

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

September 11, 2008

Media Advisory

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Two Tulare County businesses to be honored at Child Care Planning Council's Legislative Breakfast

7:00 – 9:00 a.m., Friday, September 12 • Visalia Convention Center

Visalia - The Tulare County Child Care Planning Council has selected two firms to honor at its first annual legislative breakfast event tomorrow morning at the Visalia Convention Center. The businesses will receive the first annual *Business and Children Award*. Beginning in July, employees and community members were encouraged to nominate local businesses with progressive programs such as "flextime" or job-sharing options, company-provided child care benefits, or an on-site child care center.

At the breakfast event, which will be held at the Visalia Convention Center, September 12, beginning at 7:00 a.m., the Planning Council will recognize **TPG Consulting** – an engineering and transportation planning firm in Visalia – and **Visalia Ceramic Tile, Inc.** for their support of employees with children. Nominations for these firms were full of examples of how management accommodated the schedules of mothers and fathers with young children. Employees were allowed to work from home in some instances or bring their children to work in others. For employees with older children, management encouraged parents to adjust their schedules so that they could participate in after-school and sports activities. Both firms had also made

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improvements to their offices to accommodate children visiting after school. TPG Consulting and Visalia Ceramic Tile provided rooms suited for homework, entertainment and recreation.

The breakfast event is being attended by elected officials, key business leaders and child care providers. In addition to recognizing the *Business and Children Award* winners, the Planning Council will show a short video highlighting the significant local need for child care services in Tulare County.

“We are delighted with the community response to the *Business and Children Award* program,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “It will be a pleasure to honor TPG Consulting and Visalia Ceramic Tile for their support for employees and their families.”

Each county in California has a child care planning council. Tulare County's council has 21 members from five different categories: parents, child care providers, agency representatives, community representatives and other interested persons who are appointed by the Tulare County Superintendent of Schools and the Tulare County Board of Supervisors.

For more information about the Tulare County Child Care Planning Council, call Tina Shirley at (559) 651-3026, or visit www.tularecountykids.org.

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