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For Immediate Release

Contact: Robert Herman
Public Information Officer
559/733-6606

Tulare County Office of Education Announces:
Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Program Holds
Informational Meeting for New Volunteers October 20

The Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Program (C.A.N.), operated by the School Health
Programs, is a preventative program designed to help reduce the incidence of neglect, as well as
physical, emotional and sexual abuse. C.A.N. is available to kindergarten and fifth-grade students in
public and private schools throughout Tulare County. “We are currently seeking volunteers to make
student presentations for this long running and successful program,” says Tulare County
Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. An informational meeting will be held Wednesday, October
20, 2004, at the Tulare County Office of Education’s Doe Avenue complex. For volunteers
interested in enrolling in the program, training will be held on November 8 and 9, 2004.

In Tulare County, approximately 700 children are referred monthly to Child Welfare Services for
abuse and neglect. The C.A.N. program helps spread a safety message to students in Tulare County
schools. Individuals are asked to volunteer just a few hours each month. Two volunteers visit

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each classroom and offer a videotape presentation designed to educate students about the four different types of child abuse.

The volunteer information meeting will be held from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m., on October 20 in the Manzanita Room at 7000 Doe Avenue, Visalia. For more information please contact Kathy Johnston, Coordinator at (559) 651-0130.

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