

PRESS RELEASE

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Four Local Employers Honored for Programs and Policies that Support Employees with Families

A Robert Cromeans Salon, American Academy of Pediatrics
California Chapter 3, and Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD
to receive 2007 San Diego County Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace Award.

Johnson and Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development, L.L.C.
to receive 2007 California Mother-Baby Worksite Award.

San Diego, CA—November 16, 2007—Senator Christine Kehoe recognized **Johnson and Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development, L.L.C.** (“J&JPRD”) today for a comprehensive program that supports employees with families by bestowing the 2007 California Mother-Baby Worksite Award. The California Task Force on Youth and Workplace Wellness honored J&JPRD with a certificate congratulating them for promoting a mother-baby friendly worksite. J&JPRD has implemented policies and procedures that support breastfeeding mothers when they return to work. J&JPRD provides free advice from a lactation specialist, use of private rooms designed specifically for breastfeeding mothers, pre-natal classes and workshops for expectant parents and breastfeeding equipment rental and sales at low or no cost. J&JPRD has a history of supporting breastfeeding mothers. Last year they received the 2006 San Diego County Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace Award and are now one of three employers in California being recognized for their commitment to employees.

Also today, San Diego County Breastfeeding Coalition announced its pleasure in awarding the San Diego County Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace Award to **A Robert Cromeans Salon, Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD, and American Academy of Pediatrics, California Chapter 3.** These employers have clearly demonstrated how large and small, private and public employers can help mothers return to work and continue to breastfeed their infants.

A Robert Cromeans Salon provides onsite daycare at no cost to employees, along with a clean and comfortable place for mothers to express and store milk. Mothers are given the freedom to regulate their schedules to allow for adequate time to pump milk or breastfeed.

Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD offers its breastfeeding mothers exclusive use of a secure lactation room fully equipped with a hospital grade breast pump, comfortable furniture, a refrigerator, a microwave, and relaxing décor.

American Academy of Pediatrics, California Chapter 3 is a small employer with eight employees. Mothers have use of a comfortable, clean and private place to pump and store breastmilk. In addition, they have flexible schedules and often are given the opportunity to work from home.

“We applaud these workplaces in supporting families, and in particular, for facilitating breastfeeding of infants after their mothers return to work,” stated Dr. Nancy Wight, Neonatologist and President of the San Diego County Breastfeeding Coalition. “These employers are leaders and serve as role models for other employers in our community.”

Recent statistics show that 53% of mothers return to the work force within the first year after delivering a child, and most of them do so in the first six months. It is imperative that mothers return to workplaces that offer them the opportunity to continue to provide breastmilk for their babies. In 2002, California was one of the first states in the nation to adopt legislation (Assembly Bill 1025) requiring employers to provide unpaid break time and a clean, private place, other than a toilet stall, where lactating mothers could express breastmilk throughout the workday.

“We believe it is imperative that mothers return to workplaces that offer them the opportunity to continue to provide breastmilk for their babies,” Dr. Wight said. “More employers than ever before are recognizing what research has shown—mothers who work and breastfeed miss less time from work due to illnesses of their children.”

According to Dr. Wight, breastfeeding reduces upper respiratory infections, episodes of diarrhea, and other illnesses, and has been shown to shorten periods of infections when they do develop. In addition, as a result of employers’ support, employee moral is improved.

About the San Diego County Breastfeeding Coalition:

The San Diego County Breastfeeding Coalition (SDCBC) is a non-profit organization whose members are professionals, i.e. nurses, doctors, dieticians, lactations consultants, and attorneys dedicated to promoting and supporting breastfeeding through education and outreach in San Diego County. SDCBC publishes and distributes a *Breastfeeding Resource Guide*, offers educational lectures at local hospitals, and conferences for health professionals. For more information, please visit www.breastfeeding.org.

About the California Task Force on Youth and Workplace Wellness

The California Task Force on Youth and Workplace Wellness was launched by the California State Legislature in 2002 to address the critical issues of physical fitness and nutritional health in California’s schools and workplaces. The Wellness Task Force is a public/private endeavor comprised of educators, health advocates, health providers, athletes and legislators. For more information, please visit: www.wellnesstaskforce.org.

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