



Thousands of low-income and foster children in Kern County have needs that cannot be met through government assistance. The Kern Partnership for Children and Families was formed to meet those needs.

BUSINESS

Business needs a strong community to succeed.

A strong community means a dependable workforce and a growing customer base. Kern County families are your workforce and your customer base.

Families in crisis need help

Kern County families who experience poverty, child abuse and neglect, or who are caring for foster children are unable to fully contribute to business growth. The limited assistance these families may receive only helps with the basics. Families need more to flourish and be part of a strong local economy.

Business has a role in creating a strong community

In order for families to invest in business, business needs to invest in families. The Kern Partnership for Children and Families works with unique programs to help families become part of a strong community. Your contribution to the Kern Partnership for Children and Families is an investment in the stability, self-sufficiency, and success of families in our community, which creates a foundation for a stronger local economy.

When families succeed, so will business.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Families need more than government can provide.

Kern County Children in Foster Care

Over 2,000 children in Kern County are in foster care. These are children removed from their birth families due to abuse or neglect and placed with other caregivers. However, the financial assistance provided for their care barely covers basic needs.

Emancipated Youth

Each year in Kern County, approximately 200 youth emancipate or “age-out” of the foster care system. Research shows that within two to four years of exiting the foster care system, 50% of these youth will be unemployed and an estimated 25% will experience homelessness. Despite the fact that 70% of these youth express the desire to go to college, less than 15% achieve that goal.

Breaking the Cycle

Teens who are pregnant or parenting need help to stay in school and earn a diploma. Graduation is the first step toward job preparation and breaking the cycle of poverty. Over 500 teens annually require additional services and support to graduate from high school or an equivalent program.

We can do more for our children.

COMMUNITY

Where government stops, the community must start.

Poverty

One third of the people in Kern County receive public assistance through the Department of Human Services. Most are children. Families who qualify for cash assistance receive about \$500 per month for housing, utilities, clothing and food; children account for 80% of these individuals.

Combining our Strength

The Department of Human Services sees the widening gap between what families need and what government can provide. By joining with business, faith-based, and other local organizations, we can strengthen the support network within our community. When we combine our strength, we can all do more to support stability, self-sufficiency, and success for Kern County children and families.

Through the Kern Partnership for Children and Families, your contribution will help enrich the lives of those who need it the most.



Through this unique partnership between business, government and community, the Kern Partnership for Children and Families is able to identify the specific needs not covered by traditional programs. 100% of your donation goes directly to meet those needs with no overhead costs.

The Kern Partnership for Children and Families

- ▶ A local non-profit organization
- ▶ Supported by business, the Department of Human Services, and community partners
- ▶ Raises funds for those unmet needs of Kern County foster children and low-income families.

Your support helps with:

- ▶ School supplies, tutoring, and incentives
- ▶ Braces, sports, or music lessons
- ▶ Drama therapy for teens in foster care
- ▶ Housing and household items
- ▶ Permanent homes and "forever families"
- ▶ Holiday Cottage gifts for foster children
- ▶ Emergency funds
- ▶ Services for pregnant and parenting teens

You can help by making a donation to:
Kern Partnership for Children and Families
PO Box 187
Bakersfield CA 93302



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**Kern Partnership for
Children and Families**
P.O. Box 187
Bakersfield, CA 93302
661.633.7001
www.kernpartnership.org



The Kern Partnership for Children and Families is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Donations help Kern children with goods and services not provided by government funding. All donations stay local.

6/17/09

Kern Partnership for Children and Families



**Combining our Strength
to Support Stability
Self-Sufficiency, and Success for
Kern County Children**

For more information, contact:
661.633.7001
www.kernpartnership.org