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October 9, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Over 4,000 Child Visits to Kids' Place in First Year at Long Beach Courthouse**

(For The Child, Long Beach, CA) – Kids' Place, the first children's waiting room in Los Angeles County, had 4,685 child visits in its first year of operation in the Long Beach Courthouse. 60% of these visits were by children five and under. For The Child (FTC) opened Kids' Place on August 8, 2002. Parents with court business can take advantage of this free childcare service so their children do not wait in crowded hallways or listen in on troubling court proceedings. In addition, FTC's onsite community resource staff provides referrals to community childcare, education, housing, food and other programs to meet family centered needs. 702 families availed themselves of this service in the first year.

Children, aged 0-13, play, do art projects, read, sleep and work on computers in a safe and nurturing environment on the first floor of the courthouse. Decorated with international themes to challenge the children's imagination, Kids' Place emphasizes the wonder of reading. Each child leaves with a brand new book of their own.

Kids' Place is funded with a grant from the First 5 LA Commission. Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe and the Mark McGwire Foundation provided additional support.

For The Child is a Long Beach nonprofit organization whose mission is to prevent child abuse, to provide child abuse treatment to help young child abuse victims and their families recover from the trauma and to deliver family-focused mental health services in schools and in the community. A description of FTC's programs is available online at www.forthechild.org or a brochure may be requested by calling (562) 422-8472.

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**For The Child: First Children's Waiting Room in Los Angeles County Completes First Year
Continued**

For The Child's services for children are supported through individual and corporate donations, foundation grants and government funding. **To help, please call For The Child at (562) 422-8472.** For The Child has volunteer openings for Kids' Place as well as other programs. Please contact Sunny Breed, volunteer coordinator. Donations to support Kids' Place and other FTC child abuse programs may be sent to: For The Child, 4565 California Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90807 or call Denise Dahlhausen, Development Director.

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Media Advisory:

For your convenience, For The Child, while in process of upgrading our site (see enclosed), has posted Kids' Place pictures to accompany this press release on our website – www.forthethechild.org. We hope you find this helpful. If you have suggestions re: how to make this all more user friendly, we would appreciate it if you would e-mail those to ddahlhausen@orthethechild.org.