

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 29, 2008

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Recipients of 2008 People Who Care Awards Announced

San Mateo County Commission on Disabilities Recognizes Organizations and Individuals Who Make a Difference in the Lives of People with Disabilities

SAN MATEO, Calif. — The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and the Commission on Disabilities are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2008 People Who Care Awards (PWC). These awards recognize individuals and organizations demonstrating outstanding initiative and dedication to enhancing the lives of people with disabilities in San Mateo County. On October 3, the recipients will be honored at the annual People Who Care Awards Dinner/Dance held at the South San Francisco Conference Center at 255 South Airport Boulevard in South San Francisco.

The recipients are:

Volunteer Award: Mary Beaudry, Second Harvest Food Bank, South San Francisco

As a volunteer, Beaudry worked tirelessly for months to create a Brown Bag distribution site to provide food to low-income older adults and adults with disabilities. She worked with various churches and parishes and recruited more than 20 volunteers to open a site at Mater Dolorosa Church in South San Francisco, serving 162 people.

Professional Award: Janel Astor, Abilities United, Palo Alto

Employed at Abilities United for 14 years, Astor was responsible for developing programs that not only directly benefit children with disabilities, but also help their families gain confidence, strength, and knowledge about how to support their children's development. She created the first integrated preschool program for children with and without disabilities in San Mateo County.

Educator Award: Linda Gulas, Jefferson Union High School District, Pacifica

As a Special Education teacher at Terra Nova High School in Pacifica, Gulas works with an ethnically and linguistically diverse group of students in her classroom. She is patient, energetic and innovative in providing an educational program tailored to their specific individual needs. In addition, she has made certain that her students are recognized and fully empowered members of the Terra Nova student body.

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Business Award: Kohl's Department Store, Colma

Kohl's has provided numerous employment opportunities for people with emotional and psychological challenges who have limited work experience to learn new job skills. These opportunities have enhanced the outlook in life of these individuals with a great sense of motivation to work hard and be productive.

Agency/Program Award: REACH Program at Foothill College, Los Altos Hills

Serving students from San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, the REACH Program is designed to provide an essential link between outpatient rehabilitation and full community reintegration for post-stroke survivors. Classes are tailored to meet specific needs allowing each student to reach their maximum physical, emotional and social potential and to achieve the highest level of independence.

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors' member, Supervisor Jerry Hill will be the emcee for the awards presentation. These awards will be very special, as this will be the last year that the People Who Care Awards Dinner will be held. Attendees will have an opportunity to dance to live music by the Bill Travis Swing Orchestra, one of the Bay Area's premiere swing bands. The PWC will also feature an art showcase for artists with disabilities who reside in San Mateo County. The exhibit, co-sponsored by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, Commission on Disabilities, and the Peninsula Arts Council is an excellent opportunity for artists with disabilities to show their work and to create greater awareness of the talent in our community. The artwork can be viewed during the reception from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. At the reception, there will be a silent auction to purchase the artwork, which is currently exhibited at the Community Gallery (lower level) in the Hall of Justice (400 County Center) in Redwood City until October 3. Dinner is served at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$50 per person, and table sponsorships are available. For more information, or to buy tickets, call the Commission on Disabilities office at (650) 573-2580 (voice) or the California Relay (711) for those who are deaf, or have hearing or speech impairments.

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