



**San Diego County Ford Dealers Fund New  
Combined Health Agencies' Program  
Fordify the Family**

*for-ti·fy* (fôr tî-fī)

*To make strong, as: a. To strengthen and secure. b. To reinforce by adding material. c. To impart physical strength or endurance to; invigorate. d. To give emotional, moral, or mental strength to; encourage. e. To strengthen or enrich.*

Every day the 24 member agencies of [Combined Health Agencies](#) support families in San Diego County. Recently, the San Diego County Ford Dealers provided funds to start a new program called Fordify the Family. This program specifically assists local health organizations on an as needed basis to help support camps for children, respite care programs and support groups.

Every year the Autism Society of America, San Diego Chapter, hosts sixteen weeks of summer camp. The organization's Camp I CAN and surf camps are unique opportunities for children on the autism spectrum to share in that childhood camp experience. Each child has one on one attention from a counselor so that they can enjoy field trips to the Birch Aquarium, San Diego Zoo, and other local field trips in a fun and safe environment.

This year through the [Fordify the Family program](#) five-year old Anthony was able to attend surf camp for the second year in a row. His mother said "Every day since camp last year Anthony would wake up asking if he would get to surf at camp and see his counselor Kristin today." And every day for the past year his mother would tell him "No, not today." When August 22<sup>nd</sup> came around this year, because of the grant from the program, Anthony's mother was able to tell him that "Yes! Today you get to go to surf camp and see Kristin!"

While Anthony was at surf camp spending time with his counselor Kristin, who is a Special Education teacher during the school year, his mother had the piece of mind that her son was safe and having the time of his life. This reprieve is so crucial to the health and well being of not just Anthony but his entire family. Obviously this camp has made an impact on Anthony's life and this partnership made it possible.

"It was such a treat for me to visit Camp I CAN and have the opportunity to meet Anthony, the camper Ford sponsored," said John Ham from Perry Ford in Poway. "I loved getting in the water and helping Anthony with his surf lesson. It was an experience I'll never forget."

The Fordify the Family program, developed and managed by Combined Health Agencies, is focused on enriching and strengthening the bond of even more San Diegan families. By supporting the families of our community we will make San Diego a healthier place to call home.

Annually, the 24 members of Combined Health Agencies touch over 1.6 million San Diego County residents, inspire over 12,000 volunteers and fund millions of dollars in local medical and scientific research. These organizations work diligently year round to support San Diego families and with the grant from the Ford Motor Company, Combined Health Agencies can assist these 24 charities reach even more families.

*Founded in 1970, Combined Health Agencies is a non-profit federation of 24 [health agencies](#), committed to improving our community's health by supporting member agencies through individual and corporate giving.*