



15000 Arnold Drive P.O. Box 1493 Eldridge, CA 95431

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sonoma Developmental Center's Annual Cinco de Mayo

Eldridge, California – Sonoma Developmental Center's Cinco de Mayo celebration occurring on Thursday May 5, 2011.

Sonoma Developmental Center (Sonoma) celebrates its annual Cinco de Mayo festivities on Thursday May 5, 2011. Like most communities the Center has been observing Cinco de Mayo for many years. Paul Nieuwenhuijs, Rehabilitation Therapist and coordinator of the event has been employed by the facility for thirty plus years. "We have four facility wide type events in which all those residing at the center and those employed by Sonoma, get together to socialize and have fun," says Mr. Nieuwenhuijs. "It's a team effort. From the residential programs, to other departments, including transportation, we all work together to make this happen for the residents who live here."

The other three facility wide events include a Fourth Of July Celebration, Celebrate Sonoma (a multicultural event that includes ethnic food, music and games) and Halloween. The facility also has many other events year round including a Fashion Show, Mardi Gras Dance, Casino Night, a Black and White Ball and much more.

The festivities kick off in the morning and continue through mid afternoon. The venue is decorated in red, white, and green décor and a Mariachi band makes it way throughout the various locations. There are photo opportunities with Eldridge Farm animals, an arts and crafts booth, a temporary tattoo booth and many game booths with prizes.

The celebration continues in the afternoon with the addition of a musical band and food is served including cheese quesadillas, nachos, chili con carne, salsa, flan and non-alcoholic margaritas as well as other refreshments.

Sonoma Developmental Center, located in the heart of California's wine country, provides an extensive array of high-quality, innovative services. The Center promotes communication and collaboration with families, employees, community service providers, agencies, organizations, and other partners to innovatively develop, advance, and deploy eminent models of service distinction by fostering independence in health, housing, vocation, education, lifelong learning, intervention, recreation, and transportation.

For More Information Contact:

Sonoma Developmental Center

Jorge JJ Fernandez

(707) 938-6643

Fax Number: (707) 938-6574

Jorge.Fernandez@sonoma.dds.ca.gov

<http://www.dds.ca.gov/Sonoma/Index.cfm>

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