

WHEREAS, Pro Bono Project is at the forefront of finding innovative ways of providing services to low-income citizens through pro bono efforts; in 2005 Pro Bono Project established the Domestic Violence Limited Scope Representation Program to provide justice for litigants in domestic violence restraining order matters in Family Court through free legal representation; Pro Bono Project honors advocates who have shown commendable dedication to individuals and families affected by domestic violence, such as 2009 Vision Award recipient Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence, at its annual Access to Justice Silicon Valley Awards Reception and Presentation; and

WHEREAS, Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence has been actively fighting to end domestic violence for nearly forty years and has helped heal the lives shattered by abusive relationships; starting as a small organization in a room of a safe home, Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence has evolved into Santa Clara County's most comprehensive domestic violence service agency and includes a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, counseling, advocacy, services for children, youth, and teens, transitional housing and legal services; and

WHEREAS, Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence's Legal Program started in the mid 1990's and exists to help victims with legal issues, such as obtaining permanent restraining orders and finding pro bono attorneys for custody battles to ensure the safety of children; and

WHEREAS, Next Door Solutions Legal Program consists of one full-time Legal Program Coordinator, one full-time Legal Advocate, and one part-time Legal Advocate and relies upon volunteers that have been trained to assist in obtaining temporary restraining order applications and court accompaniment to help victims ensure their safety and well-being; and

WHEREAS, Next Door Solutions Legal Department has been able to assist, each year, an average of 350 domestic violence victims with restraining orders and accompany an average of 400 individuals to restraining order hearings each year; the legal department created a Domestic Violence Immigration Program, which now serves several hundred clients; Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence has been recognized for its contributions, including recognition by the San Jose City Council in 2008.

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

Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence

for the conviction and courage of its Legal Department in its direct assistance, referral, advocacy and new program innovations in support of Santa Clara County families.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this Twenty Ninth of September, Two Thousand Nine by unanimous vote.

Liz Kniss, President
Board of Supervisors

Donald F. Gage
Supervisor, District One

George M. Shirakawa
Supervisor, District Two

Dave Cortese
Supervisor, District Three

Ken Yeager
Supervisor, District Four

Attest: Maria Marinos
Clerk, Board of Supervisors

Approved as to Form and Legality



County Counsel

Date 09-23-09