

It Takes A Community...

**Mental Health
Association in
San Diego County**

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**A New PATH
(Parents for Addiction
Treatment and Healing)**

News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Actress Mariette Hartley and other outstanding leaders were honored for their efforts to end the stigma of addiction at the 5th annual *It Takes a Community...* Awards Gala on September 11, 2004.

A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing) and the San Diego Mental Health Association presented the 5th annual *It Takes a Community...* gala, to reduce the stigma of addiction in order to expand access to treatment and to celebrate recovery. Eight outstanding individuals were honored at this elegant event at the Emerald Wyndham Plaza Hotel, which featured a silent auction, dinner, entertainment, and awards ceremony. “After 5” provided musical entertainment, and the stomp group “Crew” gave a performance that delivered the message that it is “cool to be clean”. Gretchen Productions presented a musical revue with the theme of recovery.

Individuals were honored for their contributions to ending discrimination against those who seek treatment and recovery from substance abuse and mental illness. **Emmy Award winning actress Mariette Hartley** gave a moving speech about her personal story and her passion to reduce the stigma. Other individuals presented with *It Takes a Community...* awards were: **Dr. John Milner, District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, Judge Jim Gray, Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg, Author Jimmy Santiago Baca, Dave Fratello of the Campaign for Mental Health, and Journalist / Lecturer Christopher Kennedy Lawford.**

Chuck Negrón of Three Dog Night fame is the Celebrity Chair of an honorary committee that included Senator Dede Alpert, Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler, Judge Robert Coates, Senator John Vasconcellos, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Dr. Jack Shale, Congresswoman Susan Davis, Dr. Gary Jaeger, Carol LeBeau, Lael Kovtun, and more. **Rory Devine**, news reporter for KNSD 7/39 served as event emcee, and **Geni Cavitt** from Channel 10 and radio personality **Joe Bauer** were lively auction emcees.

It Takes A Community... to reach out and help a youth or young adult struggling with alcohol or drug addiction. The event benefits MHA and A New PATH, organizations that share a commitment to provide treatment and recovery services for individuals whose lives have been damaged by addiction and / or mental illness. Glenn & Virginia Napierskie and Sharp Metropolitan Medical Campus provided major underwriting. Approximately 300 individuals from San Diego’s caring and committed community attended, making the evening a big success. This support was particularly meaningful since September is National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.