

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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LOCAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM WINS STATE AWARD

SACRAMENTO— Santa Clara County-based *Prevention Partnership International* and its “¡Celebrando Familias!” substance abuse prevention program received the 2010 Director’s Award for Cultural Diversity at a statewide training conference sponsored and presented by the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP). The ADP Director’s Awards recognize valuable contributions by individuals and organizations to the substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery fields.

¡Celebrando Familias!, an evidence-based prevention program for Latino families, has been shown to strengthen recovery, improve family reunification and increase healthy living skills for Latino family members impacted by substance use disorders.

“This program is saving lives and families wherever it is implemented,” said ADP’s director Renée Zito, “and richly deserves this award for cultural diversity in prevention services. The people and the organization behind this innovative program are changing the way we serve vulnerable populations.”

On hand to accept the award for the partnership was Mary Gardner, Prevention Partnership International Project Director, and Toni Welch Torres, EMQ-Families First Addiction Prevention Services.

Prevention Partnership International developed ¡Celebrando Familias!—the Spanish version of Celebrating Families!—when a community needs assessment found a critical need for prevention programs to serve Spanish-speaking families dealing with substance use disorders. The program is the only program listed on the *National Registry of Effective Programs and Practices* engaging all family members (ages three to adult).

First piloted in 2009, ¡Celebrando Familias! will be available for national and international distribution from the National Association for Children of Alcoholics in January 2011.

Spanish-speaking professionals from the following programs partnered with Prevention Partnership International to implement ¡Celebrando Familias!: EMQ – Families First; Addiction Prevention Services; FIRST5 of Santa Clara County; Friends Outside of Santa Clara County; San Jose State University; SOMAS-Mayfair; ARH-Parisi House on the Hill; Santa Clara County Department of Social Services; and Dependency and Family Treatment Drug Courts.

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About ADP: The California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs is responsible for administering prevention, treatment, and recovery services for alcohol and drug abuse and problem gambling statewide. A goal is to inform all Californians that alcoholism, drug addiction and problem gambling are chronic conditions that can be successfully prevented and treated.

Photo attached.



(Left to right) Renée Zito, Director of the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, presents the *2010 Director's Award for Cultural Diversity* to Mary Gardner, Prevention Partnership International Project Director, and Toni Welch Torres, EMQ-Families First Addiction Prevention Services, manager of the team piloting the Spanish version of *Celebrating Families*.