



Countywide Services Agency

Department of
Health and Human Services

Child Protective Services

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Families, county supervisors to honor social workers on March 10 *Grandparents of Noah, boy who survived living alone for six days, expected to attend*

SACRAMENTO — Social workers on the front lines of protecting the community's most vulnerable residents will be honored before the county Board of Supervisors at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10. The event takes place at 700 H St. in Sacramento.

About 15 workers from the Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Human Assistance will be acknowledged when county supervisors recognize March 2009 as Social Work Month in Sacramento County.

Families who have been affected by county social workers are also scheduled to attend.

These include Jess and Rita Modesto, whose 3-year-old grandson survived after spending six days at home alone. Noah's mother died of a chronic illness on June 20, 2008. Toddler Noah was discovered on June 26, 2008 when CPS social worker Jade Tea visited the house and heard him crying inside. The Modesto's will thank Jade personally.

Besides Tea, other workers being honored include:

- A CPS Permanency Services worker who delivers holiday gifts to group home youth every December and has formed a life-long connection with an emancipated foster youth who is serving in the armed forces. An inspirational speaker, she is featured at social worker trainings and fund-raisers for foster youth programs.
- A CPS Emergency Response worker who began her career as a clerk, then earned bachelor's and master's degrees so that she could become a child welfare worker. "I love my job because I know I make a difference," she says. "I can't resolve every family's problems but I can make sure their children are safe."

Sacramento County employs 850 social workers who perform such diverse tasks as watching over frail seniors and adults with disabilities; protecting children from abuse and neglect; advocating for victims of violent crime and their family members; and helping individuals and families achieve self sufficiency. More than half are employed by Sacramento County Child Protective Services.