

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Program Holds Informational Meeting for New Volunteers October 20**

The Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Program (C.A.N.), operated by the School Health Programs, is a preventative program designed to help reduce the incidence of neglect, as well as physical, emotional and sexual abuse. C.A.N. is available to kindergarten and fifth-grade students in public and private schools throughout Tulare County. "We are currently seeking volunteers to make student presentations for this long running and successful program," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. An informational meeting will be held Wednesday, October 20, 2004, at the Tulare County Office of Education's Doe Avenue complex. For volunteers interested in enrolling in the program, training will be held on November 8 and 9, 2004.

In Tulare County, approximately 700 children are referred monthly to Child Welfare Services for abuse and neglect. The C.A.N. program helps spread a safety message to students in Tulare County schools. Individuals are asked to volunteer just a few hours each month. Two volunteers visit

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each classroom and offer a videotape presentation designed to educate students about the four different types of child abuse.

The volunteer information meeting will be held from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m., on October 20 in the Manzanita Room at 7000 Doe Avenue, Visalia. For more information please contact Kathy Johnston, Coordinator at (559) 651-0130.

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