

# Resident Empowerment Highlights

FRESNO VIBRANT  
COMMUNITIES  
QUALITY HOUSING ENGAGED RESIDENTS

APRIL 2021

## PROFILE

### Jonita Perry has joined the Fresno Housing Family as a Resident Services Coordinator

Greetings Everyone,

My name is Jonita "Nita" Perry; I am the newest Coordinator to join the Resident Services team. I have a strong desire to help others, which led me to obtain my undergraduate

Bachelor's degree in Human Services/Child & Family Services with a concentration in Mental Health Facilitation. I plan on continuing my educational journey to pursue my Master of Social Work (MSW).

I was born in Los Angeles and raised in Fresno; I graduated from Central High-East ("Go Grizzlies!"). I relocated to Nevada and resided there for almost a decade until last year, when my family and I decided to move back to Fresno, where we purchased our first home. I am a wife and mother of three and extremely family orientated.

My background is in Healthcare. I worked for Fresno Community Hospital for several years and provided In-Home Supportive Services for seniors. Before that, I was employed as a Case Manager for The Mentor Network and served as a Job Specialist/Coordinator for a Non-Profit Organization in Nevada. I also served as a Family Services Specialist for the Clark County Department of Family Services, where I worked in the CPS investigations unit to provide child welfare/protection services. Prior to joining Fresno Housing, I worked for a Residential Treatment Facility as a Social Worker providing case planning and case management to at-risk youth.

I aspire to give back and make a difference in the lives of others and within the community. It is with great pleasure to now be a part of Fresno Housing.



## Summit shares opportunities for teens

Fresno Housing teens were invited to a Virtual Teen Summit held on Saturday, March 20, 2021. It was hosted by FH and various partners who focus on services and programs for teens.

Each agency shared opportunities available to teens, followed by trivia games and prizes. At the end of the summit, each participant received a certificate of completion.

*Special thanks to the following partners who collaborated to host the event:*

#### **Educational Employees**

**Credit Union:** Youth Financial Education

**California Highway Patrol:** Teen Driving/Start Smart

**California Health Collaborative**

PATH (Performing Above The High) & "Lock It Up"

**Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission:** Workforce Connection Young Adult Services

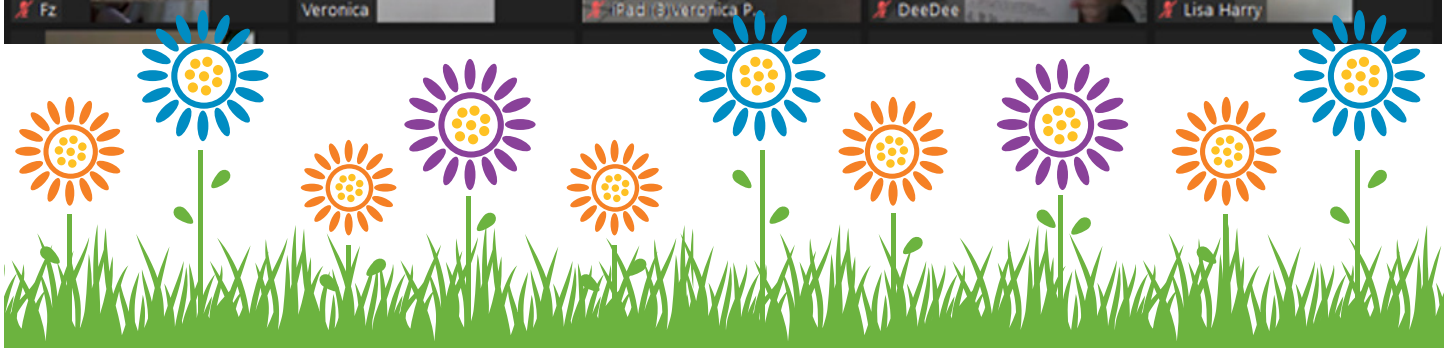
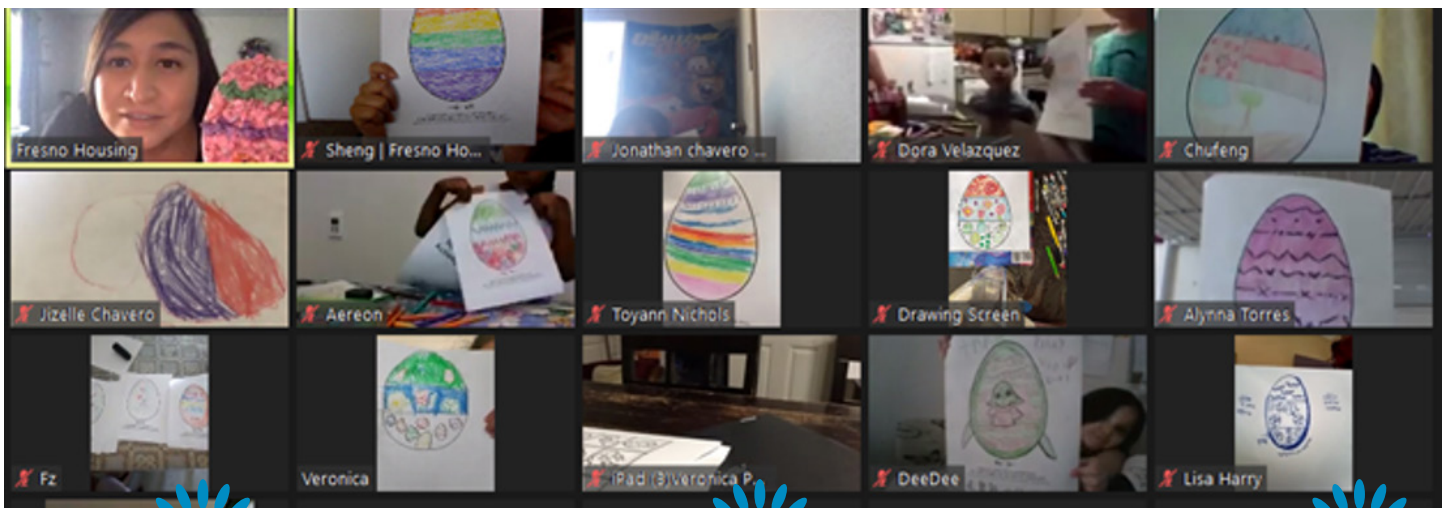
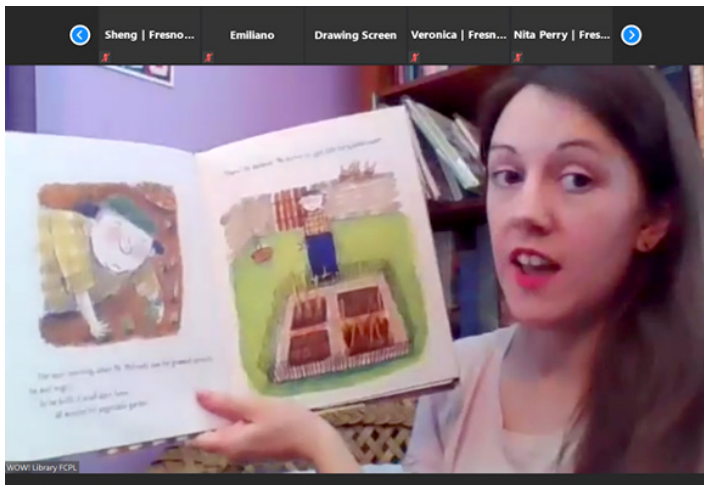
**Teen Success Inc.:** Teen Mom Support

# 'Welcome Spring' workshop provided activities and enagement while encouraging reading

A 'Welcome Spring' workshop was held for FH residents. Activities included egg decorating, a springtime book reading for children, and a spring themed Bingo game for all ages.

Annika Janzen from the Fresno County Public Library read a great story to the children about a farmer's garden and some mischievous bunnies. They promoted their book services online and encouraged residents to participate in the poetry contest.

For more information, visit [fresnolibrarypoetry.org](https://fresnolibrarypoetry.org)





## Two Fresno Housing Residents nominated for “Youth of the Year”

The Boys and Girls Club (B&GC) hosted their “Youth of the Year” event virtually on March 25, 2021. Nine club members — including two FH residents — were nominated to share their experience of participating in their club.

Each youth shared their personal account of how their participation in B&GC has impacted their lives. From being a safe place to build friendships and gain confidence to developing leadership skills.


The Fresno Housing residents nominated were Alejandro Chavez from Orange Cove B&GC, who placed second, and Milton Mejia from Firebaugh B&GC.

Club directors nominate B&GC youth, who must be a member for at least two years, volunteer in the community, have good grades, and show leadership skills. Once they accept the nomination, the club members wrote essays, submitted references, and were interviewed by judges.

For more information, visit

[www.bgcfresno.org/youthyear2021](http://www.bgcfresno.org/youthyear2021)

### YOUTH OF THE YEAR




**Alejandro Chavez, 17**  
Orange Cove Club  
Membership: 3 Years

Resilient, Go-Getter,  
Ambitious

“I strive for greatness like  
Lebron and keep the Mamba  
mentality like Kobe”.  
Favorite Food: Chicken  
Wings  
Hero: Lebron James

### YOUTH OF THE YEAR



**Milton Mejia, 15**  
Firebaugh Club  
Membership: 8 Years

Curious, Helpful, Caring

Career: Chemical Engineer  
Unique About You:  
I ride a skateboard  
Favorite Sport: Badminton  
Favorite Book: The Hatchet  
Hero: Older Brother



## Home Buyer Workshop Series

Guild Mortgage is hosting a homebuyer series of workshops that can be attended in person or virtually. The two-part series is open to anyone interested in knowing more about the home buying process.

### PART 1

#### Budgeting, Credit & Loan Process

Wednesday, April 14 • 6 pm

- How your credit can affect you when it comes to home buying.
- Should you have credit, or how much credit should you have?
- How much can you afford monthly for a mortgage and other bills?
- How can budgeting help you as you plan on homeownership?
- The overall process of getting pre-qualified and pre-approved for a home loan.
- Programs to help you with little to no down payments.

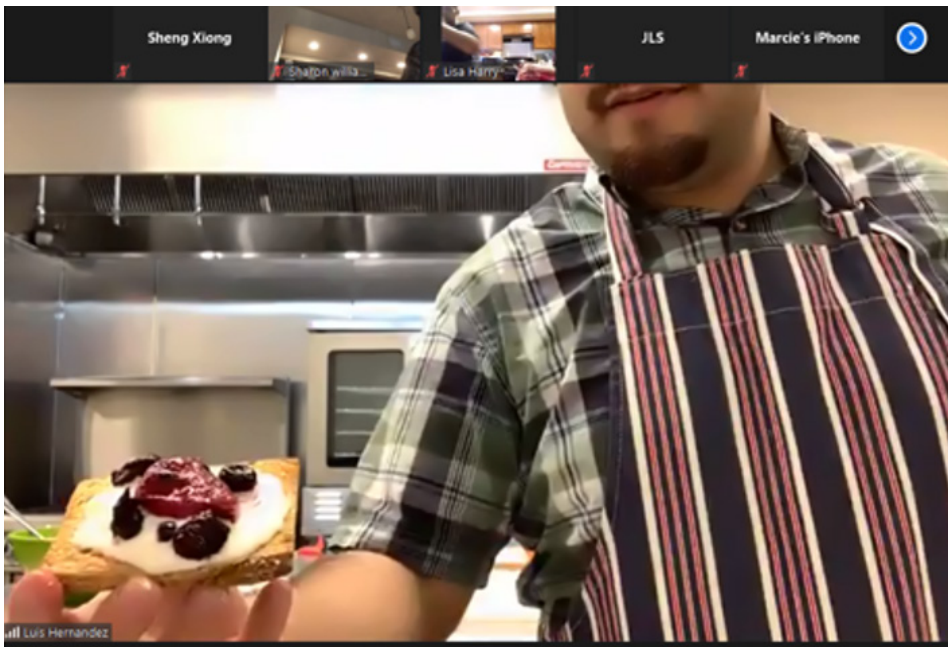
### PART 2

#### Home Buying Process & Escrow

Wednesday, April 28 • 6 pm

- The overall process to purchase your home.
- Get need-to-know information about the market and strategies as you search for a home.
- What do you do when you find the home you want?
- Step-by-step details on the process of homebuying — from selecting a home, contract and acceptance, and escrow process.
- The importance of inspections
- Differences between home insurance and home warranty, why you may need both
- Escrow, title, and how they are involved in the homebuying process

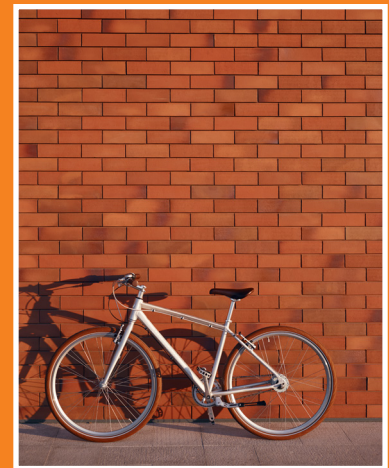
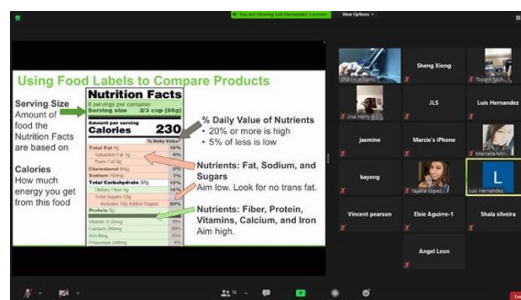
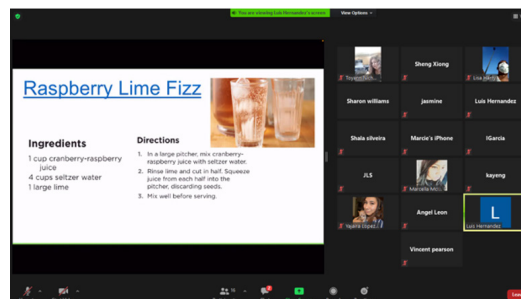
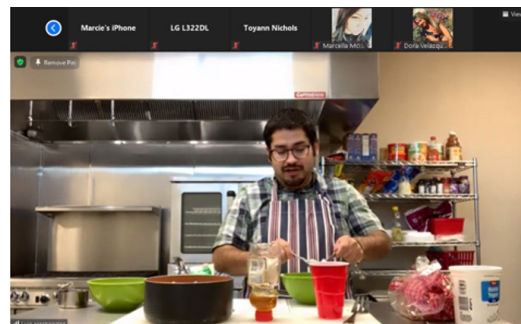
To register, visit <https://homebuyclass.eventbrite.com>



## Cooking Matters provided education for healthy, affordable meals — with a free bag of groceries

FH Partner agency, Fresno Metro Ministry, hosted a six-week program geared to help motivate families to make healthy and affordable food choices. The program, entitled *Cooking Matters*, focused on teaching parents and caregivers with limited food budgets to shop for and cook healthy meals. The cooking course, facilitated by Luis Hernandez Ramirez of Fresno Metro Ministry, was available virtually through Zoom. The class showed participants how to incorporate the key ingredients into different recipes that the whole family will enjoy.

Each week, residents received a free bag of groceries along with recipe handouts on the weeks' cooking topic. Topics included: Drink to Your Health, Feeding in the First Year, Hack Your Snack, Kids Say Yes to Fruits and Vegetables, Making Recipes Work For You, and Money Saver Alert.



## Bicycle education webinar offers free helmet

The US Green Building Council is hosting a course on the Smart Cycling curriculum developed by the League of American Bicyclists.

Attendees will learn bicycle basics, maintenance, ABC safety, and upcoming infrastructure improvements through Transform Fresno. Attendees are eligible for a free helmet. Must register to participate.

**Smart Cycling:  
Bicycle Education Webinar  
Wednesday, May 19 • 6pm**

To register, visit  
[www.usgbccc.org/  
event-4259358](http://www.usgbccc.org/event-4259358)

For more information,  
visit [www.usgbccc.org/  
bikesafefresno](http://www.usgbccc.org/bikesafefresno)