

#### **AGENCY UPDATE**

By Katherine Schwartz, Executive Director

Alameda Family Services would like to express our gratitude to Assemblywoman Mia Bonta for the incredible honor of being selected as Nonprofit of the Year



for California's 18th District. AFS has been serving the community of Alameda for 50 years with a focus on wellbeing and compassionate care for all. How remarkable to have our work recognized in such a significant way and by someone with such deep connections in the community. Thank you, Assemblywoman Bonta! This means so very much to everyone here at AFS.





## WEEK OF YOUNG CHILD

This month was a busy one for our Early Child & Family Services Division. It began with our celebration of the Week Of the Young Child (WOYC) conducted in partnership with the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Our teachers created daily fun activities for our children, and the week ended with our First Annual WOYC Photo Contest. Site Supervisor, Bing Zhang's photo of children studying the behaviors of bugs at our Angela Aguilar Child Care Center won "Best of Show" for her "Work Together-Wednesday" submission.





## PROGRAM UPDATES

## Early Childhood & Family Support

As part of the City of Alameda's Early Learning Community Network, AFS-ECFS provided over 350 activity bags to support parent engagement and early learning for children during the week of spring break. The bags were created for infants and toddlers based on the book "Little Home Bird" by Jo Empson and included materials and supplies to build a birdhouse and make bird seed feeders. Preschool and school age bags included "Dear Earth, From Your Friends in Room 5" by Erin Dealey which contained Earth Day themed activities including beans and tomato seeds to grow in their garden generously donated by our friends from Botanical Interests.

The first ever "Early Learning Community Network-School Readiness & Health Screenings" event took place at the Alameda Free Library's Dia de los Ninos celebration on April 29th. AFS-ECFS staff and volunteers provided free sensory screening, growth assessments and social-emotional screening to over 35 children. Participants also received a School Readiness Portfolio for storing screening results and important documents to support their child's school registration process.

# SPOTLIGHT: MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

School Based Services

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and School-Based Services has been hard at work developing meaningful and informative outreach for hundreds of Alameda youth. Our Mental Health Awareness campaign consisted of engaging students through workshops, informational handouts and social media posts, interactive fishbowl events with our mental health staff, creative activities and interactive art projects focused on recognizing their own stressors and coping techniques to alleviate those stressors, and more.

A special thanks goes to the amazing students in our Youth Advisory Board (YAB) and to our amazing School Based Health Center Manager, Valerie Nicolas.





For more information, check them out on Instagram: @SBHC\_AFS