



**CDSS**  
CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER PROCLAIMS APRIL 2009 CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** *“Kids Day at the Capitol” Partnering to Strengthen Families*

SACRAMENTO – Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today proclaimed April 2009 as Child Abuse Prevention Month during “Kids Day at the Capitol,” an annual celebration designed to heighten awareness and emphasize the importance of strong community involvement in preventing child abuse and neglect.

“Protecting our children is one of California’s highest priorities, and every child deserves to have a loving and supportive home life that nurtures his or her development,” said Governor Schwarzenegger. “It is vital that we all do our part to ensure that our youth are safe and have the opportunity to have happy childhoods.”

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and Prevent Child Abuse California welcomed children, families, teachers, advocates, law enforcement and organizations to enjoy action-packed activities for the kids including dance demonstrations, free ID cards, fingerprinting for children and more than 50 resource and information booths focused on keeping children safe. Mark S. Allen of CW31’s *Good Day Sacramento* hosted the ceremonies recognizing the efforts of community members who work on behalf of children, as well as youth artists from the “Heroes for Kids” art contest.

“We know there is a direct link between child abuse and family stress. Families need support especially during these tough economic times,” said John Wagner, Director of the California Department of Social Services. “It’s essential that communities join together in developing support for children and families.”

This day-long public activity is one of many events held throughout the state and nation in April to commemorate National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Child abuse and neglect affects children of all ages, races and incomes and crosses all socio-economic lines. In California, nearly half a million cases of child abuse are reported each year.

For more information about child abuse prevention, log on to  
[www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/PG91.htm](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/PG91.htm).

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