



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

April 5, 2010

**CONTACT:** Tom Christensen (619) 515-6535

## **SIXTH ANNUAL STARS AWARDS HONORS LOCAL LEADERS** *We Can All Play a Part in Strengthening Families*

To kick-off April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, the San Diego County Commission on Children, Youth and Families (CCYF) is hosting its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual STARS Awards on Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm-7:30pm at The New Children's Museum, 200 W. Island, San Diego, CA 92101. This event will honor local community, non-profit and business leaders that have demonstrated their commitment to preventing child abuse in our community.

This year's theme is *Safe Children and Healthy Families are a Shared Responsibility*.

"It takes an entire community to solve the problems of abuse and neglect, and everyone can be a part of the solution," said Greg Cox, District 1, County of San Diego Board of Supervisors. "This is a time to come together to confront the issue of child abuse and what we can do as a community to ensure we have safe and healthy children and families free from abuse."

Each year in the United States, close to one million children are confirmed victims of child maltreatment. In San Diego County, there are nearly 70,000 calls to the child abuse hotline each year.

The San Diego County Commission on Children, Youth and Families encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making San Diego a better place for families. By ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to care for their children, we can help prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening families and communities.

"April is a time to celebrate the important role that communities play in protecting children," said Tonya Torosian, CCYF Executive Director. "Everyone's participation is critical to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect in San Diego County."

For more information about child abuse prevention programs and activities during the month of April and throughout the year, contact the San Diego County Commission on Children, Youth and Families, 619-338-2049, or [Tonya.Torosian@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Tonya.Torosian@sdcounty.ca.gov)

**###**