



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 27, 2007

Contact: Leslie Ridgeway (619) 685-2239 (619) 548-4111 cell



FORMER FOSTER YOUTH HELP PEERS ADJUST TO INDEPENDENT LIFE

*New Website Offers Resources, Support for Youth Leaving Foster Care System;
WWW.FOSTERINGCHANGE.ORG to be Launched on July 30 at 12:30 p.m.*

WHAT: Former foster youth are joined by elected, health, and community representatives for the launching of a new web site for teens leaving the foster care system.

The teen-designed site, www.fosteringchange.org, offers resources and support to help students adjust to independent life.

WHO: **Supervisor Greg Cox**, First District
Jean Shepard, Director, County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency
Teresa Stivers, Executive Director, Child Abuse Prevention Foundation
Former Foster Youth

WHEN: **MONDAY, JULY 30, 2007 AT 12:30 P.M.**

WHERE: **Casey Family Programs
3878 Old Town Avenue**

WHY: About 6,000 children are part of the County of San Diego foster care system. Each year, approximately 200 teens leave "the system" and become independent.

The Fostering Change website was designed for current foster youth getting ready to live an independent life and for former foster youth looking for resources and information.

The site, designed with input from former foster youth, offers a number of resources and information on housing, money, living skills, and on how to get a job. It also includes a calendar of events, a list of mentors for youth, and links to other helpful sites.

The website is a collaboration between the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency's Child Welfare Services, the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation and BetterWorld Together Foundation. The site was developed by the San Diego Futures Foundation.

VISUALS: Demonstration and youth navigating the new site. Thank you signs.

###