

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:

Prepared on: 3/3/03
Department Name: Social Services
Department No.: 044
Agenda Date: 4/1/03
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 10:00 a.m. Time Certain
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Charlene A. Chase, Director
Dept. of Social Services

STAFF CONTACT: Hedy Damery, KIDS Network
614-1990

SUBJECT: 2003 CHILD FRIENDLY AWARDS

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors

1. approve resolution proclaiming April "Month of the Young Child",
2. approve resolution proclaiming April "Child Abuse Prevention Month",
3. present the CHILD FRIENDLY AWARDS to selected individuals from each supervisorial district,
4. present county-wide CHILD FRIENDLY GROUP AWARDS to selected groups,
5. approve establishment of the Hedy Damery Service to Families Award to be presented each year along with the Child Friendly Awards, and
6. adopt a Resolution of Commendation for the recipient of the 2003 "Hedy Damery Service to Families" Award.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan: The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 7: "A community that fosters the safety and well-being of families and children."

Executive Summary and Discussion: The Child Friendly Award was established in 1989 to honor individuals and groups who have made substantial and or unusual contributions to children in our

county. Winners from each supervisorial district and countywide groups are chosen for this honor each year by a committee of the KIDS Network, which selects winners from nominations received from the community.

The Proclamation for “Month of the Young Child” will be accepted this year by “Winkie” Helen Cooper, President of the Santa Barbara Chapter of the Association for the Education of Young Children. The Proclamation for “Child Abuse Prevention Month” will be accepted this year by Dr. Anna Kokotovic, Executive Director of CALM.

2003 Individual Awards:

First District: Jennifer Bergquist
Second District: Marcia Eichelberger
Third District: Dr. Mark Shultz
Fourth District: Cindy Callaham
Fifth District: Kenneth George

2003 Group Awards:

First Place Winner (North): Katherine K for Children
First Place Winner (South): Hermanos Unidos
Honorable Mention: Youth Network Television
Honorable Mention: Kids in Nature Volunteers

The Hedy Damery Service to Families Award is being established in honor of Hedy Damery upon her retirement in 2003 after 12 years of dedicated service as the KIDS Network Coordinator, and fifteen years as a County of Santa Barbara employee. The Hedy Damery Service to Families Award will serve to honor individuals who have made substantial or unusual contributions to children, youth, and families in Santa Barbara County as part of their employment/profession. The criteria that will be used for selection includes the type of profession, length of service in profession, amount of support and prior recognition (multiple nominations), diversity of service to children, youth and families, diversity of groups served, and a clear demonstration of compassion and commitment beyond the requirements of their employment/profession to children, youth and families of Santa Barbara County. Winners from each supervisorial district and countywide groups will be chosen for honor each year by a committee of the KIDS Network, which selects winners from nominations received from the community. However, in it’s first year, the 2003 Hedy Damery Service to Families Award will be presented to just one individual.

2003 Hedy Damery Service to Families Award:

Flo Furuike, Community Care Licensing & Child Care Planning Council

Descriptions of each individual’s and group’s service are attached. The honorees will receive their awards at 10:00 a.m. (time certain). KIDS Network has made arrangements for a Public Reception honoring the Winners and commemorating April as Month of the Young Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Reception will be held in the Board of Supervisors’ Conference Room in Santa Barbara immediately following the awards ceremony. Members of the Board, media representatives and the public are invited to attend.

Mandates and Services Levels:

No change.

Fiscal and Facilities Impact:

None.

Special Instructions:

After approval by the Chair of the Board, please return one (1) certified copy of the Minute Order to the KIDS Network, c/o Dept. of Social Services, Santa Maria, Attention: Rachel M. Guzman.

Attachments:

1. Resolution, Month of the Young Child
2. Resolution, Child Abuse Prevention Month
3. Award Winner's Service Descriptions

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED) RESOLUTION NO. 2003-
RESOLUTION TO PROCLAIM APRIL 2003) BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
"MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD") COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

WHEREAS Santa Barbara County is home to nearly 100,000 children under the age of eighteen, representing one-fourth of the county's total population; and

WHEREAS we acknowledge that children receive their first and most important care and support from their families, who provide for their economic and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS families with young children increasingly need and deserve the support of the community to carry out their responsibilities; and

WHEREAS in today's world, many parents or caregivers hold outside employment and with their increasing participation in the workforce, the demand for child care will continue to heighten; and

WHEREAS parents, caregivers, child care providers, teachers and volunteers provide a foundation for the values and ethics of each new generation, motivate them to achieve educationally and succeed socially, and provide a sense of belonging that is essential to human growth.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors proclaims April 2003 as "THE MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD" in Santa Barbara County and urges all members of the community to join in expressing their appreciation to those parents, caregivers, teachers, child care providers and volunteers for their commitment to the care and development of today's young children.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisor of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 1st day of April 2003 by unanimous vote of all members present.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

By _____
Naomi Schwartz
Chair, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
MICHAEL BROWN
Clerk of the Board

By _____

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED) RESOLUTION NO. 2003-
RESOLUTION TO PROCLAIM APRIL 2003) BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
"CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH") COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

WHEREAS, there were 7,888 children and youth in Santa Barbara County reported and assessed for child abuse during the past year, down 16% from a historic high of 9,350 in 1996-97: and

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara County's placement rate of children and youth into foster and group homes has declined 13% since 1996 and is less than half of the Statewide placement rate, and

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara County has been successful in lowering our placement rate through community-based prevention and early intervention services and initiatives such as the Multiagency Integrated System of Care (MISC) program, and

WHEREAS, the harmful effects of child abuse reach beyond the abused child, and adversely affect the well-being of the community at large; and

WHEREAS, research now shows us that child abuse, including exposure to domestic violence and emotional deprivation, impairs brain development in specific areas that may lead to an inability to relate to others, a key predictor of aggressive and antisocial behavior; and

WHEREAS, research has also clearly shown that child abuse can be prevented and the generational cycle of abuse within families can be interrupted; and

WHEREAS, we the public and leaders of Santa Barbara County wish to acknowledge the collaborative efforts of public and private agencies, including staff, volunteers, and foster families who provide a caring foundation in support of children, youth and families and wish to express our support and appreciation for all efforts to prevent child abuse;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County proclaim April 2003 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" and call upon all individuals, agencies, religious organizations and businesses to increase their participation in efforts to prevent childhood physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, emotional deprivation and exposure to family violence.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 1st day of April 2003 by a unanimous vote of all members present.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

By _____
Naomi Schwartz
Chair, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
MICHAEL BROWN
Clerk of the Board

By _____

2003 Child Friendly Awards – Winners’ Description of Service

1ST DISTRICT: JENNIFER BERGQUIST (969-4924)

Jennifer has a long and active history of support and advocacy for children’s needs in Santa Barbara County. She was a member, chair and vice-chair of the county’s former Children’s Commission, where in the late 80’s, the idea of a Child Friendly Award was first conceived. She has been a dedicated member of the KIDS Network since its founding in 1991 and was also instrumental in the development of the county’s Child Care Planning Council, where she currently chairs the Community Action Team and the Strategic Plan Committee. Jennifer is also an outstanding community volunteer with Family Service Agency, where she has served as a board member since 1997. This year she is the chair for the agency’s 20th Annual Children’s Festival. In her long-time involvement with the Junior League of Santa Barbara, she has taken the lead in many local projects. Jennifer is also a founding member of the Children’s Resource and Referral Advisory Council and has been its chair since 1988. In 2002, Jennifer took on two other challenges: the PALMS High School, a research-based alternative learning program for teens at San Marcos High and board member of the Dyslexia Awareness and Resource Center. For more than 24 years, children in Santa Barbra County have benefited from Jennifer’s vision, skills, passion and hard work. Jennifer has been, and always will be, a true friend of children!

2ND DISTRICT: MARCIA EICHELBERGER (965-4011)

Marcia is a mother of two young children and an unpaid advocate for children with disabilities. Her joy in her own special children has led her to help other parents facing similar challenges. Shortly after her oldest son was diagnosed with autism in 1995, Marcia began attending Area Board IX meetings. There she saw a need for better coordination across the member agencies serving special needs children and families. Marcia went on to serve as a board member for two terms and is now the chair. As chair, she also sits on the Organization of Area Boards, a position involving extensive travel to statewide and regional meetings. She was recently involved in the writing of state legislation that merged the two organizations. Locally, Marcia worked with other parents to form the Santa Barbara Autism Support Group and is now part of an effort to merge several local groups into a new non-profit Autism and Asperger’s Support Group that can better serve the needs of children, family members and the community. Marcia also sits on the Santa Barbara School District Special Education Parent Advisory Council and is on the advisory board for the Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Adapted Recreation Board. She has been instrumental in getting better recreational programs and camp experiences for children with disabilities in South County and is currently involved in an effort to create a resource directory for parents that have newly diagnosed children with autism. Marcia’s dream is to have every child be fully included and accepted in their community. We honor Marcia and her dream with this award!

3RD DISTRICT: DR. MARK SHULTZ (688-3238)

Dr. Mark Shultz has dedicated his time, money and enthusiasm to disadvantaged children in the Santa Ynez Valley. He has worked closely with People Helping People's Healthy Start program to offer free oral screening and low-cost or no-cost dental services to low-income, uninsured children ages 7 and up. Dr. Shultz has been an active participant in the agency's annual Health and Safety Fair. Most recently, he offered a two-day Free Dental Clinic at his office in Solvang. His positive and kind demeanor really helps to make the children feel comfortable during screening and treatment. Many of these children and their families were mono-lingual Spanish-speakers and Dr. Shultz went out of his way to make them comfortable by greeting each family as they arrived, making conversation and cracking jokes with them in their native language. The treatment that he provided during the Free Clinic was valued at over \$8000. Dr. Shultz is also one of four dentists who participate in the Children's Dental Fund in the Santa Ynez Valley, offering greatly discounted rates to families ineligible for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families insurance coverage. We honor Dr. Shultz for his dedication to doing whatever it takes to improve the oral health of children in his community!

4TH DISTRICT: CINDY CALLAHAM (736-2692)

Cindy Callaham has such a long, varied and outstanding record of service to her community's children and families that it is difficult to know where to begin. Organizations in which she has been involved, always in leadership capacities, include 15th District PTA, Lompoc Council PTA, Lompoc Unified School District committees and school site councils, the School Attendance Review Board, Red Ribbon Week Committee, Partnership for Families Oversight Committee, Lompoc Valley Partnership for Children and Youth and Success by Six. Cindy's PTA work includes local, county and state leadership positions and fund-raising activities. She served four years as the county's Convention Chairman for the annual State PTA Convention, an event that brings together over 6,000 Californians committed to improving children's lives through education and parental support. She makes special efforts to involve our county's student delegates in Convention activities each year. Cindy raised more funds for the District PTA during this period than any other Convention Chairman in the 75-year history of the District. Cindy and her family also regularly open their home to foreign exchange students, many of whom continue to call and visit her for years. Cindy is a sincere and genuine person who gives her heart, her time and her efforts in service to children. She finds her rewards in celebrating children and watching them grow. Cindy's whole life truly exemplifies the spirit of the Child Friendly Award!

5TH DISTRICT: KENNETH GEORGE (928-3781, x453)

Ken George is a Lieutenant with the City of Santa Maria Police Department. For the last ten years he has been actively involved with the California Special Olympics as the northern Santa Barbara County Director. The Special Olympics program provides athletic opportunities to children and young adults suffering from mental retardation, cognitive delay and developmental disability. Through sports training and competition, participants grow physically, mentally, socially and spiritually. Families are brought together and strengthened, and the community as a whole gains in understanding through their shared commitment to these young people. The Northern Santa Barbara County program does not have any sources of public funding and is sustained through year-round fund raising activities. Events coordinated by Lieutenant George include the Tip-a-Cop Dinner, Bull Canyon Run (10K and 5K), Plane Bull Competition and sales of Special Olympics T-Shirts. To date these events have generated over \$300,000 in support of North County Olympians. The funds have allowed hundreds of children to attend regional, state and national competitions. Lieutenant George is well-known throughout the state for his fund-raising and his dedication to the Olympians. In 2000 he was recognized with a meritorious service award from the National Parks and Recreation Association. We are pleased to honor Ken's service to our community and its most special children!

**GROUP AWARD (NORTH): "KATHERINE K FOR CHILDREN"
Bonnie Bailey, President (928-3777)**

"Katherine K for Children" was founded in 1963 by Catherine Kanter Carey, a local nurse who cared deeply about children. It is a service organization dedicated to children and their special needs in the Santa Maria Valley. In 1993, Katherine K "adopted" the Homeless Education/Liaison Project in Santa Maria which is based at the Good Samaritan Shelter. They raise funds annually to fill the great gaps in the lives of youngsters living in the very depths of poverty. Katherine K has donated hundreds of dollars toward the purchase of clothing, school uniforms, school supplies, special trips to museums and zoos, after school snacks and food for the families, eye glasses, health and hygiene items and materials and supplies for the after school program. They purchased a refrigerator for the classroom so that children could have fresh food and milk, a camcorder for the children's creative drama activities, educational software for the computer and a copy machine for making worksheets and other documents. In addition, members of Katherine K also give of their time and provide Christmas gifts, Valentines, sweaters and jackets and special treats. One year they cooked a complete turkey dinner for Thanksgiving. Working quietly without any public recognition, the volunteers make possible so many things that homeless children would otherwise miss out on. We are pleased to honor the enormous difference Katherine K volunteers have made in the lives of our neediest children!

GROUP AWARD (SOUTH): “HERMANOS UNIDOS”
Sal Soto, UCSB Advisor (893-2307)

“Hermanos Unidos” is an all-male, all-volunteer organization based in Isla Vista whose members involve themselves in a multitude of activities benefiting their community. The groups many projects include cooking an annual community Thanksgiving Dinner, organizing games and activities at the IV Kids Day, painting and decorating the IV Teen Center (and tutoring there), and providing security for Parks and Recreation Department’s annual “Dia de los Muertos” event. They organize and host “Pre-Shock”, a free non-alcoholic party for incoming freshmen which drew 945 participants last year. Many times each year the Hermanos Unidos members get up early for “Clean Sweeps”, a street cleaning service provided in high-density low-income neighborhoods in Santa Barbara. Members also organize an annual Breast Cancer Awareness Workshop and hold a Car Wash to raise funds for the Breast Cancer Resource Center. Their Chicano/Latino Outreach Program (CLOP) welcomes freshman with a dinner, motivational speakers, a welcome from the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor and entertainment. On succeeding days the students receive a tour of the campus, attend lectures and workshops on Housing, Financial Aid, choosing a major, etc. Each year Hermanos Unidos hosts a Parent Appreciation Day, at which Spanish is spoken, to help demystify the university experience. Most of the students are the first generation in these families to attend college and they show their gratitude to parents by cooking a special dinner for them. Finally, Hermanos Unidos matches students from UCSB and Mount St. Mary’s with local high school students from the Elizabeth Learning Center to serve as “email mentors” to help them select and enter a college that suits their educational goals. Hermanos Unidos exemplifies the kind of organization that it is a pleasure to honor with a Child Friendly Award!

GROUP HONORABLE MENTION: “YOUTH NETWORK TELEVISION”
Kristopher Brock, Producer/Director (737-1729)

Since 1998, “Youth Network Television”, the original youth-driven media, has been presenting positive role models and fostering media industry literacy in youth by means of their hour-long television show, broadcast live four nights a week. Originally broadcast from Santa Barbara, they are now based at a studio in Lompoc, from which they reach over 200,000 viewers on the Central Coast. Dozens of local teens are involved as camera operators, sound technicians, floor directors, computer operators and performers of all kinds, creating this live television program that is “about youth, starring youth and produced by youth”. The young people involved have also participated in a variety of local activities that benefit the community. During the 2002 “Make Difference Day”, the YNTV teens spent a day at the Lodge of Lompoc, a senior care facility, talking with residents about media literacy and critical viewing, what is important to them and how the youth of their community impact their lives. The “Partners for a Day, Friends for Life” event was so enjoyable that both parties agreed to stay in contact through regular visits. The entire event was filmed and aired on YNTV in November on Channel 22. YNTV has received recognition from many quarters, including an award from the National Cable TV Association. We honor this program for its excellent service to youth and the community!

GROUP HONORABLE MENTION: “KIDS IN NATURE”: SEDGEWICK RESERVE

Nancy Emerson, Outreach Coordinator (686-1941)

Fifteen men and women volunteers of varied ages and backgrounds from communities throughout Santa Barbara County are the heart and soul of Kids in Nature. KIN is a Sedgewick Reserve/UCSB campus-classroom project was created in 2001. KIN seeks to improve academic performance through integrated, hands-on activities in science, math, writing, the arts and technology, and to motivate high school students to consider attending college. KIN volunteers complete extensive training and education courses in history and the arts. They lead weekly introductory student field trips to ready themselves for the more intense KIN experience. The team members share a commitment to making KIN a “mountain top” experience for the students. Thanks to grants and volunteer time, the program is free to the 240 students it serves each year from eight classrooms of 4th-6th graders in the targeted low performing schools in Guadalupe, Lompoc and Santa Maria. Volunteers work with small groups of 5-7 students in classrooms and during seven three-hour field trips to the Sedgewick Reserve, where students use binoculars, hike and nature-print leaves on T-shirts. At a campus outing, students do botany and birding lab activities. On follow up outings, they learn about habitat restoration, erosion control, geology, animals and plants. In the Spring, they share the excitement of seeing wildflower seeds they planted emerging. At a final visit in May all classes are brought together to share the results of their work at a barbeque. KIN creates highly motivated student work teams and builds respect for the environment, while at the same time supporting each child in his or her own interests and skills. We are pleased to learn about and honor KIN’s valuable work!

***RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 2003
“THE MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD”***

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WHEREAS we acknowledge that children receive their first and most important care and support from their families, who provide for their economic and emotional well-being; and

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WHEREAS in today’s world, many parents or caregivers hold outside employment and with their increasing participation in the workforce, the demand for child care will continue to heighten; and

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**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 2003
AS "CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH"**

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WHEREAS, Santa Barbara County's placement rate of children and youth into foster and group homes has declined 13% since 1996 and is less than half of the Statewide placement rate, and

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WHEREAS, the harmful effects of child abuse reach beyond the abused child, and adversely affect the well-being of the community at large; and

WHEREAS, research now shows us that child abuse, including exposure to domestic violence and emotional deprivation, impairs brain development in specific areas that may lead to an inability to relate to others, a key predictor of aggressive and antisocial behavior; and

WHEREAS, research has also clearly shown that child abuse can be prevented and the generational cycle of abuse within families can be interrupted; and

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