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LOCAL FOUNDATIONS JOIN FORCES TO FUND NUTRITION, FITNESS PROGRAMS AND MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS IN ORANGE COUNTY

August 17, 2005 - The HealthCare Foundation for Orange County and the Orange County Community Foundation have joined forces again this year, to provide nearly \$150,000 in support for local projects aimed at protecting children's health.

Recipients of this year's grants include:

- **American Academy of Pediatrics, Chapter 4 (\$25,000 – HFOC)** received funding for the pilot program "PE for ME". The program engages 9th-12th graders from various Orange County high schools in a fitness program and emphasizes the lifelong importance of proper nutrition and exercise.
- **Child Share Program, Inc (\$20,000 - \$15,000 from HFOC and \$5,000 from OCCF)** was awarded funding for "Support Foster and Adoptive Children and Teens" program. This program will address issues faced by older and hard to place foster children and their foster/adoptive parents. The programs will provide three family support groups in Orange County, workshops, support forums as well as individualized family care through parent mentoring to aid in the positive development of foster care children and their families.
- **Community Care Health Centers' (\$15,000 – OCCF)** "CCHC School Based Mental Health and Health Linkages Project" will implement a nine-month project that includes mental health counseling services, primary medical care, dental linkage services and

specialty care services. CCHC will provide 1,800-2,300 service hours to at-risk children and adolescents of Orange County between ages 5-17.

- **Families Forward (\$20,000 – OCCF)** in partnership with Irvine Unified School District Guidance Resources Irvine Family Resource Center pilot project “Irvine TeenScreen” will offer free and voluntary mental health screening, case management and linkage to treatment resources to middle and high school students receiving services at the Irvine Family Resource Center.
- **The Gary Center (\$20,000 – HFOC)** received support to expand their counseling services through “The Gary Center High Risk Children’s and Youth Counseling Program.” The program will provide in-house counseling and school based counseling to improve personal development, social behavior and school engagement.
- **Girls Inc.’s (\$15,000 – HFOC)** “Fit Girls and Families” program will serve girls 11-18 and their families in education of healthy and unhealthy eating habits, obesity, cultural and emotional issues, and exercise strategies.
- **Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance’s (\$20,000 – HFOC)** “Support Network for Asian and Pacific Islander Youth (SNAPIY) Program” received funding for youth support groups for boys and girls 11-18, leadership development activities and parent education on mental health needs for youth.
- **Shiloh Community Counseling & Outreach Center (\$15,000 – OCCF)** received support for “Caring for Every Child’s Mental Health Campaign” to conduct community outreach and parent education in issues of mental health amongst the youth in Orange County. Direct therapeutic services include individual and group counseling.

The two Foundations chose to invest this year’s collaborative funding to efforts that encourage the safe and healthy environments for children and youth in Orange County. The Foundations decided to address two unique needs:

- Mental Health: Focus was placed on reducing risks associated with child and adolescent mental health problems and assisting parents and teens in prevention, early identification and access to needed services.
- Nutrition and physical activity: Given the growing number of health risks linked to overweight and inactivity, there is a need to modify children’s environments to encourage sound nutrition and increased physical activity.

By pooling resources, the Foundations offered community organizations a streamlined application process and were able to fund projects throughout the County. Interested parties may learn more about the Foundations’ work by visiting their websites: www.hfoc.org and www.oc-cf.org.