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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First 5 Tulare County
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First 5 Tulare County Honors Hands-On Heroes

VISALIA – First 5 Tulare County hosted its annual Hands-On Heroes awards ceremony Thursday evening, recognizing local people and organizations for their selfless and passionate support of children ages zero to five.

Over 200 people attended the event, emceed by Supervisor Phil Cox, a long-time member of the First 5 Tulare County Commission.

“This is an opportunity to bring together people who share a common cause of loving and providing for little children,” Cox said during the ceremony held at the Visalia Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center. “These heroes serve children every day, and deserve to be recognized and applauded for their commitment to children.”

The Hands-On Heroes of 2014 are:

Health and Wellness: Valerie Mitchell, RN, Tulare County Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Services

Exceptional Volunteer: Sophia Taylor, volunteer, Path to Literacy Consortium

Early Care and Education: Esther Coronado, teacher, Kaweah Delta Health Care District Kaweah Kids Center

Behavioral Health: Sylvia Jauregui, Tulare County Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Services

Parent Education/Strong Families: Stephanie Caldera, Parent Liaison, Tulare County Office of Education Bright Start; Dolores Aldaco-Cercado, Case Manager, Lindsay Healthy Start Family Resource Center

Outstanding Provider: The Blanket Ladies, a group of 28 women who produce thousands of blankets, caps and bears for organizations such as CASA and domestic violence programs and for children battling cancer.

The people and organizations represented focus on school readiness and literacy, support for children with special needs and their families, drug-affected infants, families in crisis and working together to help the social service system work better for children.

First 5 Tulare County is funded by Proposition 10. For information, contact First Five Tulare County at 622-8650 or visit www.First5tc.org.

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THE RECORDER

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