

Mariposa County First 5 Commission
Brief Report to California First 5
Highlights--2013-2014

The following accounts help share the work of Mariposa County First 5 Commission. This year, Mariposa First 5 funded: 1) A Children's Dental Health program for \$61,000; 2) A School Readiness Program funding three preschools (Catheys Valley, Greeley Hill, and Lake Don Pedro) for \$162,384; 3) Three Mini-Grants for \$5,000 or less, and 4) the CARES Plus Grant with California First 5. In addition, First 5 Mariposa was involved in the 15th anniversary of First 5, the Board of Supervisor's recognition of the Hero Award recipients and was present at the Safe-at-Home fairs (Coulterville and Mariposa Township) and the children's Fall Festival in October.



Children's Dental Health Program (Burney Stephens, Dental Hygienist)

The Children's Dental Health Program provides dental education, screenings, referrals and some financial assistance for dental services. Three local dentists provide a discount to assist with children who have serious dental concerns. The highlights of the program have been the dental screenings and the referrals to local dentists. Children who have been in pain with tooth decay have received services. This year the hygienist has provided dental screenings throughout the County and made over 60 referrals to local dentists. She made referrals from home visits and preschool/community screenings. This program is in its third year of funding. However, the screenings and referrals have already been invaluable. During this year, 97 children were served. The program focuses largely on education and prevention with over 50 community visits held this year throughout the County. The Dental Hygienist visits all preschools, childcare programs and community fairs and events. She provides toothbrushes and other materials as part of the program.



Transitional Kindergarten Aide

Mariposa Elementary School Transitional Kindergarten Aide (\$4,457.97)

First 5 Mariposa funded an instructional aide in the TK Kindergarten classroom at Mariposa Elementary School. Mariposa Elementary School is currently the only full service TK class in Mariposa County School District. The TK class is under the new State Law, California Senate Bill 1381, which went into effect two years ago. Under this new law, children age four who will be turning five with birthdates falling between September 1st and December 2nd are entitled to enroll in this program.

The benefit of this new Transitional Kindergarten law is to allow children to thrive early in the school setting. This early start allows children to build their social and emotional foundation, which is critical for future success, while also being exposed to the core curriculum. The instructional aide has been a real difference in the Transitional Kindergarten classroom. The children have received special attention and more one-on-one instructional time.



Sierra Foothill Charter School Transitional Kindergarten Classroom Materials (\$4,036)

The listening center and listening center cd's and books are a great learning tool. The children love exploring the book as a read-aloud first with the teacher, and then the students can see the same book at their listening center during the week. The students follow along with the book as they are listening and they make wonderful pictures about what they have read. This is great practice for their reading skills, including decoding, listening, and comprehension. The station also has an iPod that can be attached for music and to record personal stories. In addition, three iPads were purchased with a match from a parent. The classroom ended up with six iPads and used them in centers with language art activities.



Transitional Kindergarten Special Education Classroom Equipment

Transitional Kindergarten Special Education Classroom Equipment (\$1,832.98)

This Mariposa County First 5 Mini-Grant funded bicycle helmets for safety and the students loved them. The teacher said that the children became aware of the need to wear a helmet while riding their tricycles and independently get their helmets out of their cubbies if they want to ride the tricycles—safety awareness and independence! The tandem tricycles encourage cooperative play, sharing, and caring for others. Cooperative play has been observed while students are helping each other unlock the tricycles and form a careful line-up as they ride around the playground.

School Readiness Program (Catheys Valley, Greeley Hill and Lake Don Pedro Preschools)



Lake Don Pedro Preschool



Catheys Valley Preschool



Greeley Hill Preschool

The School Readiness Program has been invaluable by providing preschool to children throughout Mariposa County. With the need for transportation and services in the mountainous regions of Mariposa, access to quality preschool is needed and appreciated. The children entering kindergarten are socially, academically, behaviorally and emotionally ready for school. The program provides "hands-on" activities that are developmentally appropriate in a play-based atmosphere. The curriculum and classroom activities focus on meeting the needs of the whole child. The staff provided music, art, literacy, centers with manipulatives and circle time that focused on school readiness, including kindergarten visits. Parents are encouraged to work in the classrooms and are involved in the home

visitation/literacy programs. The elementary schools have stated that the children are coming to kindergarten prepared for school.



Hero Awards (Becky Collins and Merenda McCulloch)

The recipients for this year for Mariposa County First 5 are Becky Collins, parent volunteer and Girl Scout leader, and Merenda McCulloch, for her work with the Lake Don Pedro community and renovation of the Lake Don Pedro Park for families to enjoy and use.



15th Year Anniversary Recognition and Proclamation by the Board of Supervisors

The Children and Family Commissions across the state, now known as “First 5,” were charged with investing in local programs to improve the lives of young children during the most critical stages of development. Mariposa County First 5 was pleased to receive the Proclamation by the Board of Supervisors for serving Mariposa County for 15 years and making a difference in the lives of the children in Mariposa County.



CARES Plus Grant Training on Working with Special Needs Children

First 5 Mariposa County First 5 held a training on Saturday, April 12, 2014.

The theme and focus was that “Child care providers can successfully include children with disabilities or other special needs in the program while promoting belonging for all children.” Nine CARES Plus participants attended the Working with Special Needs Workshop with presenter Susan Thomas from California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN).



First 5 California's Hands-On Health Express is a bilingual children's exhibit that travels across California to inspire families to eat right and stay physically active. First 5 Hands-On Health Express made two stops in Mariposa County: 1) the Mariposa Library, and 2) Mariposa Elementary School. The children and families enjoyed the activities and the emphasis on health,