



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY AND TRIBES OFFER FREE HEALTH SERVICES IN RURAL COMMUNITY ***Uninsured Kids Get Dental Services, Health Exams and Immunizations***

In collaboration with the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), the *Indian Health Council* (IHC), which represents nine local tribes, will graciously open their *Indian Health Council* clinic to the public to offer free dental services to children with limited or no resources.

More than 250 children from the tribes and surrounding communities will take part in this back-to-school event from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 16, at the clinic in Valley Center.

Volunteers will provide dental sealants and fluoride varnish to children (through age 18), while IHC medical clinic staff will provide well-child examinations and immunizations. The *North County Dental Task Force* is coordinating the clinic with funds from Fifth District County Supervisor, Bill Horn, and additional support from the *San Diego Dental Health Foundation*.

"This clinic brings medical and dental professionals together to make a difference in the well being of our children," said Supervisor Horn, whose district includes much of North San Diego County. "All of our community partners, including the tribal leaders, are to be commended for coming together to make this event a reality for our rural families."

Unfortunately, many children do not receive routine medical and dental care and prevention services due to lack of insurance. In fact, over 53,000 children under the age of 18 are uninsured in San Diego County. Adding to this problem is the shortage of medical and dental professionals in some areas of North San Diego County, particularly in rural communities.

More than 40 volunteers, including numerous medical and dental professionals, will provide free screening, preventive care, and education to the children and their families.

The event will take place at 50100 Golsh Road in Valley Center. For dental appointments, call (619) 692-8858 and for well-child appointments, call (760) 749-1410 ext. 5266. Appointments are available for children through age 18 who are accompanied by a parent or guardian. Walk-in patients will be seen as space permits.

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