



UNITED FRIENDS of the CHILDREN
Preparing Foster Youth for a Future That Works

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United Friends of the Children Names New Board Members

Debra Martin Chase, Carol Fuchs, Kelly Fisher Katz, Denise Luria and Alejandro Mayorkas Appointed as Newest Board Members

LOS ANGELES – November 30, 2005 – United Friends of the Children (UFC), an organization dedicated to addressing the needs of emancipated foster youth throughout Los Angeles, announced today the appointment of five new members to its board of directors: Debra Martin Chase, Carol Fuchs, Kelly Fisher Katz, Denise Luria and Alejandro Mayorkas. The UFC board is instrumental in providing oversight and determining strategic direction while ensuring the financial health of the organization and its youth services programs. Eager to start sharing their expertise and counsel, the new board appointees will begin immediately.

“We are incredibly fortunate to have a board comprised of the most dedicated and passionate individuals who collectively form the backbone of the organization,” said Polly Williams, president, United Friends of the Children. “Our five newest members are an incredible asset to both the organization and the thousands of youth we serve each year.”

Debra Martin Chase is a two-time Emmy nominated motion picture and television producer. She produced movies such as *The Princess Diaries* and *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, as well as the Lifetime Television series, *Missing*. She was previously the producing partner of Whitney Houston in BrownHouse Productions and ran Mundy Lane, Denzel Washington’s TriStar Pictures-based production company. In 2003, *Savoy Magazine* named her one of the 100 most influential Blacks in America, and *Essence Magazine* named her one of the fifty African American women shaping the world. She began her career as an attorney and worked at several major law firms and Fortune 500 corporations.

Named by *Los Angeles Magazine* as one of Los Angeles’ “Superlawyers” in the field of complex commercial litigation, Alejandro Mayorkas was the youngest United States Attorney in the nation when he was appointed by President Clinton for the Central District of California in 1998. He is currently a partner in the Los Angeles office of O’Melveny & Myers LLP, specializing in complex civil litigation and internal corporate investigations. Mr. Mayorkas was appointed by the Governor as a member of the California Council on Criminal Justice and the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice. He serves on the Audit Committee and the Board of Governors of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

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Denise Luria, PhD is a psychologist in private practice, specializing in women's issues, anxiety, life changes, parenting problems and relationship issues. She has created and co-created interactive games for 3-7 years olds including *Nick and Nora and the Tricky Trolls* and *Those Tricky Trolls*. Ms. Luria also serves on the Board of Directors for the Creative Kids Education Foundation and the Center for the Study of Women's Psychology.

A motion picture screenwriter, Carol Fuchs' film, *Mostly Martha*, is set to begin production in 2006. She was previously an entertainment lawyer at O'Melveny & Myers. Ms. Fuchs also serves on the board of the Children's Nature Institute.

Kelly Fisher Katz works as a Professional Public Speaker. She also works in public relations and special events for Martin Katz, L.T.D., a Beverly Hills jewelry salon. She is active as the Vice President of the Rape Treatment Center Support Council, and is involved with AVIVA, P.S. Arts, Center Dance Association, and the Blue Ribbon.

About United Friends of the Children

Through its various programs, advocacy efforts and direct involvement with youth, UFC provides essential services to current and former foster youth, including transitional housing, independent living skills, career planning and development, counseling and mentoring, emergency assistance, and educational support that includes college readiness and college sponsorship. UFC was founded in 1979 by Nancy Daly Riordan and a group of friends interested in finding a direct and meaningful way to impact the lives of foster children in Los Angeles County.

To find out more about United Friends of the Children, please visit www.unitedfriends.org.

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