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**SAN MATEO COUNTY CELEBRATES POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND  
COMMUNITY SUPPORT WITH WEEK-LONG EVENT**

*“Youth Development Week” Targets Youth, Parents and Public With Range Of  
Workshops And Forums On Health, Fitness, Body Image, And Personal Growth;*

*Event Culminates With Youth Development Showcase and  
Carnival Featuring Games, Entertainment, Prizes and More*

**SAN CARLOS, CALIF., April 4, 2006** – Demonstrating its continued commitment to the area’s youth as one of the “100 Best Communities for Young People\*,” San Mateo County this week is celebrating positive youth development and achievements, as well as the significant support that teens receive from public programs and community involvement.

Sponsored by Youth and Family Enrichment Services’ (YFES) Youth Development Initiative, Youth Development Week features a series of public awareness activities April 3-7 and culminates with a carnival and youth development showcase planned on Saturday, April 8, at the San Mateo Expo Center, Cypress Room, 2495 South Delaware Street, from 11:30 am to 4:00 pm.

"I'm super excited about Youth Development Week," said Fiona Wainwright, 18, Youth Commissioner of the Youth Development Initiative. "It is going to be a great week where youth can show off all the wonderful things they do in their communities and, hopefully, this will influence adults to value and engage young people more often."

"The youth of San Mateo County are making tangible, critical contributions to the everyday life of all our residents, particularly as members of a number of county boards and commissions," said Supervisor Richard Gordon, Youth Commission Liaison from the Board of Supervisors. "I am pleased that we will all have an opportunity this week to thank the youth for their continued involvement and help to make San Mateo County an even better place to live and work."

Funded in part through a grant from the San Mateo County Health Department and support from Sequoia Hospital, Seton Medical Center, Mills-Peninsula Medical Center,

Electronic Arts Foundation, and other valuable partners, the Youth Development Initiative is dedicated to helping bridge the gap between youth and adults, originating from the belief that healthy young people do more than just stay out of trouble. When youth are at their best, they also make responsible choices, do better in school, and have a more positive view of the world.

"Mounting research and experience with many community partners in San Mateo County have demonstrated why we need to promote youth development in building a healthy community," said Charlene Silva, Director of the San Mateo County Health Department. "We encourage community members to participate in the events of this first-ever San Mateo County Youth Development Week, and acknowledge the many different ways our youth have contributed to make San Mateo County one of the 100 best communities in the US for youth and children."

**Highlights of the Youth Development Week include:**

- **Monday, April 3:** *Be the Difference* radio show launched by Youth Assets Team, a youth outreach and education project of the Youth Development Initiative. <http://www.bethedifference.org>
- **Tuesday, April 4:** Presentation by the county Public Health Task Force on the Prevention of Childhood Obesity. Coincides with National Public Health Week. Location: 400 County Center, Hall of Justice and Records, Redwood City. Time: 9 am.
- **Wednesday, April 5:**
  - Health and Fitness "Fishbowl" Forum (a fish bowl includes two circles of people in a room: one inner circle comprised of youth who discuss the topic and an outer circle of adults who may observe only). Location: Cunha School, Kelly and Church Streets, Half Moon Bay. Time: 4-7pm.
  - Friday Night Live Congress to discuss current alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (ATOD) prevention efforts in San Mateo County. Location: 700 S. Claremont St. #231. Time: 5-7pm
- **Thursday, April 6:** Luncheon celebrating Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center's peer conflict mediators in county schools. Includes workshop on positive body image hosted by Hoover Magnet School peer educators. Location: San Mateo Elks Lodge, 233 W. 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Time: 11am-2pm (By invitation only.)
- **Saturday, April 8:**
  - Carnival: Rock climbing wall, games, prizes, music and entertainment including Cervantes, Cultural Dances, Davenport Totem, Billy Garner, Travis Hill, Poets, Wicked Little Town and more.
  - Health screening sponsored by the Public Health Department
  - Showcase of local public programs and initiatives, such as the Daly City Parks and Recreation, Hoover School Student Council, Sequoia High School Teen Resource Center, YMCA of San Francisco, Mental Health Association of San Mateo County, OnYourMind.net (crisis chat room), Youth Leadership Institute, San Mateo County Public Health Department, San Mateo County Jobs for Youth, and many more.
  - Youth Rally and Recognition, 2:00 pm: Youth Commissioner Ashleigh Lew will lead a brief rally to celebrate Youth Development Week, including a reading of the proclamation from the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, as well as speakers from the Public Health Department, California Youth Connection, and selected schools.

### **About the Youth Development Initiative**

Youth Development Week was created by the Youth Development Initiative, a program of Youth and Family Enrichment Services. Seeking to give youth a voice in decisions that affect them, the Youth Development Initiative places youth as representatives on county commissions and boards. It also works to educate adults on the importance of their involvement in the lives of young people, promote positive asset development in youth, recognize youth as resources to the community and provide youth with resources that enable them to make healthy decisions. Funding for the Youth Development Week is provided by the Lucille Packard Children's Hospital, the Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health, the Peninsula Community Foundation, the San Mateo County Office of Education and the Public Health Department.

### **About Youth and Family Enrichment Services**

Youth and Family Enrichment Services is a private non-profit agency in San Mateo County that provides a wide array of free and low-cost services to help children, teens and adults who are dealing with substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health, relationship and communication issues. Youth and Family Enrichment Services was created in July 2003 by the merger of Youth and Family Assistance (YFA) and Family and Community Enrichment Services (FACES), two of San Mateo County's most reputable non-profit agencies. For more information about Youth and Family Enrichment Services and its programs, visit its web site at [www.yfes.org](http://www.yfes.org).

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\* September 26, 2005 press release from San Mateo County:

[http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/smc/departement/cmo/home/0,,1909\\_4281259\\_50689183\\_0,00.html](http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/smc/departement/cmo/home/0,,1909_4281259_50689183_0,00.html)