



**May, 2004**  
**Los Angeles Foster Care Awareness Campaign**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**May, 2004 Los Angeles Foster Care Awareness Campaign  
Seeks to Build Community Support for Foster Children**

*Activities Range from Celebration of Foster Care Success Stories, to  
Education Summit, to Conference on Needs of Teen Parents in Foster Care*

(Los Angeles, CA) – Los Angeles is home to one of the country's largest child welfare systems, accounting for an astounding one in ten foster children nationwide. For the second year in a row, as part of the **May, 2004 Los Angeles Foster Care Awareness Campaign**, leaders from various advocacy, governmental, judicial, and public interest organizations have teamed up to bring public attention to the tremendous need for increased community support for the nearly 30,000 youth in the Los Angeles foster care system.

“Some children stay in foster care for only a few weeks or months while their parents get their lives back on track, but thousands of others cannot safely be returned home, and too many grow up within the foster care system. As communal ‘parents’ for these children, we need to provide foster youth with the stability, education, and nurturing that will help put them on the path to stable and productive adult lives,” opined Miriam Aroni Krinsky, Executive Director of the Children's Law Center of Los Angeles.

**A press conference at the Hall of Administration, room 864 at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, May 11** will introduce several foster care “heroes” whose stories reflect significant contributions to the lives of foster children. Whether in working for systemic reform of preparations to “emancipate” youth from care at around age 18, advocating to make sure that foster children have the ability to go on to college, contributing ongoing financial assistance to youth in need, or providing a home for teens in foster care who become mothers themselves, the honorees being recognized have created positive change by their actions.

Also being honored are several former foster youth whose lives exemplify success over difficult odds. “These wonderful examples of achievement from within the foster care system demonstrate caring individuals who have worked to change the lives of youth in need, whether by undertaking social work as a profession in which they can make a difference, mentoring foster youth as they enter college, or serving as advocates for youth at risk,” noted Dr. David Sanders, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services. “These heroes show the difference even one individual can make in leaving an indelible positive imprint on the life of a foster child,” Krinsky added.

A list of key events associated with the May, 2004 Los Angeles Foster Care Awareness Campaign is attached.

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