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Riverside-Arlington Kiwanis Receives Prevention Grant from Kiwanis International Foundation

Riverside, CA – Riverside-Arlington Kiwanis, a service organization that serves and raises funds for child and youth programs and other charitable agencies, received a \$15,000 grant this month the Kiwanis International Foundation.

The grant will help support a project of Riverside-Arlington Kiwanis called the NineZero Project, an education and prevention campaign that teaches the next generation of parents about the dangers of drinking alcohol during pregnancy. This behavior causes Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and is 100 percent preventable. NineZero stands for, “Nine Months! Zero Alcohol!”

“I don’t think we could find a program that we could believe in more or was a better fit for carrying out our mission in our community,” said Ken Campbell, President of the Arlington chapter of Kiwanis. “We have heard from moms, teachers, people with FASD, and researchers over the years and they have all indicated the same thing. The best way to have an impact on this community health problem is to prevent it. That’s why we believe in the NineZero Project. We challenge other Kiwanis Clubs to join us in this worthy project.”

“We’re thrilled by the support we’re getting for the NineZero Project,” said Jim Stream, executive director of the Arc of Riverside, the organization that started the NineZero Project in 2001. “More and more people are beginning to understand the devastating effects of drinking alcohol during pregnancy.”

The NineZero Project features a peer-to-peer training curriculum that is now being offered for free to all Riverside County high schools called Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Teaching and Research Awareness Campaign (FASTRAC). The campaign also uses public service announcements featuring Olympic athletes and everyday people concerned about FASD, an interactive Web site (www.NineZero.org), and NineZero promotional items geared toward teens and young adults like T-shirts and tank tops as well as temporary tattoos.

While prenatal exposure to alcohol is the number one cause of developmental disabilities in the United States, it is totally preventable. Many children can be spared a lifelong sentence of living with a disability or an irreversible physical or mental condition through education and prevention. County health and social service personnel are seeing many of the problems drinking during pregnancy causes and are involved with Arc Riverside in this county-wide effort as well as their own prevention efforts. Individuals born with prenatal exposure to alcohol represent some of their toughest cases. It follows the burden on taxpayers because of this public health problem is enormous.

Riverside Arlington Kiwanis is a service club based in the Arlington area of Riverside that takes seriously the national Kiwanis theme of "Children; Priority One."

The Arc of Riverside is a 54 year-old non-profit organization that provides services, supports and advocacy for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families throughout Western Riverside County, and is located at 8138 Mar Vista Court, Riverside, CA 92504.

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