

Friends of Foster Children



San Gabriel Valley
P.O. Box 1105, Arcadia, CA
91077-1105
626-445-4542



February 2011

Issue 7

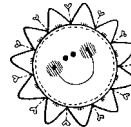
President's Message

Susan Wittmer

To all of our readers – a heartfelt, if belated, wish for a very happy New Year! I hope that your holiday season was all you hoped it would be, and that 2011 is off to a good start.

I want to offer a special welcome to those of you who may be reading our newsletter for the first time, due to the interest you expressed at Sugar Plum (or because YOU impressed US with your generosity). We hope you will enjoy reading about other projects that FOFC undertakes throughout the year, and that you may be enticed to join in and lend a hand with these endeavors. Our projects benefit foster children living in residential treatment centers (group homes) in the San Gabriel Valley, as well as newly-emancipated foster youth. We are local citizens doing good for local children. Every member of our organization is a volunteer, and together we accomplish amazing things.

If you signed up for more information about our group, or how to become a member, you will be contacted by our Membership Committee. You will be invited to join us for a brief informational meeting to learn first-hand what we do, and how we do it. (Meetings are planned for February and April.) We will also send you an invitation to our spring luncheon coming up on March 26th. We would love for you to join us for this fun event which will feature some very special speakers, an entertaining slideshow highlighting our first 35 years, good food, exciting prizes, and some of the nicest people you could ever hope to meet. Prior to that, you may wish to join us on February 19th at our next General Membership Meeting, which will feature a facility tour. Please take advantage of one or more of these wonderful getting-to-know-you opportunities. We look forward to meeting you.



Calendar

- | | |
|---|--|
| Wednesday,
Feb. 9, 2011
7:00 p.m. | Luncheon Committee Meeting
Home of Carole Rodenbucher
5936 Reno Ave., Temple City |
| Thursday,
Feb. 10, 2011
7:00 p.m. | FOFC Board Meeting
Conference Room
36 S. Kinneloa Ave., Pasadena |
| Wednesday,
Feb. 16, 2011
10:30 a.m. | Foster Caring Committee Mtg.
Cal Hanne Johnson for details
626/795-8962 |
| Saturday,
Feb. 19, 2011
10:00 a.m. | General Membership Mtg. &
Tour
LeRoy Haynes Center
233 W. Baseline Rd., LaVerne |
| Saturday,
Mar. 12, 2011 | Deadline for Gift Donations
for Spring Luncheon |
| Wednesday,
Mar. 16, 2011
7:00 p.m. | Luncheon Committee Meeting
Home of Carole Rodenbucher |
| Saturday,
Mar. 26, 2011
10:30 a.m. | Spring Fundraising Luncheon
Arcadia Community Center
365 Campus Drive, Arcadia |

General Membership Meeting & Tour

Susan Peralta

Please join us! The next FOFC general membership meeting, featuring our annual facility tour, is set for Saturday, February 19th at 10:00 a.m. at LeRoy Haynes Center located at 233 West Baseline Road in La Verne. We will enjoy a speaker, a short video about Leroy Haynes and a tour of the facilities. We hope you will come and see first hand the fruits of all the good efforts FOFC (with your help) brings to these children. All are welcome – make your plans to join us and bring a friend. At this meeting we will also be distributing invitations to our spring luncheon and sharing with you some exciting details of this important event.

Voluntary Admission Charge. We collect a voluntary admission whenever we tour a facility to show our appreciation for the efforts of the staff in hosting our meeting. We ask that anyone who wishes to do so please bring a Target gift card(s) in small denominations as a voluntary admission charge. The boys at LeRoy's appreciate gift cards because it offers them the opportunity for an off-campus outing, as well as a chance to shop and make choices for themselves.

Carpooling Encouraged – Please RSVP. We realize that LeRoy's is a bit of a drive for some of you, so we encourage carpooling. Please RSVP to Susan Peralta at 626/798-2057 or peraltabb@sbcglobal.net no later than Wednesday, Feb. 16th if you would like to attend the tour. Let me know if you need a ride, or if you have extra room in your car and are willing to take passengers. I will co-ordinate drivers and passengers so that everyone who wants to attend will be afforded the opportunity. Hope to see you there!

"Friends Are the Flowers In Life"

2011 Spring Luncheon

Carole Rodenbucher

Please remember to mark your "new" calendar for Saturday, March 26 and the "Friends Are the Flowers In Life" 2011 spring luncheon event. We will be returning to the beautiful Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Drive, Arcadia, CA 91006. The potting shed doors will open at 10:30 with our popular Second Time Around tables, the new Boutique Table, See's Easter Candy Sales, Opportunity Drawings, and Silent Auction.

This is our largest fundraiser and is only held every other year. Donations from this event will help fund the work for our Sugar Plum Tree project, and Special Friends, Pixie & Tiger, Foster Caring, and Scholarship/Emancipation committees. Our hard-working committees work year-round to enrich the lives of foster children in the San Gabriel Valley.

We look forward to a successful, fun and profitable luncheon. This can only be accomplished with assistance from our members, friends and local business community. We challenge each FOFC member to provide or procure a drawing prize, silent auction item or a monetary donation. If you cannot attend the luncheon we urge you to show your support with a tax-deductible donation.

For those of you who will be attending the general membership meeting on February 19th, we will have invitations available for pickup at that time. Start your invitation list now so that you can pick up as many invitations as you need. Your friends won't want to be left out!

If you have items to donate for the Silent Auction, Opportunity Drawings, Second Time Around Tables or Boutique Table, please contact the appropriate chairmen. The "Can You Help?" article that follows gives specific details about what is needed, when we need it, and who will accept your donations.

As we continue to work and plan, we find we always need extra hands to help. If you would like to volunteer to help with any of these activities, please give me a call, Carole Rodenbucher, at 626/285-2030.

Reminder – you can still purchase Luncheon Gift Certificates. For the family member or friend who has everything or the person you can never find the right gift for, consider purchasing tickets to the luncheon. The cost is \$32 per person, and we will provide you with an attractive gift certificate that you can present. Just mail your check for \$32 each, made payable to FOFC Spring Luncheon, to Carole Rodenbucher, 5936 Reno Avenue, Temple City, CA 91780. The lucky recipient will be able to spend quality time with you, eat, shop, and just plain have fun!

Next month: Find out how you can obtain additional invitations for family and friends, and final update on luncheon activities.

Can You Help? Support Our Spring Luncheon

Second Time Around Tables: Our always-popular Second Time Around Tables are looking for your donations of new or gently used household and decorative items. We accept **almost** anything other than books and clothing. Bring us your costume jewelry, craft items, decorative items for the home, Halloween, Easter and Christmas items, framed art or statuary, ladies' scarves and purses, unopened colognes and lotions, puzzles (with all the pieces, please!), DVDs and CDs, toys in good condition, dishes, flatware, or serving pieces, table linens, pillows, etc. (Call if you have a question about the suitability of an item.) Please contact Debi Mistretta at 626/286-3305 or made46@att.net to arrange your donation. You can drop off items on Debi's back porch at 6005 Sultana Avenue, Temple City (just north of Hermosa), but please call first and include a note identifying the donor. Deadline for donations is March 12th.

Boutique Tables: New for this event, our Boutique Tables will feature handcrafted items made by our members and friends. If you knit, crochet, sew, paint, craft, or express yourself creatively, we welcome your donations. Please call Susan Wittmer 626/358-2070 or Cynthia Juvinall 626/458-3318 to arrange for pickup. Deadline for donations is March 12th.

Silent Auction and Opportunity Drawing prizes: Donations are needed for our silent auction, opportunity drawing and gift baskets. We need the baskets themselves as well as items to fill them. We will accept a basket you put together that is ready for presentation or you can donate items that we will use to make up gift baskets. Some suggested themes are Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Birthdays, Graduation, baskets for pets, or Pamper Yourself - your imagination is the limit. Ask your hairdresser, manicurist, favorite restaurant or store for a gift certificate to add to a basket. (Some fun donations in past years have included a week at a timeshare, a Wii game system and a Build-a-Bear with outfits.) This year each home we serve has been invited to send a foster child with an adult chaperone to attend the luncheon. It would be terrific to have several gift baskets that teenagers would enjoy, so donations of movie tickets, fast food gift cards and/or snack food items would be welcomed.

If you can help with any of these items, please call

Debbie Fairman at 626/285-4305. Deadline for donations is March 12th. If you are interested in helping to make up baskets, two work days are scheduled at Debbie's home, (6002 Reno Ave. Temple City) on Saturday March 5th, and Sunday March 13th, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Call Debbie for more info.

Photos of FOFC Events and Activities: To help celebrate the start of our 35th anniversary year, we are putting together a slideshow presentation of FOFC events and activities from years past. If you have any photos that you would be willing to share, please contact Carole Rodenbucher at 626/285-2030. If you need your photos back, be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Deadline for submissions is February 28th.

Nominating Committee Named

A Nominating Committee has been formed to line up a slate of officers and directors to lead the organization in the next fiscal year. Board member Steve Wittmer is chairing the committee, with assistance from Ingerlise Haney and Cynthia Juvinall. If you are contacted by a member of this committee, please give them your courtesy and consideration, as they search for members willing to assume leadership positions. If you have an interest in serving on the FOFC board of directors (now or in the future), call Steve at 626/358-2070 or Ingerlise (Inky) at 626/281-2054 or Cynthia at 626/458-3318 for more information.

Once a new president is chosen, it will be his (her) responsibility to find members willing to chair our standing committees. Again, if you are even considering that you may be able to lend a hand in this capacity, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

Committee

Reports

Sugar Plum News

Our 2010 Sugar Plum team pulled off another hugely successful year, thanks to the hard work of our amazing volunteer staff and the generosity of our supporters. Preliminary figures show more than 5,300 gifts collected, with our totals just slightly less than 2009. We acknowledge with gratitude the tremendous organization skills and hard work of our team of Sugar Plum

cont'd on page 4

chairmen:

Gigi Andrew, Cheryl Peralta, Hanne Johnson, Donna Bonorris, Sherrill Leavitt, Cathy Cota, Carole Rodenbucher, Debbie Fairman, Cynthia Juvinall, Peggy Ulbrich, Candy Puchta, Mary Morales, Susan Wittmer, Steve Wittmer, Candyce Columbus and Carolyn Cota.

Special thanks to **Amanda Farnsworth** and the staff of Westfield Santa Anita for allowing us to once again have a wonderful location within the mall. We have enjoyed a holiday home at the mall for 35 years now, and look forward to many more. And many thanks to **D.J. Anawalt** and the staff at A&B Brush Mfg. for providing us with a spacious work area and a secure and convenient location for sorting and organizing the thousands of gifts collected.

From Our SP Committee Chairs

Specific thoughts and thank you's from Sugar Plum committee chairs.

From the Outside Group Chair (Carole Rodenbucher)

WOW! is all I can say to all our Outside Groups that participated in the 2010 Sugar Plum Project. The outpouring from the customers, staff members, church members, Boy Scouts and businesses participating was beyond our wildest expectations. I was still receiving items after Christmas from generous individuals wanting to make a difference in the life of a foster child.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the following for their efforts:

- American Trust Escrow, San Marino, Alhambra, Pasadena & the Sunset office
- Boy Scout Troop 448, West Covina
- Diane Tucci & friends, West Covina
- Coldwell Banker, Arcadia office
- Hope Christian Fellowship Church, San Gabriel
- Los Angeles County Sanitation District employees, Whittier
- Moog, Inc., Chatsworth
- Polytechnic School, Pasadena
- St. Luke Italian Catholic Federation Branch #326, Temple City
- Sam's Family Hair Styling and his loyal customers, Alhambra
- San Gabriel Valley Noblettes, San Gabriel
- The Outlet by ELS, Monrovia
- Winston & Strawn, Attorneys at Law, Los Angeles

We wish you all a healthy and happy 2011!

From the Sorting and Shopping Chairs (submitted by Susan Wittmer)

We opened our shopping room with a wonderful assortment of toys and gifts this year, thanks to the Shakespeare Club of Pasadena and the Shakespeare League. Working together under the leadership of Philanthropy Chair Annette Arce, these two groups collected more than \$3,600 to fund our annual shopping trip to Toys R Us. We filled many shopping carts full of Legos, puzzles, board games, musical instruments, DVDs, science kits, remote control cars, action figures, craft kits, and much more. We have come to greatly rely on this trip to stock up on many of the special toys and games that are popular with the handicapped youth, as well as those hard-to-find or much-requested items that we know the children will be asking for. Many thanks to all our friends at the Shakespeare Club & League for their generosity this holiday season.

Sugar Plum Closing (Cynthia Juvinall)

My heartfelt THANK YOU to all closing volunteers for making this a 'flawless' year! Not one late or missed pickup (or even frantic phone call for the lock combination). Thanks so much for your efforts - they all contribute to the goal of putting a smile on the face of a foster child.

Happy New Year! Cynthia

From the Delivery Chair (Steve Wittmer)

The Sugar Plum delivery crew worked hard, devoting their time and vehicles to make sure the gifts arrived safely at their destinations. The dedicated crew also helped pick up gifts and clean up our sorting room area. Many thanks to:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| John & Peggy Ulbrich | Joe DeMarco |
| Kurt Ulbrich | Dave Thompson |
| Allen Kizuka | Larry Brakebush |
| Jack Alm | George Fairman |
| Pete Bonorris | Bob & Carole Rodenbucher |
| Rick Morales | David Kading |
| Dennis Barry | Chris Koutsakos |
| Tom Ebert | Candy Puchta |
| Jack McCrea | Hanne Johnson |

Of Special Mention

Although FOFC receives help from many individuals and groups during Sugar Plum each year, there is one that deserves special mention. The Pasadena chapter of the National Charity League is unequalled in their con-

tribution to this project. They provided volunteers to cover many shifts at the tree (6 days), they helped out in the sorting room, and they donated stuffed animals and board games to help stock our shopping room. What would we have done without them? Thank you to all of our NCL friends – you truly make a difference!

Acknowledging Our Donors

The following list represents only a small portion of our Sugar Plum donors and supporters. To the many anonymous donors whose names we do not know, you are no less appreciated.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Apex Computer System | Randy & Karen Lim |
| Auntie Lana's Daycare | Cal & Val Magro |
| Old Navy employees | Fran Maliszewski |
| Sempre Energy Foundation | Cathy Manzo |
| The Picture People | Tom & Lori Marino |
| The Shakespeare Club | Richard & Ann Martinez |
| The Shakespeare League | Traci Martinez |
| | Kris & Steve Mathison |
| Kris Alessandrini | T.G. Metzger |
| Michelle Alin | Julie Millenbach |
| Tiffany Benitz | Joanne Mitchell |
| Gipsy Bergstrom | Olga Moler |
| Georgia Blaszcak | Patricia Nijjar |
| Rob Bowman | Sandra O'Karma |
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| Monica Byrnes | Ray Perez |
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| Tina Fars | Philomena Santance |
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| Gail Francone | Jan Seymour |
| Rukie Harris | Lila Lee Shoemaker |
| Kirk Hartman | Susanne Spangler |
| Fran Hermann | James A. Stevens |
| John Hernandez | Sandy Tran |
| Grace Hsiao | Uyemura Family |
| Michelle Johnson | Silvia Vega |
| Aileen Koskovich | Doris Webster |
| Steven & Valerie Kruse | Sandy Willen |
| Janet Lane | Katherine Wilson |
| Sherrill Leavitt | Peter Young |
| Harriet Leppek | |

Additional year-end donors are included in the Acknowledgements section.

Scholarship/Emancipation News

Steve Wittmer

This is the start of an exciting time for the Scholarship Committee. The applications for potential new students and renewal students for the 2011/12 year will be mailed at the end of January. Each year the openings to the scholarship program depend on two factors – the number of committee members and available funding. The FOFC scholarship program prides itself on the emotional and moral support we offer to our students. Each student is assigned a “sponsor” on the committee, a personal contact to whom they can address their questions and concerns. The sponsors often help the students negotiate the challenges they face.

If you think you might be interested in joining the Scholarship/Emancipation Committee, now is the perfect time to check us out. We invite you to attend one of our upcoming meetings to see first-hand how our evaluation and selection process works, and learn more about the responsibilities (and joys) of being a sponsor. **For more information, please call Steve Wittmer at 626/358-2070.**

In November, the Scholarship Committee presented the Christopher Ulbrich Award to Angela H., Adam R. and Andre S. This monetary award is given each year to a student or students that are deemed to have special qualities. Angela is in her final year at USC and is majoring in Business Administration. She continues to excel in school and is active in the USC community. Adam is in his fourth year at UC San Diego and is majoring in Political Science. He intends to apply to law school after graduation. Adam has worked as an intern in Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's southern California office. Andre is in his third year at West Point and is majoring in Defense and Strategic Studies. He is on the boxing team and was appointed a leader to help entering students adjust to West Point. We congratulate these three young people for a job well done.

From Our Mailbox:

Thank you guys for the holiday card and check. Thank you for the Christopher Ulbrich Award and the check. Thank you so much for your thoughtful gestures. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to you all! Angela H.
Angela attends USC. Joan Renken is her sponsor.

cont'd from page 5

Thank you all for all of the support and the constant encouragement!! It has been a struggle, but thanks to all of your help I'm still striving to the top!! Thanks once again so much for all of your blessings!! I appreciate it a lot!! Sincerely,
Donnisha U.

Donnisha attends Cal St. East Bay. Christina Zimmerman is her sponsor.

See's Candy Christmas Sales

Susan Peralta

Thank you to everyone who ordered See's Candy for Christmas. Special thanks to Hillsides and Steve Wittmer for selling a lot of candy. We raised \$268.30, which is great for our first-time effort.

FOFC will be again be offering See's candy for Easter, which falls on April 24th this year. Watch for details next month.

Thank You for Your Kindness

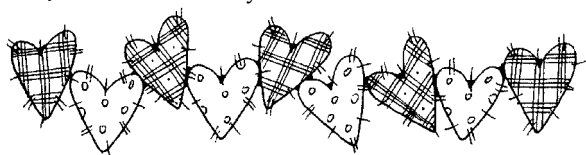
Hanne Johnson

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my FOFC friends, and staff from the group Homes, for their many cards, emails, flowers, and phone calls on the passing of my husband, Don, on December 1st.

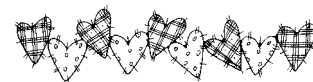
The family has been so touched by the many lovely things you had to say about him and how you missed him in the Sugar Plum Sorting and Delivery Room. The outpouring of love and the generosity of many who made donations in his memory to the Special Activities Fund will not be forgotten. The children who will benefit from these funds will have memories of their own to make. It might be their first-ever trip to Disneyland, a Dodger game, or a camping trip. Don would have liked that.

On Sunday, April 3rd, we will celebrate Don's life at the "Don Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament & Get-Together." For more information, please email me at hanne_don@earthlink.net.

Thank you,
Hanne Johnson & Family



Acknowledgements



We have received many generous donations this holiday season. For this we are very grateful. We acknowledge the following individuals, organizations and foundations for their recent donations to Friends of Foster Children:

Arcadia Real Estate Professionals
Bel Air Investment Advisors
Charles Pankow Foundation
Forest Lawn Foundation
Los Angeles Water & Power Employees Assn., Inc.
United Way, Inc.

Stephen & Kim Allen	John & Ida Hitchcock
Annette Andres	Joyce Knott
Jaya Rao Anne	Suzanne Kurti
Sandi Beebe	Virginia Maltby
Kathy & Harley Bogle	Veronica Martinez
Theron Carter	Patricia McSweeney
Jacquie Catching	Janelle Miller
Franklin & Lucy Cornell	Virginia Murphy
Ethel Cristol	Mrs. Donald A. Murray
Joe DeMarco	Gary Oltmanns
Zoe Painter Dilts	John H. Renken
Joe & Kathy Eginton	Glen & Claudia Richmann
Janet Fitch	Kenneth & Gladys Schwarz
Jean Fox	Maryann Sepulveda
Keri S. Gavin	Robert & Alvina Shonborn
Linda Grim	Ida Torres
Michelle Guzzetta	Tom & Arline Willis
Ron & Michelle Harrington	Irvin Wittmer

In Memory of Don Johnson

Pete & Donna Bonorris	Cheryl Pascua
Jim & Sherry Bullard	Grethe Petersen
Norm & Sandy Coplton	Kim & Helen Petersen
Richard & Cathy Cota	Joe & Emily Reding
Audrey Doran	John & Peggy Ulbrich
Barbara Fenske	Marta Vizcarra
Elaine Goolsby	Ace & Judith Warren
Doug & Ingerlise Haney	Carl & BJ Weckerle
Hanne Johnson	Steve & Susan Wittmer
Sharon Kobayashi	

Please see Sugar Plum article for additional donors.

Visit Our Website

If you have not already done so, we encourage you to take a moment to visit our new FOFC website at <http://fofcsangabrielvalley.com>. It features our newsletter, calendar of events, and photos of recent FOFC activities. Soon, we will have the capability of accepting donations via Paypal through this site. We hope you will add us to your "Favorites" and check in regularly to keep up with the latest FOFC news. If you have photos to share or information suitable for posting, contact Chi Nguyen at 626/409-8272 or chichi.nguyen@yahoo.com.

We want to thank Chi, a member of our board of directors, for volunteering her efforts as content coordinator of our website. And special thanks to Gigi Andrew who was the guiding force behind the set-up of our site. Gigi turned our years of talking into action, and got the project off the ground.

Ralphs Community Contribution Program

Susan Wittmer

Thank you to all those supporters who have already signed up to link your Ralphs REWARDS card to our organization as part of the Ralphs Community Contribution Program. For all the rest of the Ralphs shoppers out there who haven't yet signed up, it is easy to get started. Register your Ralphs REWARDS card to our organization, swipe it when you shop, and help FOFC earn quarterly cash.

Our NPO (Non Profit Organization) Number is 92558.

Call one of our program coordinators (Susan Wittmer 626/358-2070 or Kathy Stokes 626/798-4536) for a copy of FOFC's scanbar letter. Take the letter with you to the store next time you shop and scan it within your order along with your REWARDS card or phone number and you will be linked with our organization.

OR

Register online at www.ralphs.com. Under "Services", click on "Community Contributions" and "Enroll". Follow the easy steps.

Depending upon your monthly spending, FOFC will earn between 1% and 4% of your eligible purchases. This doesn't cost you a dime, and does not interfere with any individual rewards that you might earn. The

Ralphs REWARDS card is available at the customer service desk at any Ralphs store.

Ongoing Projects

FOFC has several fundraising projects that continue on an ongoing basis. Here is a brief recap, along with a contact person.

Cell Phone Recycling – Used cell phones are recycled for cash, which supports our general fund activities. (Carole Rodenbucher 626/285-2030)

Used printer cartridges - Cartridges are turned in for store credits, which are used to purchase school supplies. (Kathy Stokes 626/798-4536)

Ralphs Community Contribution Program – Register your Ralphs REWARDS card to our organization, and Ralphs will donate a percentage of your spending to FOFC. (Susan Wittmer 626/358-2070)

Hotel/sample sizes of soap, shampoo, conditioner & lotion – Collected for use in welcome kits assembled by the Pixie & Tiger project. (Ingerlise Haney 626/281-2054)



**FRIENDS OF
FOSTER CHILDREN**

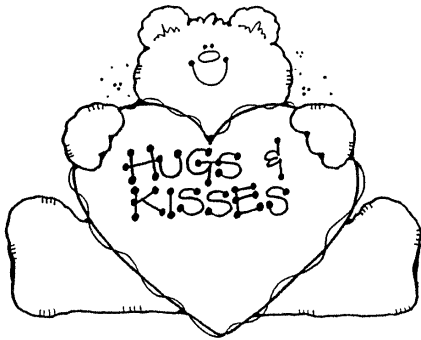
San Gabriel Valley

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*Friends of Foster Children is a
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organization founded in 1976
to enhance the quality of life
for abused, abandoned, and
neglected children in the San
Gabriel Valley.*

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*Please join us on Saturday, February 19th for a
General Membership Meeting and Tour at LeRoy
Haynes Center. Details inside. All are welcome –
bring a friend.*

FRIENDS OF FOSTER CHILDREN
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