

Ventura Family Development Team



Kris Bennett is the Aspiranet Ventura District Director. In her position, Kris oversees Ventura's support services to foster parents and advocates on their behalf in the Ventura community.

Kris has been with Aspiranet for 14 years, transitioning from a career as a high school science teacher after receiving her Master's Degree in counseling. Her passion for helping others is evident as she works to build healthy, lasting relationships between Aspiranet foster parents and staff. Her goal is to make all foster parents feel they can call any of the Aspiranet Ventura staff for support as they provide a loving home to foster youth.



Ellyn Brannon provides support to foster families during their initial contact with Aspiranet as the Lead Recruiter of the centralized recruitment team. She communicates Aspiranet's vision for foster youth, the certification process and the basic requirements for becoming a certified foster parent with Aspiranet. She is also available to answer all questions potential foster parents may have as they begin the exciting process of becoming a foster parent.

Ellyn passionately supports the values of Aspiranet and the children we serve. She consistently volunteers at agency events. Foster youth in the Turlock office recognize her as the Easter Bunny while others consider her the face painting guru.



Mary Wolfrey serves as the foster parent Trainer in Ventura. Mary trains families in the PRIDE curriculum and then works with them throughout their certification, including writing their home studies and assisting with placing children in their homes.

In her seven years with Aspiranet, Mary has worked as a social worker, recruiter, trainer, and adoption social worker. As a mother of four, Mary enjoys getting to know foster families and helping match the families' needs to the interests and needs of children. The best part of her work is helping a child to placement with a family that can help him/her grow.



Charlene Patt is the Program Manager for Adoptions, FFA, Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care and Transitional Housing Placement programs in Ventura. Charlene's principle role is to support social workers who support Aspiranet families. She conducts annual home inspections, provides post-certification trainings, and is available to families as an extra source of support beyond the assigned social worker's role.

With 20 years experience as a social worker for the County of Ventura, Charlene brings varied skills to her position. Her heart is in adoptions and she is always gratified to see sibling groups that have been in the foster care system and unable to return to their birth families find their forever family with Aspiranet.



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Gracie Cacatian serves foster families as the Administrative Assistant for the Ventura office, providing general administrative support by overseeing daily office operations and meeting potential foster families to work with them to coordinate the completion of their paperwork from precertification to certification as foster parents.

Gracie has been with Aspiranet since 2009, bringing a strong background in customer service. Her favorite part of her work at Aspiranet is helping families understand the certification process, guiding them through each step, and being available to answer all questions they have during the process.