

**WHEREAS,** Abilities United, formerly the Community Association for Rehabilitation (C.A.R.), is a non-profit organization for children and adults with developmental disabilities and is being honored as the recipient of the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce's 2009 Tall Tree Award in the "Outstanding Non-profit" category; and

**WHEREAS,** Abilities United was organized in the 1950's by parents of children with developmental disabilities who needed local services which would support their efforts to raise their children at home, and has expanded its focus to include both children and adults, offer more services, and educate the public; each year the services are used by over 2,500 people and their families in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties; and

**WHEREAS,** Abilities United services include early intervention and Abilities United Milestones Preschool for children's development, after school socialization, computer education and respite for families, and independent living skills and aquatics services at the Betty Wright Swim Center for adults; and

**WHEREAS,** Abilities United ensures that thousands of people with developmental and physical disabilities participate in community life by partnering with other local organizations, including Community School of Music and Art, National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy, Friends of Palo Alto Library, and the Palo Alto Red Cross among many others, and thereby enriching the lives of their clients with personal, meaningful experiences; fifty corporations hire individuals in the Employment Services program; and

**WHEREAS,** Abilities United volunteers include horticultural therapists who teach small classes, Allegro Framing and Art which hosts art shows and provides framing for works of art by participants, Benny Points which provides graphic design services, over 250 community volunteers who help in a variety of ways, and a dedicated 18-member Board of Directors; a staff of 140 full and part-time employees strengthen and support the agency;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, State of California does hereby honor and commend

## *Abilities United*

for providing almost sixty years of innovative programs and services to people with developmental and other disabilities, allowing them to continue to thrive and be valued members of the community.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this Seventh Day of April, Two Thousand and Nine by unanimous vote.

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Liz Kniss, President  
Board of Supervisors

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Donald F. Gage  
Supervisor, District One

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George M. Shirakawa  
Supervisor, District Two

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Dave Cortese  
Supervisor, District Three

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Ken Yeager  
Supervisor, District Four

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Attest: Maria Marinos  
Clerk, Board of Supervisors