

Father's Day Fiesta to encourage dads' learning

Role of the father in family and in community promoted.

◆

By VIANNA DAVILA

EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

Father's Day comes a day early this year but for good reason — the Fourth Annual Father's Day Fiesta at Avenida Guadalupe Plaza, 1327

Guadalupe St.

The event starts at 10 a.m. Saturday and runs until 2 p.m.

Admission is free and includes food and access to all event activities.

American Indians in Texas, the San Antonio chapter of the National Compadres Network, the San Antonio Fatherhood Campaign and Annie E. Casey-Making Connections are sponsoring the event.

"We do it for every father that is out there that would be willing to

come to this and acknowledge that he's proud to be a dad," said Frank Castro with the National Fatherhood Campaign.

Entertainment will include dancing and music, as well as face painting and craft booths.

A number of service and health organizations will set up tables to hand out discounts and clinic referrals, encouraging fathers to maintain good health.

One event highlight includes announcement of each year's Hombre

Noble Awards, an annual tradition of the fiesta that recognizes the role of fathers in the family and in the community.

"The reason why it's so important is to basically recognize the role of fathers; the one time out of the year that we can do a local initiative here in San Antonio to recognize fathers here in the community, fathers who may not be recognized any other way but in the best way, which is to

See **EVENT/6H**

be recognized by their peers," Castro said.

Past recipients include a single father in his 20s raising two young children and a 102-year-old great-grandfather.

Last year, 12 fathers enrolled in the AVANCE fatherhood class "Fathers Accepting Challenges Today-Si Se Puede" won an Hombre Noble Award together as a group.

Richard Zorola coordinates family support services at AVANCE and led the fatherhood class.

The fathers went through 15 curriculum lessons that covered different aspects of fatherhood, including understanding child development and behavior and parental responsibility.

Zorola nominated the group for the award for two reasons: first because they helped him design the fatherhood class curriculum; and because of the precedent they set for future fathers in the class.

For more information about the 4th Annual Father's Day Fiesta, call Castro at the San Antonio Fatherhood Campaign, (210) 227-3463.

vdavila@express-news.net

Event honors
role of fathers

CONTINUED FROM 1H