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PRESS RELEASE

Community Partners Brought Together to Discuss Strategy for Recruiting Foster and Adoptive Parents 'Resource Families' Sought for Foster Children

In an effort to increase the number of permanent and stable homes for thousands of foster children, the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has invited a variety of community agencies to join a partnership that will result in wider recruitment of foster families and adoptive parents. To further this partnership, a Recruitment Partnership Forum will be held on **Tuesday, August 3, 2004**, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sheraton Pasadena, 303 East Cordova Street, in Pasadena. The forum is sponsored by DCFS, the National Foster Parent Association and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The all-day Recruitment Partnership Forum will focus on furthering the working relationship with community agencies to enhance recruitment efforts by developing a long-range strategic plan for the recruitment of foster and adoptive parents in Los Angeles County. Among the invited guests are representatives from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, dually-licensed foster family agencies, field placement directors from the schools of social work, and representatives from the non-profit advocacy groups Kidsave and Childshare.

The Recruitment Partnership Forum will also discuss the need for more "Resource Families" – foster families whose focus is to reunite children with their birth families. If children cannot return home safely, the Resource Family would be able and willing to provide these children with a safe and permanent home. With the help of community partners, the Department is recruiting Resource Families who are tailored to the specific and special needs of many hard-to-place foster children. Specific areas discussed during the Recruitment Partnership Forum will include child specific adoptions, Resource Families for medically fragile children, Resource Families for teens, Resource Families for children with specific cultural, religious or language needs and specific homes for children in Probation.

"This is the first time that such a large and consolidated effort has been made to develop desperately needed Resource Families for L.A. County's foster children," said Trish Ploehn, Deputy Director. "Through this effort, we will further our goal of increasing the number of safe, permanent and loving families for children who cannot safely return to their own homes."

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