



Child Abuse Prevention Council Member Spotlight: Detective Nasario Solis



The desire to help others started when Nasario Solis was a young boy. His dad's strong work ethic laid the foundation. Growing up in a gang-ridden and poverty-stricken neighborhood, the younger Solis knew that every child's life there could go one of two ways—be part of a gang as some he knew had done or help keep the community safe. Luckily for him, police officers who lived in the area took the time to mentor him and other neighborhood kids. Inspired, Solis went on to become an explorer for the Santa Ana Police Department. He was first hired as a reserve police officer for the city of Fountain Valley, and since then he has worked on thousands of child and elder abuse cases for the Tustin Police Department as a lead homicide detective in the Child Abuse Unit. Subsequently, Solis served as a child abuse investigator for the Family Protection Unit of Orange County District Attorney's Office.

While officially retired in 2013, he has continued on as part-time master reserve officer (a rather new category for retirees) for the Tustin Police Department. Solis admits his passion for working on child abuse cases is as strong as the day he began nearly four decades before. A strong family life (his wife was a nurse for 15 years before becoming a family law attorney and his daughter is now a nurse) and a loyal circle of friends outside of law enforcement has helped to keep him balanced. It is rare for an investigator to stay in such a position for that long, and for Detective Solis, working on child abuse cases has been and always will be the most important job he can do. He notes that, "Your work with victims can really affect the rest of their lives," and this is why he treated every victim as if they were his own child.

Growing up with many nieces, nephews, becoming a father and now grandfather, children have always been a huge part of Detective Solis' life. He says, "As a police officer, I know that children are the most honest, vulnerable victims and often times, those they love are the perpetrators. So I formed a passion for protecting them...to do all I could to ensure no child would be injured or hurt as long as I had a say or the ability to affect a case."

Being involved in the community has been essential, Detective Solis says. He served on Orange County's Child Death Review Team, collaborates with the County of Orange Social Services Agency and many nonprofits, teaches for the Coastline Regional Occupation Program (ROP), presents at many conferences, has been asked to consult on child abuse related issues throughout the nation and is a dedicated member of Orange County's Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC).

Serving on CAPC, he says, is one of the highlights of his career and an important part of his life's work. "The collective talent, experience, and expertise from the varied careers of the Council members—all coming together to solely concentrate on protecting children, raise awareness, and affect policy—helps to make Orange County better and enhances its legacy. All of the members of the Council are there because they truly care about kids."

Detective Solis does have a challenge for the community, as a whole, to help protect children. He says, "Be the eyes—the first-line out there. Remain observant. Go to the conferences and learn all you can. Proactively participate in child abuse prevention awareness campaigns. When you read or hear about a terrible child abuse story ask yourself, 'What can I do?' and then go do it. Something like mailing out a note reminding your friends to remain observant and to report child abuse. Or, go help a struggling family. Whatever comes naturally to you, go do it to help protect children."



Blue Ribbon Month 2019: An Overview

April is nationally recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month, or “Blue Ribbon Month”, and here in Orange County the month started out with the 25th Annual Blue Ribbon Kick-Off Ceremony at Bower’s Museum on March 27, 2019. Over 130 people attended the event and spent the morning hearing impactful speeches from community members, including resource parent and foster care advocate Miguel Alcantara, and from Sergio Prince, who presented a resolution on behalf of the Orange County Board of Supervisors. The ceremony concluded with attendees coming together to plant the first Pinwheels for Prevention® garden of the year.

During the month of April, over 80 community awareness kits and 1,200 pieces of educational material were created and distributed to family resource centers, libraries, museums, county offices, police and fire stations, and schools. These kits also included pins, ribbons, stickers, and materials needed to create Pinwheels for Prevention® gardens.

In efforts to raise awareness and educate people about the importance of Blue Ribbon Month and child abuse prevention, several outreach presentations were made by The Raise Foundation and other community members during April. Presentations were given at K.I.D.S. Head Start in Santa Ana, a Jamboree Housing staff meeting in Buena Park, the Precious Life Shelter in Los Alamitos, the Placentia City Council, the Exchange Club South Orange County, the Juvenile Justice Commission, O.C. Head Start in Santa Ana, an Eliminating Racial Disparity and Disproportionality (ERDD) meeting, and more. In total, about 527 people were reached through these presentations.

In addition to these presentations, outreach events were hosted by family resource centers and schools throughout Orange County. These events included the Seeds of Hope Community Event at Corbin FRC, a presentation at Westmont Elementary, a mural dedication at Melinda Hoag Center for Healthy Living, the Blue Ribbon Family Night and Resource Fair, and the Dia Del Nino celebration in San Juan Capistrano. The Raise Foundation also had an outreach booth at the weekend-long O.C. Home and Garden Show at the Anaheim Convention Center. Around 1,800 pieces of educational material were distributed at these events and the materials provided information about child abuse prevention, fostering and adoption, safety tips and other key initiatives.

This year's Blue Ribbon Youth Art Contest brought in over 130 submissions from schools and family resource centers throughout Orange County, all designed according to the theme "Keep Me Safe, Healthy, and Happy!" The top thirty entries are currently on display at Garden Grove Chapman Library and will continue traveling to different exhibit locations through the rest of this year.

The first place winners from Westmont Elementary and McFadden Intermediate schools were honored in May with classroom pizza parties, certificates of recognition, and gift cards for themselves and for their schools. The first place winner from Cypress High School will have their celebration this fall.

Now that another successful Blue Ribbon Month is in the books, it's time to start looking forward to next year! Anyone interested in getting involved with next year's campaign by planting a pinwheel garden, promoting the art contest, displaying winning artwork, being a part of the Blue Ribbon Committee, or learning about other opportunities, can reach out to The Raise Foundation by emailing info@theraisefoundation.org.



FOSTER CARE Month



Resource Parents Redefine the Meaning of Family

*By Helen Lindsey, Recruiter/Trainer
County of Orange Social Services Agency*

In honor of May as Foster Care Month, the County of Orange Social Services Agency (SSA) recognizes the many resource parents who have responded to our invitation of, "Let's Foster Together."

All children need a safe, nurturing and stable home. Resource families have an opportunity to provide a home where children are able to grow and thrive, while supporting the biological parents' efforts to reunite their family.

Tony and Erin Kim are model resource parents in Orange County. After researching foster care and learning about the great need for resource parents in Orange County, Tony and Erin embarked on a journey of a lifetime. Although they have adopted two children and have been resource parents to eight foster children, Tony and Erin have not wavered in their continued commitment to support all types of families.

Welcoming a new child into a family when the future is uncertain can be especially difficult. Erin adds, "Tony and I had to learn how to parent very differently while being on the same page. Our commitment to family is what kept us tighter through the challenging times. Our family represents multiple families and I feel that has been the most beautiful thing about being a resource family - our kids' biological families are a part of us. For us, foster care has redefined what family truly is." Talking about their commitment to co-parenting with biological parents,

Erin explained that, “We really saw the greater picture of foster care, which includes embracing their family and supporting those family connections.”

The Kims continue to be strong advocates for children and parents in the child welfare system, serving as mentors, trainers, sponsors of foster care events and support group leaders in our local communities.

If you would like to take the next step to learn more about fostering in Orange County or the many ways you can support a child, please call (888) 871-5437 or visit www.oc4kids.com.



Q & A with Dr. Holly Magaña: Adverse Childhood Experiences

Gary: Hello, I'm Gary Taylor and I am the Program Director for The Raise Foundation. Today, I'm here interviewing Dr. Magaña. Dr. Magaña, do you mind telling the audience a little bit about yourself?

Dr. Magaña: I'm a Psychologist and I'm currently in private practice and do a number of trauma-informed practice trainings. I have a long career of working with children and families exposed to violence. I was a Service Chief in the County mental health system where I oversaw programs that work with children in the foster care system so I have a lot of experience working with young people who are exposed to trauma and adversity. During my time working there, I was also very involved in initiatives to form a trauma-informed system of care and that has become a passion of mine.

Gary: Speaking about trauma-informed care, The Raise Foundation has been lucky enough to partner with you over the last two months to offer nine trainings about the impact of ACEs on

well-being. Do you mind speaking on the impact of this training and why it's important for professionals to learn more about ACEs?

Dr. Magaña: Yes, ACEs refers to Adverse Childhood Experiences and we are also talking about various types of abuse and neglect and other forms of household dysfunction and violence that children are and can be exposed to while they are growing up. Research has found that these experiences have lifelong consequences for children and later into adulthood. What I know from the work, reading, and studying I've done is that if we can respond to people with trauma history in a way that is informed about that history and informed about what we can do to help people heal from the consequences of trauma and adversity, we can really help people get on a path of healing. Conversely, when we don't have that trauma awareness, our systems of care can traumatize the people we want to help and exacerbate the problems and the difficulties that they're feeling. It is like a whole paradigm shift in how we work with children and families so that we can help them heal rather than exacerbate the problems.

Gary: As the administrator of these trainings, I've been lucky enough to get the feedback from the participants that have come to your trainings over the past two months. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and once again we're so lucky to have you offer these trainings. When looking at the trainings from the attendees' point of view, is there anything that you've gleaned from working with these professionals in particular over the last two months? Any new insights or feedback?

Dr. Magaña: Well it's been an incredibly positive experience doing these workshops. The people that have come to them are people from all areas of the service system here in Orange County and that helps! It's really been helping me to understand what a great system of care we have and while I know we still have work to do, people have been very constructive when talking about what they're doing well but also what they need to do differently in order to be to better serve the families that we work with. People that have come to the trainings have been very generous about sharing their own experiences and their own ideas and they've commented that it has been so nice to hear about what other people are doing. I've seen some networking going on and people deciding to do some things together and that's been really nice to see. I will also say there is a tremendous amount of enthusiasm for the topic of becoming more trauma-informed in what we do.

The 31st Annual “Pathways to Prevention” Child Abuse Prevention Conference is around the corner!

The Raise Foundation is excited to join with collaborative sponsor **California Southern University** in offering Orange County’s 31st Annual “Pathways to Prevention” Child Abuse Prevention Conference. The conference will be held on Friday, June 28th at UCI Student Center and Event Services. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. and the conference will include topics such as “First Responders Path”, “Substance Use Disorders and the Family”, “Supporting Youth in Crisis”, Resiliency, Trauma Informed Care, and ACEs. Through the education of professionals and community members, we can ensure that we “Keep Kids Safe, Healthy, and Happy!”

CEUs to be provided to conference attendees. Lunch and parking are also included.

Please register at: <https://pathways2preventionconference.eventbrite.com>

Details:

31st Annual “Pathways to Prevention” Child Abuse Prevention Conference

Date: Friday, June 28th

Time: Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.; conference concludes with speaker reception from 5-6 p.m.

Location: UCI Student Center and Event Services, 311 W Peltason Dr., Irvine CA 92697

Early Registration Cost: \$40

