



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS ADVISORY

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CONTACT: Tom Christensen (619) 515-6535

CHANGING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN *Individuals Honored for Extraordinary Achievements*

WHAT: The County of San Diego Commission on Children, Youth and Families will honor nine local individuals and organizations as STARS of our community at the Child Abuse Prevention Month STARS Breakfast and Community Forum. Award recipients include a single foster mother who continues parenting medically-fragile foster youth after losing her home in the 2007 wild fires; a former foster youth who mentors foster youth facing life on their own after turning 18; and a community champion working to protect children in domestic violence situations.

WHO: Chairman Greg Cox, County Board of Supervisors
Nine STARS Award Winners
Keynote Speaker Charles Wilson, MSSW, Executive Director of the Chadwick Center for Children and Families at Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego
Musical performance by former foster youth Wesley Davenport and CiCi Porter

WHEN: Monday, April 28
9:00 a.m. to noon

WHERE: Hilton San Diego Resort, 1775 East Mission Bay Drive, San Diego, 92109

WHY: STARS are people or organizations who **S**upport children and parents in our community, **T**ake a positive perspective, **A**ddress the issues, **R**ecognize that parenting can be challenging and offer support, and **S**trengthen coping skills.

The theme of this year's STARS Breakfast and Community Forum is "A Time to Honor And Educate." It features a keynote address on child abuse prevention by Charles Wilson, MSSW, Executive Director of the Chadwick Center for Children and Families at Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego; a safe care presentation by Mark Chaffin, PhD., psychologist and professor of pediatrics and clinical associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center; and a presentation by Daphyne Watson, Mental Health Systems Inc. and Chair of the Fairness and Equity subcommittee of the Commission on Children, Youth and Families on family finding, a program that works to locate any relative that may have a connection to a long-time foster youth.

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