



**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**  
**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 21, 2004

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**NORTH COUNTY FOSTER AND KINSHIP FAMILIES TO BE HONORED**  
*Annual Picnic Also Aimed at Finding More Families to Care for Abused, Neglected Children*

- WHO:** Fifth District Supervisor Bill Horn  
Jean Shepard, Director, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency  
Nick Macchione, Deputy Director, Health and Human Services Agency  
Patty Boles, President, North County Foster Parent Association
- WHAT:** Fourth annual Foster and Kinship Family Celebration honoring North County families who care for abused, neglected and abandoned children. Co-sponsored by San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), New Alternatives, Inc., Green Oak Ranch and the North County Foster Parent Association. Event features a resource fair, free lunch and activities for children. Special awards presentation will honor five outstanding North County foster and kinship families.
- WHEN:** Saturday, May 22  
11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (1 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. awards ceremony)
- WHERE:** Green Oak Ranch  
1237 Green Oak Road, Vista
- WHY:** More than 1,400 North County children are in foster care due to abuse or neglect in their own homes. On any given day, 50 North County children are awaiting placement into foster homes. May is National Foster Care Month; this event strives to increase community awareness about the need for more foster homes, and honor those who heal and nurture abused children. North County Cares, a regional campaign to recruit and support foster parents through such events, represents a collaboration between HHSA, the Association of Foster Family Agencies, faith organizations and other community partners. More than 700 people are expected to attend the event.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Due to confidentiality concerns, please do not shoot recognizable photographs or video of foster children.

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