

# CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH



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## BLUE RIBBON CAMPAIGN RAISES AWARENESS, BRINGS HOPE

Every year across the nation, April is recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month. This year, the Solano County Board of Supervisors, in partnership with the Child Abuse Prevention Council, will issue a countywide proclamation "calling upon all citizens to increase their participation in efforts to prevent child abuse, thereby strengthening the communities in which we live."

In response to the proclamation, the Child Abuse Prevention Council, Family Resource Centers, The Children's Network, and AmeriCorps members will participate in the forth annual Blue Ribbon Campaign to raise awareness around child abuse prevention issues.

The campaign will begin with a ribbon tying ceremony on Friday, April 15 in Fairfield. Parents, children, and community members are invited to join the Family Resource Center staff and AmeriCorps members in tying blue ribbons to the county tree, located directly across from the Solano County Government Center at 675 Texas Street.

Each ribbon will represent a Solano County child who was reported as abused or neglected in 2004. The ribbons will remain on display for one month.

Community members can also participate in various activities in conjunction with CASA's (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Annual Candlelight Vigil and the Annual Dixon Block Party. During all Blue Ribbon events, resource tables will be available to parents and families seeking child abuse prevention and parenting related information (also available in Spanish.) Child Abuse Prevention Council members and AmeriCorps members will be on hand to inform parents about parenting resources available in Solano County. Children are invited to create Blue Ribbon Campaign bookmarkers and coloring pages to take home as a reminder of their right to be loved and protected.

For more information regarding Blue Ribbon Campaign events, please contact Ronesha Cooper, Americorps Program Coordinator, at (707) 421-7229.

### **EITC: Help for Low Income Families**

Working parents who've missed out on the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) are urged to check out free centers in Solano County where up to \$4,300 or more could await them.

The EITC has been called the government's biggest anti-poverty program, but many people who qualify don't apply to receive the money. Two years ago, an estimated \$8.9 million went uncollected in Solano County alone.

Qualifying persons are married couples with two or more children and 2004 earnings of less than \$35,458; single parents with one child and earnings up to \$30,338; and individuals who earned \$11,490 or less.

To find locations where "**Earn it, keep it, save it, Solano**" program assistance is available, call Ronesha Cooper at (707) 421-7229, or visit the website at [www.earnitkeepitsaveit.org](http://www.earnitkeepitsaveit.org).

## Upcoming Events:

### April 1

#### *"Just Desserts and Laughter"*

Dixon Family Services, along with support from Pepper Belly's Comedy, Sports, & Dancing presents the second year of "Just Desserts & Laughter" at the Denver Hall, Dixon May Fairgrounds on April 1 from 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The evening will feature three stand-up comedy acts, magic shows, raffle prizes, appetizers, and desserts. Donation is \$25 per person with proceeds to benefit the Dixon Family Services community projects. To purchase tickets or for more information, call (707) 678-0442.

### April 2

#### *Vallejo Spring Learning Fair*

In celebration of the national "Week of the Young Child" (April 3-9), Solano County families are invited to explore interactive exhibits and listen to speakers and stories free of charge at First 5 Solano's "Vallejo Spring Learning Fair," on Saturday April 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, 734 Marin Street in Vallejo. For more information, contact the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission at (707) 435-2965.

### May 21

*CARES Forum 12*  
Will C. Wood High School  
Vacaville, CA

## SOLANO CARES FORUM 11: FOCUS ON HEALTH AND WELLNESS

"Health and Wellness: Taking Care of You ~ Taking Care of Children" was the theme for Solano CARES Forum 11, held on February 12, 2005, at the California Maritime Academy in Vallejo. Stephen Raburn, Executive Director of the Center for Child Advocacy and Research in Napa, addressed the "Taking Care of Children" topic with his presentation on "Understanding/Promoting Positive Mental Health in the Preschool Age Population." Lee Lesser of the Parent Services Project of Marin presented an interactive workshop on "Stress Management" to address the "Taking Care of You" portion of the forum. Topics were selected based upon previous input from forum attendees. The majority of the 223 child care providers in attendance indicated the forum met or exceeded their expectations.

Representatives from nine community based organizations in Solano County participated in a Resource Fair, held during the morning registration and the mid-morning break. Participating agencies included The Children's Network, Solano Family and Children's Services, SIDS Committee, ALDEA Treatment Foster Care, Black Infant Health, Solano Asthma Coalition, Solano Kids Insurance Program (SKIP), University of Phoenix, and UC Cooperative Extension sharing information about nutrition and the Children and Weight Coalition.

Solano CARES Forum 12 will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2005, at Will C. Wood High School in Vacaville, with a focus on "Preschool for All."

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## DEBBY MCGUIRE NAMED "WOMAN OF THE YEAR"

Children's Network and Children's Alliance founding member Debby McGuire was honored as the 8th Assembly District "Woman of the Year" by Assemblywoman Lois Wolk at a ceremony on March 14 held at the State Capitol.

"Debby is truly an outstanding community leader for my district," Assemblywoman Wolk said. "Of all the exceptional women in Solano County, her long history of hard work and advocacy on behalf of children and those in need makes her truly

deserving of this award. She has a rare combination of compassion and leadership that makes her an extraordinary role model for young people."

A Vacaville resident for 30 years, McGuire currently serves as Program Director for the city's Youth Takin' on Tobacco program, where she helps local youth teach their peers about the dangers of smoking. She is also active in many civic organizations, including the Vacaville Public Education Foundation, the city's Youth Roundtable, and the tobacco Education Coalition.

## COMMUNITY HONORS PEOPLE RAISING CHILDREN

The Solano Parenting Partnership hosted its second annual week Honoring People Raising Children, February 21-27, 2005. Agencies throughout the county expressed their gratitude to families for their courage and commitment to raising children. Schools, libraries, county departments, recreation programs, and non-profit organizations hosted a multitude

of events, including family fun nights, resource fairs, storytimes, meals, family art activities, gifts from children to caregivers, and gifts and treats for parents & caregivers provided by child-serving professionals.



The week included participation from legislative and local representatives. Assembly Member Noreen Evans read books to children at a storytime in Vallejo, and Assemblywoman Lois Wolk and Senator Michael Machado presented a legislative resolution in support of the week to the Solano Parenting Partnership at the FSUSD's Fairview Elementary School Resource Fair organized by the Solano County Department of Health & Human Services. Several Solano County cities issued proclamations in support of the week.



*Assemblywoman Noreen Evans*

The Solano Parenting Partnership would like to express our deep gratitude to these individuals and organizations for demonstrating their commitment to children and families during the week Honoring People Raising Children:

- Aldea Counseling Program and Aldea Children and Family Services
- Assemblywoman Noreen Evans and Assemblywoman Lois Wolk
- Benicia City Council & Mayor Steve Messina
- Benicia Library
- Child Start, Inc.
- Dixon Family Services Family Resource Center
- Elsa Widenmann Elementary
- The Fairfield Police Department
- Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District's Healthy Start Family Resource Center
- Fairview Elementary School
- Fighting Back Partnership Family Resource Centers
- Grange Middle School
- Markham Elementary School
- The Place To Be After 3
- Planned Parenthood Shasta-Diablo – Teen Parent Resource Center
- Rio Vista C.A.R.E. Family Resource Center
- Senator Michael Machado
- Solano County Dept. of Health & Social Services
- Solano County Library
- Solano Parent Network
- Solano Prenatal Collaborative
- Suisun City Council & Mayor James Sperring
- Travis Elementary School Preschool
- Vacaville Police Department Family Resource Center
- Vallejo City Council & Mayor Tony Intintoli

# Children's Network

*A united voice for the children of Solano County*

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## COUNCIL OFFICERS

### Children's Alliance

Sonja New, President  
Leatrice Knox, First VP  
Sal Alcalá, Second VP

### Child Abuse Prevention Council

Debbi Davis, Chair  
Pat Nicodemus, Vice Chair  
Susan Dolan, Secretary

### Child Care Planning Council

Gail Jack, Chair  
Leatrice Knox, Vice Chair

### CHILDREN'S NETWORK

Kim Thomas, Executive Director

### NEWSLETTER

Mary LeCompte, Editor

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

### Solano Children's Alliance

(formerly known as The Children's Network Council)

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|                      |                            |                        |
|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Sal Alcalá           | Lisette Estrella-Henderson | Kathy Lago             |
| Linda Alonzo         | Wanda Farnsworth           | Irene Lopez-Tauriac    |
| Dorothy Bryant Steel | Marie Fortier              | Denise McBride-Delgado |
| Nancy Calvo          | Nancy Goodman              | Sonja New              |
| Lisa Clevenger       | Robin Graffman             | David Paulson          |
| Dennis Covell        | Michael Jereb              | Gayla Reiter           |
| Debbi Davis          | Jeffrey Knight             | Bruce Sanders          |
| Ana Dineen           | Leatrice Knox              | Pelton Stewart         |

### Solano County Child Abuse Prevention Council

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|                      |                        |                  |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Rey Bernardes        | Marie Fortier          | Pat Nicodemus    |
| Dorothy Bryant Steel | Rev. Willie Graham     | JoAnn Parker     |
| Debbi Davis          | Bill Haden             | David Paulson    |
| Mary Dickey          | Louise Harris          | Chuck Ramey      |
| Kathy Dineen         | Gene Horst             | Stacy Souza      |
| Susan Dolan          | Bridget Kennedy        | Capt. Guy Venuti |
| Jennifer Doran       | Denise McBride-Delgado |                  |
| Dottie Fair          |                        |                  |

### Solano County Child Care Planning Council

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|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
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| Gail Jack      | Valerie Powell |
| Leatrice Knox  | Karen Sanchez  |
| Kathy Lago     | Ken Scarberry  |