



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 9, 2007

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MEDIA ADVISORY

ANNUAL PICNIC WILL CELEBRATE NORTH COUNTY FOSTER FAMILIES

Event Aims to Honor Foster Parents and Recruit New Foster Homes

WHAT: The eighth annual Foster and Kinship Family Celebration is a free event to celebrate North County foster families. The event features a barbeque picnic, live entertainment, and activities for children of all ages including canine demonstrations, fire trucks and a mobile library. In addition, a health and resource fair will provide over 25 fun and interactive booths for the families focused on nutrition, physical activity, access to healthcare and other important topics. A special awards presentation will honor outstanding North County foster and kinship families.

The picnic is sponsored by the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), Green Oak Ranch, New Alternatives, Inc., The California Endowment, Straight from the Heart, North County Lifeline, and Connected Through Kids.

WHO: Caroline Smith, Office of Bill Horn, Fifth District, County Board of Supervisors
Nick Macchione, Deputy Director, Health and Human Services Agency
Patty Boles, President, North County Foster Parent Association
Barbie Caldwell, Director, Connected Through Kids
700 foster parents and kinship providers and their foster, adoptive and birth children

WHEN: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (12:00 – 12:30 p.m. awards ceremony)
Saturday, May 12, 2007

WHERE: Green Oak Ranch
1237 Green Oak Road, Vista

WHY: May is *National Foster Care Month*; this event strives to increase awareness about the need for more foster homes, and honor those who heal and nurture abused children. More than 800 North County children are in foster care due to abuse or neglect in their own homes. On any given day, at least 50 North County children are awaiting placement into foster homes. Families interested in foster parenting are encouraged to attend this free event by calling (760) 480-3479; pre-registration is required.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to confidentiality concerns, please do not shoot recognizable photographs or video of foster children. Award recipients and their families will be available for interviews and photos.

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