

Supervisor Knabe Honored by Children's Mental Health Agency for Support of Children's Causes

The Intercommunity Child Guidance Center (ICGC), which provides comprehensive mental health and social services for children and their families, recently recognized Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe for spearheading landmark programs designed to safeguard children.

"While on the Board of Supervisors, Don Knabe has repeatedly advocated for and supported groundbreaking programs to protect the lives of children and safeguard their environment," said ICGC Executive Director Charlene Dimas-Peinado. "He's truly been a champion of children's causes throughout his career, as well as an advocate for children's mental health services."



The ICGC, which serves the Whittier and Southeast Los Angeles County area, presented its "Children's Champion Award" to Supervisor Knabe during its recent 50th Anniversary Gala held at the historic Ritz Carlton Huntington Hotel and Spa in Pasadena.

Supervisor Knabe championed the County's Safe Surrender Program in 2001, which allows a parent or guardian to drop off an infant, three days old or younger, to a hospital emergency room or other designated location without fear of arrest and prosecution. Based on the State's Safe Haven Law, the program has saved the lives of more than 60 newborn children.

In addition, Supervisor Knabe led efforts for the creation of a Child Care Quality Review System in the County of Los Angeles, sought to enhance the County's oversight of the State-licensed Foster Family Homes program, led a drive to reform the County's Department of Children's and Family Services and helped to establish a rating system for child care centers to help parents make informed choices.

Proceeds from the gala dinner benefited the "Early Attachments...that last a Lifetime Infant-Toddler Center," an ICGC project in partnership with Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital in Whittier. The Center will provide an early intervention and prevention program for families with infants at-risk for abuse, neglect or foster care placement with the goal of decreasing that risk by providing services aimed at fulfilling the well-being of the entire family system.

Protecting Public Lands

Supervisor Yaroslavsky Thanks Senator Feinstein

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky presented Senator Dianne Feinstein with a scrapbook of historic photos, illustrations and postcards of the West LA Veterans' Administration (VA) site, where this picture was taken, in gratitude for her recently-enacted legislation protecting the nearly 400 acres of that site from commercial development and preserving it for the benefit of veterans. Senator Feinstein's legislation, which passed the House thanks to the strong support of Representative Henry Waxman (D-Los Angeles), who represents the area, was included in an omnibus appropriations bill signed into law by President Bush in December.

