

It Takes A Community...

**Mental Health
Association in
San Diego County**

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

Media Advisory

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San Diego Celebrates Recovery!

San Diego, Ca: On Saturday, September 6, 2003, A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment and Healing) and the Mental Health Association in San Diego County (MHA) presented the fourth annual *It Takes A Community...* event at the Emerald Wyndham Hotel.

This elegant and memorable gala, co-chaired by **Connie Conard** and **Cynthia Birnbaum**, was a tribute to people in recovery from alcohol and drug abuse and a celebration of individuals who have helped to reduce the stigma of the disease of addiction. **Audrey Geisel** was the Honorary Chair of an honorary committee that included individuals such as: Judge Robert Coates, Patricia Hoffman Judd, Senator Dede Alpert, Mike Brady, Peggy Matthews, Carol Le Beau, Dr. Rodrigo Munoz, Dr. Mike Plopper, Congresswoman Susan Davis, Sylvia Liwerant, Assemblyman Darrell Steinberg, Senator Dianne Feinstein, and Jeanne McAlister. In her role as Celebrity Emcee, **Rory Devine**, news reporter for KNSD 7/39, was engaging and entertaining. Geni Cavitt, from Channel 10, was a warm and witty Celebrity Auctioneer.

The evening included a silent auction, dinner, awards ceremony and entertainment. Seven outstanding individuals were honored for their efforts to increase awareness, reduce the stigma of drug addiction, and end discrimination against those who seek treatment and recovery from substance abuse and mental illness. The honorees were: **David Beck-Brown** of Arts in Corrections, Donovan State Prison; **Susan Burton** of New Way of Life; Escondido Mayor **Lori Holt Pfeiler**; **Chuck Negron** of Three Dog Night; **Marianne McDonald**, Founder of McDonald Center; **Dr. Rodrigo Munoz**, Past President of the Medical Society, and **David Rosenbloom**, Director of Join Together / Demand Treatment.

Chuck Negron, who was the lead singer of Three Dog Night, also wrote the book [Three Dog Nightmare](#), chronicling his descent from wealth and fame to the depths of drug addiction. His moving acceptance speech was sent digitally (as he was called away to perform at the last minute) and projected on large screens. It included his singing "Easy to Be Hard", a song that is on his "The Long Road Back" CD about addiction and recovery.

After the awards ceremony, Gretchen Productions presented an entertainment showcase with singers Khara Rice, Krista Oliver, and Dagmar Fields, and dance groups Repeat Performance and the stomp troupe Crew. The first number premiered the new song from the Songs of Hope, Awareness and Recovery for Everyone (SHARE) CD, *When Love Rules the World*, and highlighted pictures from A New PATH's 2004 Faces of Recovery Calendar. The last number, "*Coming Out of the Dark*" was an emotional tribute to recovery with people coming out of the audience onto the stage holding candles.

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It Takes A Community... to reach out and help a youth or young adult struggling with alcohol or drug addiction. The proceeds from the event benefit the 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.

For more information on these organizations, contact Gretchen Burns Bergman (PATH) at 619-670-1184, www.anewpath.cc, or Karen Luton (MHA) at 619-543-0412.