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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE HONORS LOCAL WOMAN FOR LEADERSHIP

ORANGE, CA - (June 8, 2005) Janet Ugalde, a volunteer child advocate at the Child Abuse Services Team (CAST) is being honored by Washington, D.C. based National Children's Alliance (NCA) as the 2005 recipient of the *Individual Volunteer Leadership Award*. The award will be presented at NCA's Annual Awards Luncheon on June 8, 2005 from 11:45 A.M to 1:15 P.M. at the Renaissance Washington D.C. Hotel.

Ms. Ugalde is being recognized for her innovative efforts at garnering support for the Child Abuse Services Team in Orange, CA. This award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated perseverance and distinguished service to a local Children's Advocacy Center (CAC). The award criteria are imagination, creativity, dedication and innovation.

"Janet Ugalde is well known and respected for her work as a volunteer child advocate at the Child Abuse Services Team," said Joan Kilgore, of CAST, "and for jumping out of a tree as part of an outward bound adventure program."

Ms. Ugalde has been working with CAST since 1996. In her capacity as a volunteer, Ms. Ugalde has become a dedicated leader, recruiter, supervisor, and true fundraiser. She serves onsite Wednesday afternoons and is on call in emergency situations to assist in any program crisis including overnight calls.

Her story about jumping out of a tree in Costa Rica has been the basis of a very successful recruiting talk—a job Janet does at least once a month to recruit new child advocates to CAST. Her speech explains that while jumping out of a tree at quite a height was daunting, it is not nearly as scary as what our children face every day.

"Seeing these children cope with terrifying lives helps me realize how small and petty my own concerns are. Jumping out of a tree gave me confidence and courage, which is what I want to give to the children," says Janet.

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Recently, Ms. Ugalde's fundraising skills have been greatly beneficial. Janet and her husband Dan organized a golf tournament, which raised \$27,000 in 2004 and was a big success. The second annual tournament was May 23, 2005. The money raised will go to buy snacks, juices, lunches, computer games, crafts, and other materials that help reduce the trauma that victims of those advocates serve face.

In addition, Ms. Ugalde is also known for her uncanny ability to connect with children and put families at ease. It is not unusual to walk into CAST and see her crawling around on the floor, playing silly games to help a child feel more comfortable, calming a crying child, or helping distract a child undergoing a difficult medical examination in just the right way. Ms. Ugalde is a true child advocate and leader.

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National Children's Alliance is a nationwide not-for-profit membership organization whose mission is to assist communities seeking to improve their response to child abuse by supporting the development, growth and continuation of Children's Advocacy Centers. Based on a model originally developed by U.S. Congressman Bud Cramer in 1985, Children's Advocacy Centers are child-friendly facility-based programs that intervene and investigate cases of severe child abuse. Designed as a welcoming place for children to be heard, Children's Advocacy Centers are programs that allow professionals from child protection services, law enforcement, criminal justice, victim advocacy agencies, medical and mental health communities to work in a collaborative way to better serve child victims of abuse.

For more information visit www.nca-online.org or contact Amy Woodman at 202-452-6001 ext. 114.