

**TO: Youth Council**

**DATE: Dec 13, 2002**

**FROM: Youth Council Staff**

For Action

For Information

Meeting Notes

**SUBJECT: Doll Project – Merced Possibilities**

**PROPOSED MOTION(S): Info Only**

**DISCUSSION:** “Each doll is made of cardboard.... The doll’s creator adds a face, hair, clothing or other features, plus a real story of poverty, abuse, disability or other challenges. These stories are gathered from county social service agencies, childcare centers, United Way charities and others.

The stories are true and local. They anchor debate and discussion in community reality.

The dolls, by drawing attention and telling their stories in public settings of all kinds, provide a constant reminder to policymakers and citizens alike that children in the community are in need.

Hundreds of thousands of dolls have been created, presented and displayed across the United States, with significant positive results. But much more can be accomplished – “ does the Youth Council want to launch a successful Doll Project here in Merced?

**Dolls can be used to**

- Influence legislators
- Remind city councils and county supervisors of children in need
- Promote need for foster parents
- Remind tax payers that their money supports the needs of the less fortunate in the community
- Highlight critical children’s issues such as Shaken Baby Syndrome, need for immunizations, impact on children of abuse/neglect, poverty or domestic violence
- Tell the story of children who died or were injured by fires or drunk drivers, by not wearing a seat belt or not wearing a bicycle helmet.

It is suggested that the Business, Education and Community Partners Committee consider supporting a Doll Project.

**ATTACHMENT(S): Doll Project Guide will be available at the meeting**

