



May 11, 2009

MEDIA ALERT

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*For Immediate Release*

## **BLUE RIBBON GALA A GREAT SUCCESS**

San Diego, CA – On behalf of the children and families we serve, Home Start would like to thank the entire community for making the “*Blue Ribbon Gala*” such a resounding success.

With over 250 prominent San Diegans in attendance on April 25, 2009, Home Start celebrated 36 years of service and honored three outstanding community partners **WD-40 Company, Price Galinson Collaborative Fund** and **Fiona Mackin-Jha**.

“We are grateful for the outpouring of support from the community to provide critical assistance to San Diego County’s most vulnerable children and families” said Chief Executive Officer, Laura A. Mustari, “Over **\$85,000 was raised** in support of Home Start’s programs and we would especially like to thank our wonderful committee and presenting sponsors - Dr. Sanjay & Mrs. Fiona Jha, San Diego National Bank, The Pack Foundation, Procopio, Private Banking and Investment Group-Merrill Lynch, Cox Communications and Sunrise Bank.”

*Last year Home Start provided services to over 19,000 San Diegans. Many of those are families and children who have experienced abuse or neglect and require professional, confidential counseling to heal from the trauma of maltreatment. Support of the “Blue Ribbon Gala” allows Home Start to reach out to parents struggling to cope with poverty, illness and other crises and connect them to the resources needed to create a stable, secure and healthy home life for their children.*

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Since 1972, Home Start (a 501 (C) (3) non-profit agency) has been dedicated to preventing child maltreatment and providing treatment to victims of abuse and neglect. 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 key programs include: Child Abuse Treatment Services • Health and Developmental Services • Free Tax Preparation and Earned Income Tax Credit Services • Financial Literacy Training • Healthcare Access (MediCal and Healthy Families Outreach) • Community Services for Families • Parenting Skills Education • Therapeutic Counseling Services, are provided in the home or at our counseling center • Family Self-Sufficiency Services include intensive case management; referrals to job training/employment and emergency assistance (food and clothing) and provides 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 or to schedule an interview, please call (619) 692-0727 ext. 144 or visit us online at [www.home-start.org](http://www.home-start.org).

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