



October 27, 2008

MEDIA ALERT

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For Immediate Release

Adopt-a-Family for the Holidays

Home Start Announces Annual Holiday Drive

San Diego, CA – For over 35 years, Home Start has worked toward providing meaningful services to children and families living in poverty. Each year, since 1972, Home Start has also been instrumental in bringing hope and healing during the holiday season through its “Adopt-a-Family” program.

For many struggling families, serving a special holiday meal or providing gifts to their children is well beyond their reach. However, with the support from the San Diego community, Home Start has been able to bring a smile to the faces of many children and their parents.

Over this past year, our case managers and therapists have worked with many families living in poverty who are striving to improve their lives and build a safe, stable home for themselves and their children. We are asking all San Diegans to create a meaningful holiday for a family in need by joining us in this effort.



The community can become involved through the following activities: **“Adopt-a-Family Campaign”** will match you to a needy family’s “wish list” of items that would improve their lives and bring joy to their children. (Please respond by Nov.14th, 2008 to allow time for shopping and distribution of donations.) **Toy and Food Drive:** donations benefit clients with children who are on the verge of homelessness or coping with other serious crises. **Holiday Drive:** Home Start seeks financial donations to fund services that put an end to family violence, assist child victims of abuse, and prevent future occurrences.

For more information or to make a donation, please call (619) 692-0727 Ext.144 or visit us online at www.home-start.org.

Founded in 1972, Home Start, Inc. is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit agency that provides services to children living in poverty who require immediate, comprehensive solutions to ensure their safety and healthy development. Our mission is dedicated to child abuse prevention and family strengthening services. Today, Home Start reaches at-risk children right where it counts -- in the home, and then extends the helping hand to schools and the community. Some of our programs include: **Family Support Services** - Parents are taught accurate expectations of their children, how to interact with them and use positive, appropriate discipline. As a result, families are less isolated, more nurturing and cohesive. Parents are strengthened and are better able to protect their children in the future. **Therapeutic Counseling Services** are provided in the home or at our counseling centers located in North County and Mission Valley. Services are provided on a sliding-fee scale or through the Victim Compensation Fund. **Family Self-Sufficiency Services** provide a "hand-up" rather than a handout by stabilizing families in crisis. Families are helped to move from welfare-to-work, many for the first time in their lives.

For more information about Home Start and our programs please visit us online at www.home-start.org or call (619) 692-0727 ext. 144.

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