



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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FOSTER KIDS AND FAMILIES DANCE TO A BRIGHTER TUNE

Ninth Annual Big Band Concert and Dance to Benefit Foster Youth and Parents

More than 3,000 people of all ages are expected to turn out to enjoy the music of legendary bands of the 40's and 50's at the ninth annual *Big Band Concert and Dance*, on Saturday, Oct. 1, 2005, from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., at the Pier Plaza Amphitheater, near the Oceanside pier.

Sponsored by the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) and the North County Foster Parent Association, this event will benefit families who care for abused and abandoned children throughout San Diego County. Thanks to generous support from donors, all proceeds go to [Straight from the Heart](#), a resource center that provides enrichment programs for foster youth; training and support programs for foster parents; foster home recruitment and retention activities; and many other needed services.

"Get your dancing shoes on and come help support and show appreciation for the incredible job that our foster parents do every day," said Fifth District County Supervisor, Bill Horn, whose district includes much of North County. "With the help of dedicated child welfare staff and amazing foster families and staff, who care for and nurture abused and neglected children, our County is a national model for foster programs."

The benefit concert is part of a series of regional special events to support foster families and raise community awareness of the need for additional foster homes. These efforts fulfill a major goal of HHS's *Family to Family Initiative*, which seeks to keep foster children safe, and living in their own communities, while bringing neighborhoods together to nurture and support families in crisis.

"We know that children who are taken into protective custody do much better when they are able to remain in their own communities," says Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price, who championed the Family to Family Initiative in Escondido. "Staying close to schools, communities and friends help these children heal. We need more local foster homes to help with this effort."

For concert information and advance ticket locations, call (760) 716-4824. For more information about foster parenting or supporting foster kids in other ways, call (877) 792-KIDS or visit the HHS Web site at www.sdcounty.ca.gov/hhsa.

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