



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**SCHOOL READINESS & DOWN SYNDROME PROGRAMS RECEIVE
PETER A. HARTMAN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**

WHAT: The Children & Families Commission of Orange County's **5th Annual Community Awards Program** to honor "Successful Startups" funded with Proposition 10 tobacco tax revenues benefiting young children and families.

The Peter A. Hartman Award for Excellence is named in honor of Peter A. Hartman, Ph.D. (1938-2001) a former Children & Families Commissioner and Superintendent of the Saddleback Valley Unified School District and a champion of children's issues.

WHEN: **Wednesday, March 29, 2006**
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Discovery Science Center
2500 North Main Street, Santa Ana

WHO: **Down Syndrome Association of Orange County: *Project for Self Sustainment***
Provides information and emotional support for families with children diagnosed with Down Syndrome, organize monthly meetings, and provide a support network and access to a library with research materials.

KidWorks Preschool Project: El Puente Community Development Corporation
Located in a remodeled community center in the central Santa Ana the new licensed preschool provides school readiness activities to 20 to 40 young children.

WHY: The Children and Families Commission of Orange County oversees the allocation of funds from Proposition 10 that adds a 50-cent sales tax on tobacco products sold in California to fund education, health and child development programs for children from the prenatal stage to age five and their families. The Community Awards Program recognizes successful programs that positively impact the lives of young children and families.