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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Most Child-Friendly Businesses in Fresno County are...

Fresno, CA—May 4, 2010---If you visit Austin’s Restaurant in Sanger you’ll get service with a smile because their employees don’t just like their jobs, they love them! Why? Well, for Yvonne Mora, it is because she knows that if she doesn’t have childcare, she can bring any of her five children to work. While she waits on tables, her children are nearby at another table doing their homework.

“I’m raising five kids and I have to work, so it’s not easy,” said Yvonne Mora. “But I’m lucky to have a boss who supports me. I know that if childcare falls through I can bring my kids to work. It is also comforting that I can request time off to attend school activities for my children and not have to worry about losing my job.”

Mora’s employer allows employees this perk to help balance their work and home life, but in return Mora and others give their employer their loyalty, hard work, and commitment.

For their exemplary support to their parent employees, Austin’s Restaurant is being named as one of First 5 Fresno County’s five most Child-Friendly Businesses this year. The other winners include:

- Forward Advantage, Inc. (healthcare information technology)
- Organic Pastures Dairy (milk production company)
- Granville Homes (home building business)
- Fresno County Office of Education (county agency)

Benefits provided by the winning companies range from helping to pay for a portion of childcare costs for their employees, to providing paid maternal/paternal leave so parents can bond with their newborns to allowing employees to work flexible schedules and bring their children to work, if needed. All companies report their child-friendly practices and policies encourage their employees to give 110 percent to their jobs.

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“Our goal in highlighting and honoring these businesses is to show other companies that being child-friendly is not only a good thing, but its also helps improve a company’s bottom line,” said Kendra Rogers, Executive Director for First 5 Fresno County.

To learn more about the benefits of being a child-friendly workplace or how companies can become more child-friendly, visit our website at www.first5fresno.org.

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First 5 Fresno County, we focus on the first 5 years of life. We fund programs and services that help to better the lives of children ages 0-5 and their families. First 5 Fresno County was created as a result of Proposition 10, the California Children and Families Act of 1998.