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Director

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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Linda Holcombe, President
Operation: Children, Inc.

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"However parenthood comes to you, it's a miracle" Valerie Harper– actress

Thank you, Operation: Children, for making miracles happen for children and parents alike. On behalf of the children and parents that have found each other through our adoption fairs, I want to thank you once again for the very generous and ongoing support that you have provided the Department of Children and Family Services, Adoption and Permanency Resources Division.

Last year, 116 prospective adoptive families and 185 children attended one of our adoption fairs resulting in 66 matches of 66 older, difficult-to-place children with prospective adoptive families. Many of those children are now experiencing the miracle of being someone's child and being part of a permanent family. At our most recent event, the Winterfest, where 52 children and 50 families attended, we were able to generate 25 potential matches as a result of that event.

We still have nearly 500 children waiting to be adopted in Los Angeles County, and the funds that Operation: Children so generously gives us help find these children a permanent family through our child-oriented adoption fairs. The fairs allow interested families to meet and interact with the children in a friendly atmosphere where they can get to know each other while playing games, doing arts and crafts, and enjoying a delicious lunch expertly served by Operation: Children volunteers.

As you know, the children that attend our adoption fairs can be some of our most difficult-to-place children. They are usually school aged, of African-American or Latino decent, part of a sibling group, and may have special medical or developmental needs. They are also wonderful children that deserve a permanent loving family to call their own. The interactions that occur at the fairs can be the key to having a family become interested in adopting a child that they would not have considered if they just seen a photo or read information about him or her.

Without our adoption fairs that Operation: Children supports, many children would still be in foster care, moving from house to house, never having a home or a permanent family to call their own. Further, the research has shown that children who grow up in stable, loving homes are less likely to drop out of school, get involved with the criminal system, or become homeless as adults.

So, thank you again, Operation: Children, for continuing to be our own miracle workers.

Sincerely,

Bill Thomas,
Acting Division Chief
Adoption and Permanency Resources

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"