



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 18, 2010

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CHALLENGED ATHLETES ENCOURAGE CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

*HHSA's California Children Services Teams Up
with Disabled Athletes to Showcase Sports, Inspiration*

WHAT: Erica Davis, the first wheelchair athlete to summit Mt. Kilimanjaro, and Travis Ricks, above knee amputee, triathlete and snowboarder, both from the Challenged Athletes Foundation, will help the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency's California Children Services (CCS) showcase activities and sports options for children with disabilities and their families. The therapy staff at the CCS Escondido Medical Therapy Unit, a facility that provides free physical and occupational therapy services to over 200 children, is hosting the showcase event.

Children will have an opportunity to participate in hand-cycling (bicycles adapted for people with limited use of their legs, provided by Intrepid Handcycles), and receive information about various sport activities from representatives of the Challenged Athletes Foundation. There will be games/activities for the children and an ice cream social. The physical and occupational therapists will be available to assist children of various disability levels to participate. The goal is to provide information to these families about activities and inspiration to the children and to give them the experience of trying out the activity of cycling.

The CCS Medical Therapy Unit is a special program of the San Diego County HHSA that provides occupational therapy and physical therapy for children with eligible conditions such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy and spinal cord injuries.

WHEN: 10:00am - 12:00pm
Wednesday, August 18, 2010

WHERE: Nicolaysen Community Day School
420 N Falconer (Room 10 and 11 and playground behind school)
Escondido, CA 92027

WHO: **CCS Escondido Medical Therapy Unit therapists**
Erica Davis, Challenged Athletes Foundation
Travis Ricks, Challenged Athletes Foundation
Dozens of children and their families

VISUALS: Disabled children participating in several physical activities, encouraged by their therapists, parents and the Challenge Athletes Foundation representatives.

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