



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 18, 2005

**CONTACT:** Carey Riccitelli (760) 740-4130

Cell (760) 207-8532

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### ANNUAL PICNIC WILL CELEBRATE NORTH COUNTY FOSTER FAMILIES

*FREE Event Seeks to Honor Foster Parents and Recruit New Foster Homes*

- WHO:** Bill Horn, Fifth District, County Board of Supervisors  
Jean Shepard, Director, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency  
Nick Macchione, Deputy Director, Health and Human Services Agency  
Patty Boles, President, North County Foster Parent Association  
700 foster parents and their foster, adoptive and birth children
- WHAT:** The sixth annual Foster and Kinship Family Celebration is a FREE event to celebrate North County foster families. The event features a barbeque picnic, activities for children of all ages, and a health and resource fair. A special awards presentation will honor six outstanding North County foster and kinship families.
- The picnic is sponsored by the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), Casa de Amparo, Friends & Family Community Connections, Green Oak Ranch, Homestart, New Alternatives, Inc., North County Foster Parent Association, North County Lifeline, Palomar Pomerado Health, and the Rincon Indian Tribe.
- WHEN:** Saturday, May 21  
11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. awards ceremony)
- WHERE:** Green Oak Ranch  
1237 Green Oak Road, Vista
- WHY:** More than 1,400 North County children are in foster care due to abuse or neglect in their own homes. On any given day, 60 North County children are awaiting placement into foster homes. May is *National Foster Care Month*; this event strives to increase awareness about the need for more foster homes, and honor those who heal and nurture abused children. Families interested in foster parenting are encouraged to attend this free event by calling (760) 480-3479; pre-registration is required.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Due to confidentiality concerns, please do not shoot recognizable photographs or video of foster children.

###

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
1700 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 203 • SAN DIEGO, CA 92101-2472