



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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FORUM TO CELEBRATE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES ANNIVERSARY

Conference to Feature Local Experts, Speaker and Youth Essay Contest Winners

The San Diego County Commission on Children, Youth and Families will sponsor a forum, "Celebrating the Journey," on Thursday, Oct. 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon to commemorate its 20th anniversary. The event will be held at the Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Center.

The conference will feature local experts discussing the accomplishments and challenges of the past 20 years in working to improve services and support for children and families. Supervisor Greg Cox will make opening remarks.

"The Commission has worked for the past 20 years to nurture children and strengthen families by engaging communities and promoting integrated services," said Supervisor Cox. "It's important to celebrate this milestone, and look ahead to other steps we can take to help children and families."

The keynote address, "It takes a Village to Raise a Child: But Do We Know How to Raise a Village?" will be given by John "Jack" Calhoun, founding president and CEO of the National Crime Prevention Council. Calhoun revolutionized crime prevention by changing its definition to encompass building vital communities that do not produce crime, and creating programs that involve youth as positive change agents in their communities.

As part of the 20th anniversary activities, the Commission sponsored an essay contest for children and youth, to hear from kids about how they are doing and their vision of San Diego's future. Three hundred seventy-four essays were submitted. Winners will be recognized at the event. They are Grade 12, Sonny Ruiz, Summit Juvenile Court and Community Schools; Meklit Mengistu and Isabel Tjjerin, Garfield High School; Kim Dong, John Muir High School; Grade 11: Sandra Velasco, Garfield High; Grade 8, Joseph DiSimone, Great Start School; Grade 7, Giovanni Ocampo, Monroe Clarke Middle School, Grade 6, Daniel Millan, Porter Elementary School; Grade 5, Vicky Nguyen, Rosa Parks Elementary School; Grade 2, Riley Henderson, Kumeyaay School, Grade 1, Andrew Tuttle, Great Start School.

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