FIRST 5
SHASTA

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 11, 2011

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FIRST 5 SHASTA AWARDS OVER $100,000 TO LOCAL PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

REDDING-----First 5 Shasta (the Shasta Children and Families First Commission) continues its investment in young children with the commitment of $107,500 in Special Opportunity funding awards. Funding will support four projects that benefit Shasta County children age 0-to-5 and their families. Special Opportunity award recipients are as follows:

City of Redding Recreation
Project: **Mini Grasshopper SportsZone**
The Mini Grasshopper project strives to combat the obesity epidemic by introducing young children age 2-3 and their families to physical activity. Fun non-competitive "team" sports will be offered that include parent involvement.

Shasta Community Health Center
Project: **Reach Out and Read**
Physicians will use the Reach Out and Read program to promote early literacy to families and provide children with a free book during well-child visits from age 6 months to 5 years. Funding supports the purchase of age-appropriate books.

Shasta County Health and Human Services, Public Health
Project: **READY! Shasta**
Classes for parents will be offered emphasizing pre-literacy, pre-numeracy, and helping children develop essential skills from age 0-to-3. Based on the Ready! For Kindergarten program.

Therapy Station
Project: **Sensory Smart Environment**
Families with children with Sensory Integration Disorder will have access to equipment on loan and trainings on sensory processing issues provided by qualified therapists. This aims to support the needs of children under age 5 with special needs who are ineligible for Far Northern Regional Center at age 3.

First 5 Shasta, the Shasta Children and Families First Commission, was established after voters passed Proposition 10 in November 1998, adding a 50 cent-per-pack tax on cigarettes to fund education, health, child care and other programs promoting early childhood development for expectant parents and children up to age five. To date, First 5 Shasta has invested over $15 million in local programs and activities that benefit young children and families.