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## County Mentor Programs Earn Two Partnership Awards

(Santa Ana, CA) – The County of Orange has received two awards from the Cities, Counties and Schools Partnership (CCS Partnership) for its collaborative efforts to turn juvenile offenders away from criminal behavior while providing mentors to children in need.

County volunteers help local elementary school students improve their language arts and vocabulary skills through the HOSTS (Helping One Student to Succeed) program. HOSTS has been honored with a CSS Challenge Award for a component that teaches teens on probation to serve as academic mentors to deserving grade school children. This advantageous approach is possible due to a partnership between the Probation Department, Health Care Agency, and the Orange County Department of Education.

A CSS Merit Award was presented to Project MOVE (Mobility Opportunities via Education), which enables teenage boys serving juvenile commitments at the Joplin Youth Center to help care for handicapped children who are unable to walk, stand, or sit without assistance. The teens gain school credits as well as job skills that are useful for future career opportunities in child care education.

"These programs actively involve our probation minors in helpful activities as they learn to positively interact with and care for their community," said John M.W. Moorlach, Chair of the Board of Supervisors.

The CSS Partnership is comprised of the League of California Cities, the California State Association of Counties, and the California School Boards Association.