



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 22, 2004

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## **BIG BAND CONCERT DRAWS THOUSANDS TO SUPPORT FOSTER CARE** *Proceeds from 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Event Go to Scholarships for Youth & Services for Parents*

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual *Big Band Concert and Dance* will feature a musical tribute to legendary big bands of yesteryear. The event, which regularly attracts thousands of attendees of all ages, many showing up in vintage costume, has become a local tradition. This year's event will take place this Saturday, September 25, from 1 - 5 p.m. at the Pier Plaza Amphitheater in Oceanside, by the historic Oceanside Pier.

This event, hosted by the *San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency* (HHSA) and *Soroptimist International of Oceanside*, benefits the many foster families that care for abused and abandoned children throughout our county. Thanks to generous support from donors, all proceeds go to *Straight from the Heart*, a resource center that provides scholarships for foster youth, training and support programs for foster parents, and foster home recruitment and retention activities and many other needed services.

"This event is music to the ears of those of us eager to show our appreciation of the incredible job that our foster parents do each and every day," said Fifth District Supervisor Bill Horn, a long-time supporter of the foster family community. "With the help of amazing foster families and HHSA staff who care for and nurture abused and neglected children, our county is a national model."

The benefit concert is part of a series of special events coordinated by HHSA to support foster families and raise community awareness of the need for more foster homes. These efforts will help keep foster children in their own communities, while bringing neighborhoods together to nurture and support families in crisis, a major goal of the HHSA's *Family to Family* initiative.

"We know that kids who are taken into protective custody do much better when they are able to remain in their own communities," said Third District Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, who championed the *Family to Family* initiative in Escondido. "These kids are in desperate situations, but staying close to schools, churches and friends helps in the healing process. We need more local foster homes to help with this effort."

For more information about foster parenting or supporting foster kids in other ways, call (877) 792-KIDS or visit the HHSA Web site at [www.sdcounty.ca.gov/hhsa](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/hhsa).

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