



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sacramento County Named One of the Nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People

Sacramento County Recognized for their Efforts to Help Young People Succeed

Sacramento County, CA— America's Promise Alliance, the nation's largest alliance dedicated to children and youth today announced that Sacramento County has been named a winner of its 2008 *100 Best Communities for Young People (100 Best)* competition. The *100 Best* competition recognizes 100 outstanding communities across America—large and small, rural and urban—that are the best places for young people to live and grow up. Sacramento County is a two time winner of this prestigious award also holding this honor in 2005. More than 300 communities in all 50 states applied for the 100 Best Award.

Sacramento County has been named one of the *100 Best* because of the County's commitment to address the challenges facing its youth. The County's partnerships with different organizations including Sacramento County Children's Coalition, Linkage to Education, Sacramento County Youth Commission and Mayor's Commission on Sacramento Youth are greatly benefiting young people.

Results from local alliances include The City of Sacramento, who, in partnership with the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, improved one of the most dangerous areas of the County into Phoenix Park. A few years ago, parents in this part of the community kept their children in for safety but, today, kids frolic in gleaming new swimming pools and playgrounds. Police calls are down dramatically from a high of 803 in 2004 to just 112 in 2007.

The County is also committed to ensuring that its young people are healthy. *Cover the Kids* (CTK), Sacramento's Children's Health Initiative, provides families with an additional health coverage program called Healthy Kids, which serves children who are not eligible for existing programs such as Medi-Cal and Healthy Families. Healthy Kids was launched in September 2006 and as of June 30, 2007 insured 876 children.

"Sacramento County is honored to be chosen for a second time as one of the 100 best communities to raise children," said Roger Dickinson, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and Chair of the First 5 Sacramento Commission. "My thanks goes out to the numerous community organizations involved in this effort to showcase Sacramento County's youth programs."

America's Promise Founding Chairman General Colin Powell launched the competition and First 5 Sacramento Commission spearheaded this effort and applied for a place on the prestigious list.

“Although First 5 Sacramento coordinated the application submission it was really a community wide effort in which numerous public and private organizations contributed,” said Lin Batten, Executive Director for First 5 Sacramento. “This process amplified the spirit of collaboration that makes Sacramento County such a great community for kids.”

Sacramento County and other winners were selected by a distinguished panel that included some of the nation’s most well-known civic, business and nonprofit leaders that evaluated *100 Best* entries that required detailed information about each community’s efforts to fulfill five essential promises critical to the well-being of young people: caring adults who are actively involved in their lives; safe places in which to learn and grow; a healthy start toward adulthood; an effective education that builds marketable skills; and opportunities to help others. Members of America’s Promise Alliance — including the Boys and Girls Club and United Way — took leading roles in the *100 Best* competition.

“The City of Sacramento is proud of this honor and more importantly we are proud to have been recognized for our commitment to our city’s families,” said Mayor Heather Fargo. The Mayor added, “The health and vitality of our youth is critical to the health and vitality of our city, now and in the future.”

For more details about the *100 Best* competition and to see a complete list of the 2008 winners, please visit www.americaspromise.org.

About the America’s Promise Alliance

America’s Promise Alliance is the nation’s leader in forging a strong and effective partnership alliance comprised of corporations, nonprofit organizations, foundations, policymakers, advocacy and faith groups committed to ensuring that children receive the fundamental resources - the Five Promises – they need to lead successful, healthy and productive lives and build a stronger society.

TO: NEWS PRODUCERS, ASSIGNMENT EDITORS

America’s Promise Video Feed: America’s Promise Names Sacramento County One of the 100 Best Communities for Young People

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