



## **MEDIA ADVISORY—MEDIA ADVISORY—MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **“Community Leaders Participate in Child Abuse Prevention Summit”**

**WHAT:** Child Abuse Prevention Summit of Santa Barbara County. Community leaders and agencies honor Child Abuse Prevention month and National Crime Victim’s week by participating in a summit to learn more about child abuse and neglect and the prevention and protective resources that exist in our community. The Summit will recognize the importance of the entire community as an active participant in helping keep **all children safe** from abuse and neglect.

**WHEN:** Thursday, April 30, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Santa Maria Inn, 801 South Broadway, Santa Maria.

**WHO:** A collaboration of the Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council, the Santa Barbara County District Attorney’s Office, Santa Barbara County Child Welfare Services and the North County community to advance the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The District Attorney’s Office 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Victim’s Rights Awards Luncheon will be held at 12:30 p.m.

#### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

For questions regarding the Summit: Katharina Zulliger, 805-315-6355, [k.zulliger@sbcsocialserv.org](mailto:k.zulliger@sbcsocialserv.org) OR for assistance in Spanish, contact Arcelia Sencion, 805-588-2495, [arcelia@syvphp.org](mailto:arcelia@syvphp.org)

For questions regarding Victims’ Rights and Services and the Awards Luncheon: Megan Riker, 805-729-1614, [mriker@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:mriker@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Substance abuse, stress, isolation, lack of food and shelter, all contribute to a child being put at risk of becoming a victim of abuse and neglect. To help our children grow up nurtured and safe, we have to ensure that families who experience these stressors are able to access people, programs and services that will provide assistance. The community plays an important role in that.

The Child Abuse Prevention Summit will ask the community to help turn the curve on child abuse and neglect with a particular emphasis on North County where there are presently less prevention and community awareness resources available. The summit will provide information and resources about effective prevention and protective strategies and will bring together community leaders and experts to share their experience and knowledge of these resources in our community. The Summit also offers an opportunity for agencies to learn more about and plan how they can play an active role in preventing child abuse and neglect by offering families the support system that is so vital to helping children grow up in a healthy and nurturing environment. In honor of Victim’s Rights Week the summit will culminate in an awards luncheon, honoring winners of the Citizen of Courage and Child Service Awards.

#### **About Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council**

The Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) is a **community council** with the primary purpose of coordinating Santa Barbara County’s efforts to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect. The Santa Barbara County’s CAPC includes a broad-based membership with representatives from the prevention and treatment service communities, the criminal justice system, County Child Welfare Services and other public agencies, education, community based organizations, faith-based groups, parents and community members. For more information call 805-346-8222 or e-mail: [K.zulliger@sbcsocialserv.org](mailto:K.zulliger@sbcsocialserv.org)