



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **CONFERENCE TEACHES THAT GREAT PARENTS ARE MADE, NOT BORN** *Third Annual Parenting Conference Teaches New Skills and Offers Networking Opportunities*

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) will co-host the third annual parenting conference, "Celebrating Families," 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 28 at the Salvation Army's Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center in San Diego.

"There is no more important job than being a parent," said County Board of Supervisors Chair, Dianne Jacob. "It is no easy task to raise a child, and we want to offer parents all the necessary tools to help them raise healthy, successful children. I am excited that we can offer this opportunity to support the parents and caregivers in our county."

The conference will feature dozens of workshops in Spanish and English, and provides a great chance for parents, with children of any age, to learn new skills and increase their understanding of child and youth development, along with other parents who have similar issues and concerns. Keynote speaker Gerald Newmark, Ph.D., is a parent, educator, and behavioral scientist, with more than 20 years of experience, and is the author of "How to Raise Emotionally Healthy Children." The closing speaker is Susie Walton, director of *Redirecting Children's Behavior San Diego*, a network of parenting educators and corporate facilitators.

"Last year's conference was a great success, with more than 400 participants," said Roseann Myers, director of the County's Commission on Children, Youth and Families (CCYF), which is organizing the conference. "This year we expect nearly 500 participants, and we have already sold out all our conference spaces."

In conjunction with CCYF, "Celebrating Families" is co-sponsored by the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation, Parenting Link, YMCA-Childcare Resource Service, First 5 Commission of San Diego, Child Care and Development Planning Council, Project Q Kids, and the San Diego County Program Quality Consortium.

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