



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

February 2, 2005

CONTACT: Jonah Weinberg (619) 515-6535

SCHOOL FOR FOSTER YOUTH GETS MAJOR GIFT FOR STUDENTS' HEALTH *California Endowment Gives \$200K For San Pasqual Academy's Wellness Center*

[San Pasqual Academy](#), San Diego County's first-in-the-nation, residential education campus for adolescent foster youth, has received a \$211,599 grant from [The California Endowment](#) for the Academy's new Sulpizio Family Health and Wellness Center. Robert K. Ross, M.D., president and CEO of The California Endowment, will present the check to the Academy at the County Board of Supervisor's meeting, Feb. 8.

"It is imperative that foster youth are given the education and tools needed to make a successful and healthy transition out of foster care and into adulthood," said Ross. "San Pasqual Academy is to be commended for implementing a program that helps fulfill that need and The Endowment is pleased to support it."

The Center, which opened September of 2004, was built through the generous contributions of businesses and individuals in the community. Donations ranged as high as \$500,000 for construction, and the building's interior design and furnishings were donated by a local firm.

"San Diego County is grateful to The California Endowment for working with us to help foster teens succeed," said 1st District County Supervisor Greg Cox. "Foster youth need every chance to become positive future contributors to our county's communities, and this donation is a powerful demonstration of our collective support."

"By working with the public and community organizations, we're able to leverage resources that wouldn't be available through County government alone," said 4th District County Supervisor Ron Roberts. "The center will provide the youth in our care access to healthy options they may never have learned elsewhere."

The Academy views the Sulpizio Health and Wellness Center as the foundation for establishing a "culture of wellness," through health education, as well as intervention services in key areas such as substance abuse, stress management, fitness/nutrition, and healthy relationships.

###