



# County of Los Angeles DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020  
(213) 351-5602

PATRICIA S. PLOEHN, LCSW  
Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contact:** Neil Zanville  
DCFS Office of Public Affairs  
(213) 351-5886

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Los Angeles County Proclaims March 1-7 “Family Reunification Week” Families honored for their commitment in reunifying with their children**

Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has proclaimed March 1 - March 7, 2010, “Family Reunification Week.” The week-long celebration will honor those families, who despite having court-ordered out-of-home care placement for their children, were able to comply with specific court requirements and reunified with their children in their family homes. Supervisor Molina initiated this first-time honor following discussions with The Honorable Michael Nash, Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Juvenile Court. Judge Nash repeatedly witnessed the commitment of families that successfully navigated the Dependency Court system to emerge healthier, stronger and intact.

At the regular March 2<sup>nd</sup> Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board will honor those individuals and families that best personify family reunification. Board Scrolls will be presented to mothers Maureen Rivas and Veolter Bates Jones, father, Carlos Hernandez, Children’s Social Worker Kim Massinter, Court Appointed Special Advocate Michelle Vasquez and the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles for their significant family reunification accomplishments.

The week will also focus on the reunification efforts, successes and programs of the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), a nationally recognized leader in child welfare reforms. Under the guidance of DCFS Director Patricia S. Ploehn, DCFS has made significant progress in reducing the number of children in foster care while increasing the prospects for safe reunification by implementing innovative programs designed to utilize community-based resources. Each day during Family Reunification Week, DCFS will highlight different programs including Parents in Partnership, Wraparound Services, Family Preservation, Linkages, Visitation Centers and Drug Court that support families in their reunification.

*“To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service”*

Director Ploehn stated: "We are extremely grateful to Judge Nash for this innovative recognition acknowledging the successful efforts of thousands of families that have reunited and provided for the safety of their children. We are equally indebted to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for actively supporting this week-long celebration, promoting the importance of family reunification throughout Los Angeles County. Our Department joins in offering our heart felt congratulations to those families who have made the safety and well-being of their children their number one priority."

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