

Proclamation

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING OCTOBER 10, 2002 AS

PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST DAY

WHEREAS, PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST was conceived as a collaborative community outreach effort by San Mateo County agencies, groups, and individuals to link our families with legal, financial, health care, shelter, domestic violence prevention, educational, mental and emotional resources; and

WHEREAS, there is a tangible need in San Mateo County to provide parents with legal information and education about the available resources to help them with the interrelated issues that impact their families; and

WHEREAS there are over 8,000 new legal cases filed annually in the courts involving paternity, child and spousal support, child custody, visitation, legal separation and dissolution, domestic violence protection, guardianship and other matters affecting children; and

WHEREAS, over 50% of persons with family law matters cannot afford to hire counsel and must proceed on their own and family law facilitators fill the need by providing free legal assistance to an average of 50 people per day; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 40,000 people in San Mateo County are currently receiving some form of social services and many hundreds of families in San Mateo County come into contact each day with the various social and human services and the courts for assistance; and

WHEREAS, a diverse committee was formed in 1998, representing many facets of the community including courts, law enforcement, mental and health services, social services, private family law attorneys, educators, local, state, and federal government to collaborate on a project called PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST; and

WHEREAS, the first annual PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST event was an overwhelming success, with over 300 parents attending, gathering useful information while their children participated in fun actives such as a petting zoo, pumpkin decorating, magician and storyteller; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Superior Court is taking positive steps to reach out to the community to make all areas, including family law, more accessible and user-friendly and PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST allows the community to learn about and access social services,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, hereby designates October 10, 2002 as PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST DAY and commend the organizers for providing much needed services to the community.

DATED: October 8, 2002

SUPERVISORS:


JERRY HILL PRESIDENT