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NEWS RELEASE
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PARTNERSHIP BRINGS NEW MENTORING PROGRAM, "FORCE OF FOUR"

RIVERSIDE – The Riverside County District Attorney's Office is partnering with California Family Life Center's (CFLC) Empower Youth program to provide a new and unique mentoring opportunity for young people called "Force of Four".

Four young adults from CFLC's Job Training and Education Program will explore career avenues with four different career mentors, for four Saturdays over four months, going on four different adventures. Force of Four is the creation of Deputy District Attorneys Vanessa Romero and Sharon Shuster, under the supervision of Supervising Deputy District Attorney Gerry Lopez, all three part of the DA Mike Hestrin's innovative Crime Prevention Unit.

"Our partnership with the Riverside County District Attorney's Office and their creation of Force of Four represents the importance of community involvement in the success of our youth," said Angela Sessler, CFLC development and life coach coordinator. "Force of Four has been a wonderful blessing to the youth in our program who have been struggling to find ways to explore career options and have a connection with successful mentors who are invested and supportive on their journey of exploration. The mentorship program provides hope and guidance for a future these youth may have not considered otherwise. We are beyond thankful for this program and look forward to its continued development."

Force of Four has started at the Hemet Youth Opportunity Center and will later expand to serve four more young adults at each of CFLC's other locations in Lake Elsinore and Rubidoux. The program, which kicked off earlier this month, will give these young people the opportunity to connect with successful people who will share with them the importance of hard work and encouraging self-esteem, while exposing them to opportunities and adventures they may not otherwise have.

The first outing consisted of a trip to Hollywood where four young women first explored the movie industry by getting a tour of Blumhouse Productions, producers of the movies *Get Out*, *Insidious*, and *The Purge*. Christopher Landon, writer and director of the Paranormal Activity movie franchise, gave the tour. He then gave them a private screening of his new movie, *Half to Death*, which is now in post-production.

"Force of Four is an unbelievably invaluable program that provides young women the opportunity to see there is no limit to their potential," Landon said. "I was so inspired to see such a caring and intelligent approach to community outreach."

After meeting with Landon, the young women then explored the makeup industry by having lunch with celebrity makeup artist Julianne Kaye, who has worked with, among others, Britney Spears, Kate Hudson, and Selena Gomez. They also received a makeup tutorial at MAC Pro on Melrose, and were given gift bags filled with makeup by MAC.

CFLC has been serving the youth in Southern California since 1983 providing safety, comfort and healing to children suffering abuse and abandonment; teaching love and trust; instilling self-esteem, values and hope for the future; and in doing so, assisting children trapped in hopelessness and despair become compassionate and contributing members of the community. Visit their website at: cflckids.org

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