



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

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COUNTY, UNITED WAY REUNITE SEPARATED SIBLINGS ***Camp Connect West Provides Foster Youth a Weekend of Family Connections***

WHAT: More than 60 San Diego County foster youth will gather to board a bus to Camp Connect West in Julian. The weekend camp gives foster youth siblings who are unable to be placed in the same household an opportunity to strengthen their family bonds.

WHO: Vice-Chairwoman Dianne Jacob, District 2, County Board of Supervisors
Nick Macchione, Director, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency
Mary Harris, Director, San Diego County Child Welfare Services
Douglas J. Sawyer, President and CEO, United Way of San Diego County
More than 60 foster youth
Community volunteers

WHEN: Friday, September 5, 2008
3:30 p.m.

WHERE: United Way of San Diego County
4699 Murphy Canyon Rd.
San Diego, 92123

WHY: It's a constant challenge and important priority for Child Welfare Services to place siblings in the same foster home. Unfortunately, this is not always possible. Camp Connect West is designed as a bonding experience for siblings who have been placed apart in foster care. The camp provides them with an opportunity to spend quality time with their brothers and sisters in a fun, carefree atmosphere.

Their camp experience will involve rock climbing, swimming, hiking, campfire singing and activities designed to strengthen sibling bonds.

Visuals: More than 60 foster youth boarding the bus to camp, balloons and a festive atmosphere for their camp send-off.

PLEASE NOTE: Foster youth participating in the camp have court clearance to be photographed and there will be foster children available for on-camera interviews. You will also be able to get video and/or photos of the campers boarding the bus.

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