLC event for parents, siblings, and children with special needs. Check out our Camp TLC video from last year created by Manifest Creative Studios:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGKDC7s3XUg>.

And, as always, we are looking for board members and volunteers! If you are a professional with a passion for helping children with special needs, you may be a great candidate for our FSN board member position. If you are a student, an employee, or an individual aspiring to work in the nonprofit field, you may be a great candidate for our family reunification volunteer. To apply or volunteer, please contact Caroline at [\(714\) 447-3301 ext. 214](tel:7144473301) or at carolinep@familysupportnetworkca.org

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*Festival of Children
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Upcoming Events Fall 2016

- Thanksgiving Weekend- Office Closed.....Nov. 24 & 25*
- Last Day to Submit Holiday Applications.....Dec. 1*
- Developmental Screening at Boys & Girls Club of Garden Grove.....Dec. 2*
- Christmas Holiday- Office Closed.....Dec. 26*
- New Year's Holiday- Office Closed.....Jan. 2*
- Developmental Screening at Delhi Center.....Jan. 13*
- Developmental Screening at First Presbyterian Church.....Jan. 20*
- Developmental Screening at Boys & Girls Club of Santa Ana.....Feb. 3*

Developmental Screening at Buena Clinton Family Resource Center....Feb. 17

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