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SACRAMENTO CHILDREN'S HOME

Investing in our children & families since 1867

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Crisis Nursery South to Reopen This Summer Services For Parents of Children 0-5 in South Sacramento

Thanks to an \$853,000 grant from the First 5 Sacramento Commission, the Sacramento Children's Home can reopen the south area Crisis Nursery and again offer local families in crisis a place to keep their children safe while rebuilding a support system.

A program of the Sacramento Children's Home, the Crisis Nursery was reduced to one nursery in the north area in 2007 when lack of funds forced the south area nursery to close. A current First 5 Sacramento Commission fund recipient for the north nursery, the decision to reopen the nursery stemmed from the increased cases of child neglect and death in Sacramento County. "The Crisis Nursery is a prevention program for families providing safety net services before an intervention by the county is necessary," said Roy Alexander, Director of the Sacramento Children's Home. "Now more than ever with the economic recession, it is important that there will be two Crisis Nurseries to help parents day and night—they are not alone."

Today, the Crisis Nursery North offers emergency child care, 7a.m.-7p.m. AND 24-hour shelter for up to 30 days for children ages 0-5. Comprehensive parenting education and counseling is provided and a designated case manager works with the family while their child stays in the program. Transportation services are also offered to the families.

The First 5 Sacramento Commission grant will allow the Sacramento Children's Home to offer emergency child care to ten additional children and eight 24-hour beds.

"Families need support during times of stress and children need to be in a safe environment to avoid potential neglect or abuse," said Roger Dickinson, Chair of the First 5 Sacramento. "It is vital that parents have family support services to help them meet the needs of their children."

The Crisis Nurseries prevention services keep families from falling into the system. As of the end of February 2009, the Crisis Nurseries program has served 6000 children and 4300 families in Sacramento County. At exit, 95% of families felt that the crisis nursery program

reduced risk of their child being harmed. Additionally, 24% of families in the 24-hour shelter program felt that their child would have likely been placed in foster care if they had not received help from the Crisis Nursery. Another 76% of parents reported reduced stress level after utilizing the Crisis Nursery. The success of the program depends on parents being aware of having this option because the program is voluntary, confidential and free for the family!

Background: Crisis Nurseries

In 1996 the first Crisis Nursery, a program of the Sacramento Children's Home, was opened through collaborative efforts of the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento, the Junior League of Sacramento, and the Sacramento Children's Home. Its mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect by providing support to families at times of crisis through 24 hour shelter care and emergency child care for children from birth through age five.

Background: Sacramento Children's Home

The Sacramento Children's Home has been a safe haven for children and families since 1867 by offering child abuse prevention, intervention and treatment programs. The Home addresses the needs of children from prenatal to young adulthood and operates a number of programs in various locations, many of which have been recognized for innovation and quality.

Background: First 5 Sacramento Commission

California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to support programs for expectant parents and children ages zero to five. First 5 Sacramento distributes approximately \$16 million a year in Prop. 10 revenues to programs and services that meet *local* needs.

More info at www.kidshome.org, www.crisisnurseries.org, www.First5Sacramento.net

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