



WestCare California will hold its semi-annual commencement ceremony on May 17, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. The ceremony will be held at the Fresno-Westside Seventh Day Adventist Church. Approximately 46 men and women will graduate after having successfully completed programs at WestCare California, one of the Valley's largest and oldest private, nonprofit providers of health and human services. Services in the San Joaquin Valley include residential substance abuse treatment for men and women, pregnant and parenting women, adult outpatient and satellite outpatient substance abuse treatment for adolescents, case management for adult parolees, and adults living with HIV and education/prevention services for person(s) at risk for HIV. WestCare's mission to "Uplift the Human Spirit" and the organization is proud of each and every one of the 2007 spring graduates. **Sheriff Margaret Mims** and **Assembly Majority Leader, Karen Bass** will both be our keynote speakers at this traditional cap-and-gown ceremony which will be attended by other dignitaries and several hundred friends and relatives of the WestCare graduates.

Fresno-Westside Church is located at 2750 Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd (one half mile south of Jensen on MLK). Reporters and cameras are welcome before, during and after the ceremony. WestCare staff can assist in arranging individual interviews with the graduates, or pre-event profiles and stories. For those services, please contact: Lynn Pimentel – 559-265-4800.

Additional Information Regarding WestCare's Services

1. WestCare serves approximately 2700 clients each year in both residential and outpatient services.

2. WestCare provides services through contracts with Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health, Child Protective Services, Cal Works, California Department of Corrections, Federal Probation, California Youth Authority, Madera County Social Services, as well as privately paying clients.
3. WestCare is one of the largest providers of services to pregnant and parenting women in Fresno County. Services are provided through the WestCare M'ella Program which is a six (6) month residential program for pregnant and parenting women. The women are allowed to bring two (2) children 0-5 years of age to live with them.
4. WestCare currently provides drug treatment services on high school campuses in three (3) separate school districts (Clovis Unified School District, Fresno Unified School District and Sanger Unified School District).
5. WestCare has been providing substance abuse treatment services in Fresno County for over thirty-four (34) years.