

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**New Ways to Work Awarded Grant to Help Communities Strengthen their Support for Youth Transitioning out of Foster Care**

SAN FRANCISCO, California, December 22, 2005 – New Ways to Work has been awarded a \$10,000 General Community Grant by the Jewish Community Foundation for the Youth Transition Action Initiative (YTAT). The YTAT Initiative is an effort launched in the summer of 2004 that seeks to address the issue of transition for youth aging out of foster care by working with California County Child Welfare Agencies engaged in system improvement activities. Twelve counties are participating. The Jewish Community Foundation grant will help support the Los Angeles County implementation. New Ways to Work is the managing partner for the initiative.

New Ways to Work President and Executive Director, Steve Trippe, said, “We are looking forward to working with the Jewish Community Foundation and to providing services to ensure solid connections among the multiple agencies serving transition age foster youth.” Other initiative partners include Casey Family Programs (initiative sponsor), California Department of Social Services, Walter S. Johnson Foundation, Peninsula Community Foundation, and The San Francisco Foundation.

Transition Action Teams are made up of leaders from the child welfare, education, workforce development, and other local systems, working together to improve transition outcomes for youth touched by the child welfare system. Teams are also charged with assisting

-MORE-

their county in achieving their child welfare system enhancement goals, particularly in the area of youth permanency.

Teams from across the state are bringing together and leveraging the approaches, strategies, and resources of multiple efforts concerned with the issue of successful youth transition. They are assessing their current capacity to address the needs of foster youth, developing achievable and outcome-based work plans, aligning local resources and programs to meet the needs of foster youth, and putting those plans into action.

New Ways to Work, founded in 1972, is recognized as a leader and powerful advocate for quality youth-serving system development at state, national, and community levels. The Jewish Community Foundation, established in 1954, is the largest manager of charitable assets and the leader in planned giving solutions for Greater Los Angeles Jewish philanthropists. The Foundation currently manages assets of more than \$550 million and, according to the National Foundation Center, ranks among the ten largest Los Angeles foundations (based on assets). In 2004, The Foundation and its 1,000-plus donors distributed \$43 million in grants to more than 1,300 organizations whose programs span the range of philanthropy.

Contact: Nancy Uber-Kellogg, Communications Specialist, New Ways to Work

1 (707) 824-4000 ext. 27 or [nuberkellogg@newwaystowork.org](mailto:nuberkellogg@newwaystowork.org)

[www.newwaystowork.org](http://www.newwaystowork.org)

**- END -**