Back To School!

With summer coming to an end, we have back to school tips so you will be prepared!

• Make sure your child’s physical and mental health is up to date and schedule and necessary appointments before school starts.

• Mark your calendar with important dates such as ‘Back to School’ night so you are prepared and do not miss obligations.

• Help your child ease back into a routine by cutting down on TV watching so he or she will be focused during the school year.

• Prepare dinners and lunches on the weekend so you will have a stress free week!
Meet Varsity, 14!

The first thing you will notice about Varsity is his smile. He has the capacity to fill an entire camera frame with abundant cheer that resonates around him. This kiddo is all about sports. When asked what he wants to be when he grows up, he instantly said, “a football player, quarter back for Tampa Bay”. His prosthesis for a missing leg does not slow him down at all. A touchdown would be that spectacular family we know is out there and you would not need a field goal to score extra points because Varsity can fill a home with smiles, laughter and cheer...

Meet Joyna, 15!

Joyna is in search of a permanent home with a loving family. When you first meet Joyna she appears to be shy and quiet but once you get to know her you will find out pretty quickly that she is an outgoing teenager. Joyna was born in 1997 and enjoys shopping, talking on the phone with friends and combing her hair into different styles. Her favorite colors are pink and purple and she is into constant outfit changes. Joyna has started to become interested in fashion, which she may pursue in college. She is hoping for a family that will not give up on her because she wants to have stability in her life. She has had some struggles in her academics but she is receiving help from the school district to address these issues. If you think you have a place for Joyna in your home she is very interested in meeting and knowing more about you!!
As summer comes to an end, it’s time to switch into ‘Back to School’ mode. It may be tough, but it happens every year so be prepared for the 2012-2013 school year by switching routines, implementing new rules and getting a head start on how you can help your student succeed in school.

Back to School is an exciting time for children; it’s a time to catch up with old friends and meet new friends. It’s a time to learn about great historical figures and how to add fractions. For children in foster care, however, the simplest things such as receiving a new backpack or getting a haircut are not an option.

In these tough times, new school supplies are hard to come by, however, many organizations are hosting ‘Back to School’ drives to help ease the transition from summer to school for families and foster youth. Here are a few of the many ‘Back to School’ events happening in the Los Angeles area:

During the month of August, The Children’s Law Center of California will be giving backpacks and school supplies to foster youth who will be attending court or who will be meeting with investigators. The Children’s Law Center is determined to help foster youth succeed in school and in life. With new backpacks, these children will be able to walk to school with their heads held high!

The Dream Center (2301 Bellevue Avenue, Los Angeles, CA) will be hosting a Back to School event on August 11th. Inner city youth and low-income families who cannot afford school supplies are invited to this all-day event. Children will receive new supplies and be

Going ‘Back to School’ is cool!
Your child may have the ‘Back to School’ blues, but we think it rules! Many Los Angeles area organizations agree and have made the transition a lot easier, one backpack at a time.
able to celebrate the new school year at the same time! For more information and to learn more about the Dream Center, please contact the organization at (213) 273-7000.

Radio Disney’s Project Family is hosting its first annual “Back to School Drive” that will benefit the Boys and Girls Club of America. Radio Disney has invited families to donate school supplies that will then be given to local Clubs. Radio Disney AM 1110 will be at the Northridge Fashion Center from 1pm-3pm on Saturday August 4th to collect donations from the public. Please contact your local Boys and Girls Club of America for more information regarding the drive or visit www.radiodisney.com

Marinello Schools of Beauty is hosting a Back to School Haircut Day at their various campuses throughout Los Angeles County. Children of low-income families will receive a free haircut in preparation for the new school year. Supplies and backpacks are important, but looking good means feeling good! The dates and locations are:

**Tuesday, August 21**
Lomita Campus, 2418 Lomita Blvd., Suite B, Lomita

**Tuesday, August 28**
Whittier Campus, 6538 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier

For more information, please contact Michelle Morales, Marinello Schools of Beauty, at 562-698-0068 ext. 222.

Back to School season is an exciting time for children of all ages, but when kids aren’t given the right supplies, they don’t always succeed. With the help of these organizations and the many others throughout Los Angeles, foster youth have been given the opportunity to make a difference in school.
Your On-line Information Source for Adoption, Foster Care, and Weekend Hosting

The Heart Gallery is a stirring and unique Portrait exhibit of adoptable children and sibling groups sharing the same dream of having a "Forever Family".

Heart Gallery Los Angeles features a small representation of the more than 500 wonderful children currently living in foster situations that are waiting for loving adoptive homes. Learn more about this project by visiting our website.

Heart Gallery LA

If you are not ready or able to become an adoptive or foster family, there are other ways you can help these children.

Become a host family.
Spend quality time getting to know a foster child, introduce them to your circle of friends and family, and help them find a permanent family. To learn more, call kidsave at (310) 479-KIDS (5437)

Kidsave

California Kids Connection is the online, searchable database listing children in California who are available for adoption.

California Kids Connection

Each Wednesday and Sunday night on FOX 11 10 o'clock News, FOX 11's Christine Devine profiles children looking for loving families to call their own in Wednesday's Child.
Become a Resource Parent
(Foster and/or Adoptive Parent)

There are thousands of children in the Los Angeles County who cannot safely live with their own family due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment. These children need to be with a safe and stable, loving family temporarily and sometimes permanently. Do you have room in your heart for one of these deserving kids?

Call (888) 811-1121
Or Visit ShareYourHeartLA.org