

asphaleia fostering

asphaleia fostering provides fostering services for local authorities including child placements and professional development for carers. This service ensures we can make a positive difference to any vulnerable child's life and provide homes for children facing a period of uncertainty.

We are recruiting foster carers in West Sussex and Kent!

Prospective carers need to be:

- flexible
- compassionate
- organised
- energetic

Prospective carers need to have:

- good communication skills
- a good sense of humour
- a love for children

Prospective carers can be single, married, male or female, but must:

- be over 21
- have time to give to a child
- have a spare room

If you are interested, please call 01903 522966 for an informal chat and arrange a home visit to talk about fostering. We offer training and assessment.

For further information, please visit our website: www.asphaleia.co.uk



foster v. - to promote growth

Bowling into 2010!

Foster carers, their families and fostered young people treated to bowling and a party to welcome in 2010!

As a 'thank you' to all our foster carers and their families for their commitment, asphaleia fostering organised a bowling event, followed by a party in January.

The bowling was great fun and prizes were awarded to the winning team, the best male and female competitors and best young person.

After the bowling, there was a party at the Elim Centre. One of our foster carers kindly offered to prepare the food, with other carers contributing desserts.



Bill, a foster carer, was Master of the Games for the evening, managing to get everyone off their seats! For one of the games, everyone was given a balloon to tie around their ankle. Then, everyone

had to try to burst all the other balloons while keeping their own in tact!

The winner had a cunning strategy of keeping a low profile while the rest of the competitors threw caution to the wind and charged around, stamping on each others balloons.

"The balloon game was not so much a game as a contact sport, but a brilliant ice-breaker for the teenagers at the party!" one foster carer explains.

And the food... it was a banquet! There was an endless variety of chicken, lamb, fish, rice, salads, pasta, sandwiches and dips. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the meal and soft drinks, coffee and tea flowed throughout the evening.



Towards the end of the evening, prizes were presented and then everyone offered to help with the clearing up, which was much appreciated by organisers!

"The bowling and party was a great way for foster carers and their extended families to socialise and help them to feel part of the asphaleia team!" - Carol Lusher, fostering manager

Reflections from Amir and the Valeh family

The Valeh family were approved to foster at the end of April in 2007 and had their first foster child, Amir*, three months later. The Valeh's are an Iranian family and Amir is Kurdish.

Reza and Feri have now fostered 16 young people but Amir has a special place as their first.



Feri Valeh remembers how tall Amir was when she first met him, just like their nephew of the same age. She also remembers how helpful it was that they had some shared language and liked similar foods.

For Amir, the food was just like he was used to in his home country. He especially liked the chicken and rice. The family all speak about how they enjoyed eating together.



Amir remembers not being very happy when the Valeh's told him to be home by a certain time. But, now he is older, he thinks they were right to set those boundaries for him.

Amir likes that Reza used to give him advice and Amir still goes to Reza to talk things through.

Without his own family here in the UK, Amir sees the Valeh's as people who care about him. "They are like my family here" explains Amir.

* The young person's name has been changed

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The fostering team have been busy meeting new prospective carers
- We are happy to report we approved a new carer last month!
- Dan Sanders from Harm Reduction recently presented at a carer meeting
- The fostering team have just moved into a bigger office at Liverpool Terrace to accommodate our growth for 2010!

Want to know more? Get in touch today...

T: 01903 522966 E: headoffice@asphaleia.co.uk W: www.asphaleia.co.uk

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