

Woodward Animal Center joins drive to help youth in foster care

RANCHO SANTA FE — Promises2Kids is organizing its ninth annual Backpack and Flash Drive collection for San Diego County abused and neglected children and youth in foster care.

The Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road Rancho Santa Fe, has volunteered to be one of the collection points throughout the community through Aug. 23. The donations of backpacks and flash drives are essential in providing each child with a system to keep all of their schoolwork and computer assignments organized. The organization hopes to collect 5,000 backpacks and flash drives, as well as other much needed school supplies during community campaign.

For a wish list of items to donate, visit www.promises2kids.org. To host a collection site or to volunteer, contact Laurie Spears at

Promises2Kids at (858) 427-1112.

On average, a foster child will live in at least seven different homes before they turn 18 years old, and these donated items will be key in helping them stay on top of their work throughout the 2010-2011 school year.

“The school classroom is often the most stable environment for children in our care,” said Susan Golding, president and chief executive officer, Promises2Kids. “The flash drives we collect help keep their schoolwork intact and they can take it with them wherever they end up.”

The public and local businesses are encouraged to host mini-collection drives in their neighborhood, school, church or workplace and then bring them to the final, live collection drive from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at WalMart at 4840 Shawline St., Kearny Mesa. If a collec-

tion site is unable to bring the items to the Aug. 23 event, then Promises2Kids will arrange for pick-up by Boyer Moving and Storage, a long-time partner to Promises2Kids.

Originally founded as the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation of San Diego County, Promises2Kids is a 29-year-old nonprofit organization. Promises2Kids is also known as The Polinsky Children's Center Foundation.