



# COUNTY OF YOLO

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## **Foster Children Spend a Different Kind of Day in Court**

**(Woodland, CA)** – The Yolo County Department of Employment and Social Services, in partnership with the Sacramento office of Greenberg Traurig, LLP, the Sacramento Monarchs, and the Boys and Girls Club (Raley Branch), earlier this month sponsored Court to Court – an event designed to give at-risk children an insider’s view of the justice system and the people who work in that field. Joseph Solich, senior social worker and Patty Paragas, social worker practitioner with the Department of Employment and Social Services accompanied a group of almost 20 foster children ranging in age from 10 to 16 years old as they got a rare look at the “courts” from behind the scenes. Their special journey began with an in-depth tour of the Sacramento County Superior Court and concluded at Arco Arena for a Sacramento Monarchs game.

“We were excited to help provide these children the opportunity to see the courts from a different perspective,” said Pam Miller, Yolo County Department of Employment and Social Services Director. “Introducing the children to the variety of careers available within the judicial system corresponds well with our mission statement: In partnership with the community, we promote safety, stability and self-sufficiency; serve the vulnerable; and develop and strengthen the workforce.”

During Court to Court, participants met with a variety of court staff, including judges and deputies, who explained the function of the appellate courts, oriented them to the court and courthouse, and volunteered their courtroom, staff and time to explain a variety of legal matters. Children were allowed to sit on the bench, in attorney chairs and in witness stands to get a three dimensional view. The court tour concluded with an intense experience watching DUI (driving while under the influence) and misdemeanor court proceedings.

After their tour of the court system, the children then traveled to the Sacramento office of Greenberg Traurig to meet with attorneys and business staff for a glimpse of the legal system from the point of view of a law firm. The day concluded at Arco Arena, where participants were provided dinner and were given a wonderful tour of the facility by Kathleen Foley, Senior Director of Monarchs ticket sales, followed by attendance at the Monarchs game. Watching the Monarchs clinch a playoff spot through their dramatic win was a wonderful ending to a fabulous day of Court to Court.

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Picture: Foster youth learning about court proceedings from Sacramento Superior Court staff.