

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino
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San Bernardino County Adoptions: Remembering 60 Years of Connections

San Bernardino County Adoption Services celebrates 60 years of adoption services. The agency has been licensed since 1951, the third county to be licensed in the state. California enacted its first statutes concerning adoptions in 1890 so that children whose parents were killed while en route to California could be adopted.

Over the past 60 years more than 11,567 children have found safe and supportive adoptive homes thanks to San Bernardino County Adoption Services (SBCAS), an agency of Children and Family Services. Over its 60 year history, Children and Family Services has facilitated anywhere from one to four hundred adoptions per year.

On Tuesday, June 21, 2011, from 5 – 7 P.M., SBCAS will reflect on its past accomplishments, as well as look forward. The “Adoptions: Remembering 60 Years of Connections” celebration is to be held at the County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Avenue. The featured speaker will be Vail Horton, San Bernardino County adoptee and founder of Keen Mobility and Incight Foundation. Mr. Horton was born without legs or a fully developed right hand, and doctors told his parents he would never be able to walk.

But after consultations with rehabilitation experts and months of intense physical therapy at home, Mr. Horton took his first steps at age four with the aid of crutches and prostheses. He has been exceeding expectations ever since. More than 200 adoptive families, adoption advocates, supporters and political leaders are expected to attend to hear Mr. Horton's story during this celebration.

SBCAS' Diamond Anniversary celebration will also include light snacks, a photo slide show, honored speakers and The Heart Gallery exhibit. The Heart Gallery features children who are in need of committed families that can meet the child's needs and provide the security of a loving family that they so richly deserve.

PLEASE INCLUDE IN ARTICLES: For more information about adoption or foster care, contact San Bernardino County Children and Family Services at **1-800-722-4477** or **(909) 891-3300** or access our website at <http://hss.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/dcs>.

For featured individuals or families, see Martha Allen or Tamara Scott.

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