



THE E-HEARTBEAT JUNE 2014

FAMILY CONNECTIONS CHRISTIAN ADOPTIONS

TWICE AS NICE

On the front of our FCCA brochure, you will see three year old twin girls, arms draped around each other and ready for the next fun thing. The lively girls pictured are Marie (on the left) and Josie Scales, daughter of Debby Scales of Temecula. The girls were not quite two years old when Debby adopted them and now they are getting ready to celebrate their tenth birthday this month.



Brochure picture - age 3

For fun, the family returned to the same spot in Disneyland where the brochure picture was taken and the girls posed for a similar one.

Here are some thoughts that Marie and Josie set to paper in March of this year:

My name is Josephine. I am in fourth grade. It's fun being in fourth grade because I have the best teacher in the world! I like to ride my scooter and play games with my mom and my sister. And we like to go to Disneyland! I love to go to Girl Scout camp in the summer and do fun activities like riding horses. I just joined a track team and I'm meeting lots of new people and learning how to run very fast. We're going on

vacation with my grandma in a couple of weeks and we will be hiking and swimming. I feel happy living with my family because they love me and they care about me.

My name is Marie and I have a twin sister, her name is Josie. We are in the fourth grade. I like to play games with my sister and my mom. I love my whole family and they love me! My favorite food is lasagna. My favorite subject in school is math. I like going to track because I am getting back in shape and I like to throw javelin and discus. I can't wait to go to camp this summer. I hope to get to go to the one where I get to help the animals like dogs and cats. We went camping last month and we saw a raccoon but it really was a cat. We fed it some eggs for breakfast. Love, Marie



Back to the spot - age 9



Marie and Josie as infants (left) and today (below).



Marie and Josie Scales

AN AWARD FOR ALISON

Alison Foster Davis, our well loved Executive Director of Family Connections Christian Adoptions for these past twelve years, received the Distinguished Public Service Award from The Pacific Alumni Association of University of the Pacific on May 31, 2014. Alison is a 1992 graduate of Pacific McGeorge School of Law.

The award honors alumni who have made exceptional professional contributions to society through public service. Alison was recognized by her peers when she was admitted as a Fellow in the distinguished Academy of California Adoption Attorneys early in her career. This was followed by national recognition for her professional expertise in adoptions when she was invited into the prestigious American Academy of Adoption Attorneys. She also received the "Angel In Adoption Award" in Washington D.C.

Alison has a reputation for generosity in sharing her legal knowledge to benefit others and for her compassionate zeal to help children and families. Family Connections is pleased to see her recognized.



Alison with her husband, Karl Davis, at the 55th Annual Distinguished Alumni Awards dinner and ceremony at University of the Pacific.

CONNECT TO CORRECT

Fresh winds of hope and change are sweeping through the practice of behavior modification. For those children who present a challenge to the most patient and committed of caregivers, there is an approach which is proving very successful. It is "TBRI" trust based relational intervention.

In early March, Family Connections social workers and supervisors from all six offices met in Fresno for a training session to learn the skills of TBRI. Karen Wood and Kim Knowlton led the workshop, using knowledge and skills they acquired from intense sessions at the institute in Texas.



FCCA staff at the TBRI training session.

The aim of TBRI is to help you understand the behavior of "children from hard places" and to give you tools to strengthen connections with them at the same time you are helping them change their behavior. It is a balance of structure and nurture and it has amazing results. Family Connections' social workers are already sharing this knowledge with families in many settings and we are committed to developing ways to promote this practice.



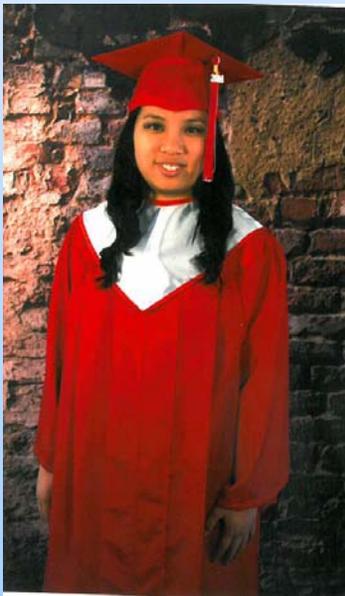
FCCA Graduates



Proud parents John and Karen Ashby attend the graduation of daughter, LizziBeth, and son, JohnPatrick, from Somerset Junior High School in Modesto, California. They will be attending Enochs High School next term.



Averi Sauer, daughter of Danny and Carla Sauer, is now a Kindergarten graduate.



Calli Rose Walsh is a recent graduate of Sandia High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico.





Gracie Hughes, daughter of Jeff and Denise Hughes, will be going into the 5th grade next term.



Caleb Drobnick, son of Jody and Erin Drobnick, receives a diploma as he graduates from Kindergarten at Big Valley Grace School in Modesto, California.



Bailey Fowlkes, daughter of Michael and Karleen Fowlkes, is now a Kindergarten graduate.



Annalisa Veronica Collins, adopted from China in 1996 by Bill and Cynthia Collins, graduated in May from Cathedral Catholic High School in San Diego. She will attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in the fall and major in sociology.