



**Children's Law Center**  
of Los Angeles

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**“It Takes A Village To Raise a Foster Child”:  
Town Hall Meeting Set for Tuesday April 21**

**REDONDO BEACH** – For many of the nearly 25,000 children in Los Angeles county's child welfare system, the idea of a “village” of support and resources can seem elusive. Indeed, our foster care system is imperfect and under-resourced, yet there is much that we can do within our own communities to support to the youth in need that may be just around the corner.

The League of Women Voters Beach Cities and the Redondo Beach Library have teamed up to raise awareness around the tremendous need for increased support of foster youth in the Los Angeles County child welfare system at the local and community level.

Leslie Starr Heimov, Executive Director of the Children's Law Center of Los Angeles, will speak on "It Takes A Village To Raise a Foster Child" at a town hall meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 21st from 7:00 to 8:45 p.m. at the Redondo Beach Main Library, located at 303 N. Pacific Coast Highway in Redondo Beach.

Ms. Heimov will be joined by two former foster youth from California Youth Connection to provide a real-life perspective sharing their personal experiences in the foster care system. There will be an open forum following the presentation, allowing attendees to voice their opinions, questions and concerns.

Children's Law Center of Los Angeles' staff of lawyers, paralegals and investigator/social workers serve as the "voice" in the foster care system for the vast majority of the nearly 25,000 children under the jurisdiction of our dependency court. "Too many of the youth that we have vowed to nurture and protect grow up within a system that is unfortunately ill-equipped to adequately meet their basic needs, let alone cultivate their individual potential," Heimov says, "but the good news is that we have learned a great deal about how to do better. We all need to work together – not only those within the child welfare world, but each of us within our own communities - to provide the type of ‘village’ that it takes to truly do our best for these children.”

It is hoped that this forum will help raise awareness of, and build public support for the needs of foster children in the South Bay area and beyond.