



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 5, 2004

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

### NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH SPOTLIGHTS SUCCESS AND NEED

*More Than 100 Families Honored at 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Foster Parent Appreciation Banquet*

- WHO:** Jean Shepard, Acting Director, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)  
Patric Ashby, Deputy Director for HHSA Child Welfare Services  
Local foster parents and children
- WHAT:** As part of May's National Foster Care Month, local foster parents will be honored by HHSA and the Foster Parent Recognition Coalition. Awards include, "Foster Parent of the Year," and a recognition for 40 years of service as a foster parent. Additionally, a proclamation from the County Board of Supervisors will be presented to four local foster parent associations. The event will be hosted by local television personality Margaret Radford.
- WHEN:** Friday, May 7 2004  
6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** Hilton Hotel, Mission Valley  
901 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, 92108
- WHY:** May is National Foster Care Month, which provides an opportunity for people all across the nation to show their appreciation for the dedication of our foster families and those who work in the foster care system. It is also an opportunity to get more people involved, whether as foster parents, volunteers, mentors, employers or in other ways. There is a nationwide shortage of foster homes, and San Diego County is no different. There are nearly 7,000 children in our County's foster care system at any one time, with more than 1,600 licensed foster homes, but more loving foster parents are always needed.
- By recognizing the foster parents who currently serve our county's abused and neglected children, we show how important they are to all of us, and that their efforts do not go unappreciated.

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