

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

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## **Media Advisory**

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### **Tulare County Office of Education Announces: TCOE's Child Abuse and Neglect (C.A.N.) Prevention Program seeks adult volunteers**

The Child Abuse and Neglect (C.A.N.) Prevention Program – operated by the Tulare County Office of Education – is seeking volunteers. C.A.N. is a prevention program designed to help reduce the incidence of neglect, as well as physical, emotional and sexual abuse. The program is seeking people who are comfortable in a classroom setting, available a few hours each month during the school year, and committed to child safety.

Linda Cemo is the project coordinator for C.A.N. She and a team of volunteers make classroom presentations to first- and fifth-grade children in Tulare County. The team presents to an average of 2,800 students per year. First-grade children see a 10-minute video and meet a hand puppet named Safety Sam. The fifth-grade presentations are more interactive. Following a separate video presentation, students discuss the situations presented in the film and how they can keep themselves safe. Both presentations have a similar message: children in a dangerous situation should say “NO!,” then get away and tell someone they trust.

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To become a volunteer, contact Linda Cemo or Nan Arnold at School Health Programs for an application and an interview. For this semester, applications will be accepted through September 23, 2016. Linda Cemo and Nan Arnold can be reached at (559) 651-0130.

# TCOE #