



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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FOSTER FAMILY CELEBRATION RECOGNIZES DEVOTION TO CHILDREN

North County Picnic Celebrates Families and Highlights Need for More Foster Parents

More than 700 North County foster parents and foster children will be treated to a special day of fun on Saturday, May 21, at the sixth annual *North County Foster and Kinship Family Celebration*. The picnic, at Green Oak Ranch in Vista, is held to honor the families who care for North County's 1,400 abused and neglected foster children.

"On any given day, more than 60 North County children await placement with foster parents to help them during a difficult time in their lives," says County Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price, whose district includes areas of North County. "We salute these local heroes who care for our community's most needy children."

Festivities will include a recognition barbeque picnic; music and entertainment and activities for children of all ages such as pony rides, sporting events and arts and crafts; a health and safety resource fair; and a ceremony honoring six exemplary families.

As part of May's *National Foster Care Month* celebration, the picnic is also an opportunity to raise community awareness about the ongoing need to recruit new foster parents. Experts agree that foster children do better when they are placed within their community, near their schools, family members and faith communities.

"By ensuring we have enough North County foster homes, we can keep children in their communities near friends and loved ones," says Fifth District Supervisor Bill Horn, whose district includes much of North County. "We owe a debt of gratitude to our foster families, who have helped make our foster system a national model."

Families interested in learning more about foster parenting or supporting foster families in North County are encouraged to attend. The event is free, but pre-registration is required. Those interested in attending can call (760) 480-3479 to register.

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