



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

# MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 18, 2007

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## ANNUAL PICNIC CELEBRATES NORTH COUNTY FOSTER FAMILIES

*Event Aims to Honor Foster Families, Recruit New Foster Parents*

**WHAT:** The 9th Annual Foster and Kinship Family Celebration is a free event to celebrate North County foster families. The event features a barbeque picnic. Live entertainment and activities for children of all ages include: dance, gymnastics, karate, a classic car show, arts and crafts, sports games, hay rides and a petting zoo. A health and resource fair will feature more than 25 fun and interactive booths related to nutrition, physical activity and access to healthcare. A special awards presentation will honor outstanding North County foster and kinship families.

The picnic is a partnership between the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), Green Oak Ranch, New Alternatives, Inc., Straight from the Heart and Connected Through Kids. The event is sponsored by Supervisor Bill Horn, Fifth District, County Board of Supervisors.

**WHO:** Nick Macchione, Director, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency  
Caroline Smith, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Supervisor Bill Horn  
Donna Hand, North Regions Assistant Deputy Director, Health and Human Services Agency  
Patty Boles, President, North County Foster Parent Association  
Barbie Caldwell, Director, Connected Through Kids  
700 foster parents and kinship providers and their foster, adoptive and birth children

**WHEN:** Saturday, June 21, 2008  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. awards ceremony)

**WHERE:** Green Oak Ranch  
1237 Green Oak Road, Vista

**WHY:** More than 800 North County children are in foster care due to abuse or neglect in their own homes. On any given day, at least 50 North County children are awaiting placement into foster homes. This event strives to increase awareness about the need for more foster homes, and to 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 photograph or video foster children. Award recipients and their families will be available for interviews and photos.

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