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CONTACT: Jonah Weinberg (619) 515-6535

COUNTY DISTRIBUTES FREE COMPUTERS TO QUALIFIED FOSTER FAMILIES
Refurbished County Computers Available to Foster Families with School-Age Children

Families that open their homes to foster children are eligible to take advantage of a three-year-old program through the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) that offers them free Pentium-level refurbished computers. The program, initially sponsored by County Supervisors Greg Cox and Bill Horn, takes computers previously used by County staff and refurbishes them for use at home.

"Foster families help fill a crucial need for abused and neglected children," said District 5 Supervisor Bill Horn. "This program provides another educational tool to help our county's children go to the head of their class."

HHSA works with the *San Diego Futures Foundation*, which provides the refurbishing services to install a typical operating system and applications that are best suited for home. They also install internal modems, so the computers are internet-ready when the families receive them.

"This program makes perfect sense for foster families and the County," said District 1 Supervisor, Greg Cox. "We regularly upgrade County equipment to be current with technological advances, making previous generation equipment available for the home use of foster families with school-age children."

In addition to refurbishing the equipment, the *Futures Foundation* offers orientations to foster families on the use of their new computers, so that they will be better prepared to start making the best use of their new piece of equipment. Instruction is available for Spanish-speaking foster families as well.

Since the program began in September 2001, nearly 200 computers have been distributed to foster families at no cost. The next distribution will take place at 10 a.m., on Saturday, Oct. 9. For location of distribution, call the contact number above.

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