



# County of Los Angeles DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Foster Youth Who Exemplify Success Take Center Stage at the 'Celebration 2010' Graduation Ceremony on Tuesday, June 8th**

133 young adults will proudly take center stage to celebrate their success on Tuesday, June 8, 2010 as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> annual "Celebration 2010: Honoring the Academic Achievements of Foster Youth." The event will begin at 7 p.m. at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, located at 111 South Grand Avenue in downtown Los Angeles. Jada Pinkett Smith is the keynote speaker and Paul Rodriguez is the emcee for the event.

Hundreds of friends, foster parents and family members will watch as the youth march across the stage to honor this significant milestone in their lives - an occasion marked by academic achievement and triumph over adversity. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Director Patricia S. Ploehn and the Los Angeles County Chief Probation Officer Donald H. Blevins are among the invited guests.

As part of the "Celebration 2010" graduation ceremony, more than \$750,000 in scholarships will be presented to the youth by a variety of corporations and non-profit organizations. Donors include United Friends of the Children (UFC), The Teague Family Foundation, Rising Stars, Coalition for At Risk Youth, Children's Court Scholarship Fund, Heads Up Youth Foundation, KLOS, Accenture, Rotary Club of Los Angeles, Evelyn Booker-L.S.C., Los Angeles County Department of Probation, Jane Mabie Memorial Scholarship/All Saints Church Foster Care Project, One Child at a Time, Torrance Women's Club, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated/Omicron Rho Zeta Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services Managers.

"Celebration 2010" is a collaborative effort involving DCFS; the County of Los Angeles Probation Department; UFC, a non-profit organization that provides the direct and in-depth services that make it possible for foster youth to become self-sustaining adults; The Teague Family Foundation; and Casey Family Programs.

All of the young adults taking center stage on June 8<sup>th</sup> have demonstrated strong character and perseverance in overcoming past obstacles to graduate from high school with honors, strong grade point averages and acceptance at prestigious universities and vocational schools.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*