

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Date:** Wednesday, October 27, 2004  
**Time:** 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
**Location:** RES SUCCESS: 801 Ferry Street, Martinez  
**Contact:** Andrea Chowins, Media Coordinator for RES SUCCESS  
(805) 801-5252 cell

**Photo Ops:** 6 p.m. -- Contra Costa County Supervisor District II, Gayle Uilkema and Martinez Mayor Rob Schroder to present Proclamations to RES SUCCESS

### **RES SUCCESS OPEN HOUSE TO CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF SERVING DISABLED ADULTS**

**Martinez, CA** – RES SUCCESS, a non-profit serving developmentally disabled adults, is holding a community Open House today to celebrate 10 years of operation. The open house enables the agency to showcase its model of treatment as one in which disabled individuals flourish and California taxpayers have literally saved millions of dollars. At 6 p.m., Contra Costa County District II Supervisor Gayle Uilkema and Martinez Mayor Rob Schroeder will be presenting proclamations to the organization.

Fifty students with disabilities from Contra Costa and Alameda Counties participate in the RES SUCCESS day-treatment program, 10 of which are also residential clients and live in one of the two RES SUCCESS residences. Student disabilities vary from mild to profound, including mental retardation and autism. Nearly all also have other mental health disorders and behavioral challenges, such as schizophrenia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and more.

Because these individuals can sometimes pose a threat to themselves and others, they are traditionally referred to state-run facilities for full-time care. RES SUCCESS offers individuals another chance to learn life-enhancing behavioral skills that can actually transform the outcome of their lives. The RES model proves that affordable, quality care can be provided and that individuals do not need to be "locked away" from society.

“Our goal is to reduce the frequency, duration and intensity of maladaptive behaviors through consistent behavior modification therapy,” said Ian G. Bremner, Executive Director and founder of RES SUCCESS. “This is attained through a normalization process that includes education and exposure to meaningful life-learning experiences, such as art, music and dance. Experience has shown that students who are encouraged to express themselves through other art forms have less volatile social behaviors. It empowers our students to lead safer, more independent, and more integrated lives in the community.”

The State of California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) coordinates services for nearly 200,000 persons with developmental disabilities statewide. With a budget of more than \$3.2 billion, services are delivered through a network of regional center, state developmental centers, and state-operated community facilities. Statistics show that referring disabled individuals to community-based programs, such as RES SUCCESS, rather than keeping them in state developmental centers can save the state up to \$200,000 per person, per year.

The RES SUCCESS model of treatment becomes a significant breakthrough at a time where there are an estimated 707,000 American households in which parents 60 and older are caring for their disabled, often adult, children. What happens to these individuals when their parents are no longer able to care for them will become a major challenge for local communities. The fortunate ones will have to rely on other family members or friends. Others will become wards of the state and hopefully be eligible to be housed in state institutions. Already, four residential clients at RES are wards of the state and are fortunate to have found a secure, stable place to call home.

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