



CELEBRATES FAMILY REUNIFICATION WEEK



**DCFS DIRECTOR TRISH PLOEHN
WITH FATHER RONNIE BURTON
AND SON**

Families Honored for Successful Reunification

Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors proclaimed March 1- March 7, 2010 "Family Reunification Week." The week-long celebration honored the many families, who despite court-ordered out-of-home care placement for their children, successfully complied with specific court requirements and reunified with their children in their family home. Supervisor Molina initiated this first-ever honor following discussions with Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Michael Nash. Judge Nash wanted to honor those families that successfully navigated the Dependency Court system to emerge healthier, stronger and intact.



Supervisor Antonovich



Supervisor Ridley-Thomas



Supervisor Yaroslavsky

Families and DCFS Celebrate with Smiles and Tears



Top left: Belvedere Office with PIP coaches

Top right: Paul Freedlund with parent

Middle left: Jennifer Fentress with parent

Middle right: (from left) Roxanna Flores-Aguilar, Roberta Medina, Maria Santos, and Francesca LeRue

Bottom left: Melendrez family with Chuck Tadlock

Judge Nash Wanted to Honor Families that Successfully Reunified, Healthier, Stronger and Intact

At the regular March 2nd Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors meeting, board scrolls were presented to mothers Maureen Rivas and Veoletter Bates Jones, father, Carlos Hernandez and Ronnie Burton, Jr., Children’s Social Worker Kim Masinter, Court Appointed Special Advocate Michelle Vasquez and the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles for their significant family reunification accomplishments.

Each day during Family Reunification Week, a different Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) regional office celebrated its commitment to safe family reunification with information about specific programs that support reunification and with families that have benefited from such programs. DCFS administrators and staff hosted receptions at the Belvedere, Vermont

Corridor, West San Fernando Valley, and Palmdale DCFS Offices and at the Parkcrest Visitation Center in Lakewood. Representatives from Parents in Partnership, Wraparound, Linkages, Family Preservation, Parkcrest Visitation Center and Drug Court were on hand to share information about their programs. Members of the Family Reunification Week Workgroup include Juvenile Court, the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, Children’s Law Center of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers.

Supervisor Gloria Molina and Judge Michael Nash congratulate families at board ceremony.



CELEBRATIONS



Parkcrest Visitation Center



Palmdale Office



Supervisor Knabe



CSW and Mother