

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **RES SUCCESS CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF SERVING DISABLED ADULTS**

**Martinez, CA** – A better model of serving developmentally disabled adults is the premise on which RES SUCCESS was founded. Now, as the organization celebrates its tenth year of operation, the RES SUCCESS model is clearly one in which disabled individuals flourish and California taxpayers have saved literally millions of dollars.

“We wanted to create a safe, supportive environment for our disabled students where they could have a positive human experience and exposure to education and self-expressive art forms,” said Ian G. Bremner, Executive Director and founder of RES SUCCESS. “Our philosophy is that every individual -- regardless of how he or she is born -- deserves the opportunity to achieve his or her own human potential. We’ve designed our program to foster self-esteem and self-worth in our students.”

Fifty disabled students 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 in downtown Martinez. All of the students have moderate to severe disabilities, such as mental retardation and autism. Nearly all also have other mental health disorders and behavioral challenges, such as schizophrenia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and more. These are individuals who are prone to violent behavioral outbreaks, whose current caregivers are unable to care for them any longer or they simply don’t have caregivers.

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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,” Bremner continued. “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.”

Another major part of the RES philosophy is to try to reduce the amount of medications the individual has to take. “Our students are constantly monitored and evaluated by staff and every effort is made to use the least amount of medication to support the person in their success,” said Bremner. “Every individual at RES SUCCESS has an individual services plan specially tailored to their personal needs and levels of abilities. They are supported – and encouraged – every step of the way.”

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.

“While not every individual in a state developmental center program is eligible for a regional center community-based program, such as RES SUCCESS, we strive to place disabled individuals in the community whenever possible,” said Reuben Zarate, Community Program Specialist, with the Agnews Development Center Regional Project of the Bay Area. “RES SUCCESS is an outstanding example of the inroads that can be made into enhancing the quality of a disabled individual’s life. They have taken individuals from state developmental centers and have helped them to live more independent, productive lives. The success they’ve had with their clients is outstanding.”

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.

“RES SUCCESS has a terrific reputation as a high-quality provider among professionals serving the developmentally disabled population,” said Cindy Siljstrom, CEO of Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa, whose son is a client at RES SUCCESS. There are limited options for support for developmentally disabled individuals in this (adult) age group. RES SUCCESS approach to treatment has made a huge impact on the quality of my son’s life. As a parent, it is a tremendous relief to know that he is participating and enjoying something as positive.”

“Ian Bremner has been a visionary in his approach to treating disabled adults,” said Tamara J. Hicks, Psy. D., of Potrero Hill Psychotherapy. “For more than 16 years I’ve been involved in all aspects of agencies providing services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Without a doubt, no other agency has ever come close to the continual successes that RES achieves. In fact, Mr. Bremner’s treatment model not only challenges, it holds accountable the institutional practices that have been an industry norm for years.”

On Sunday, November 7, from 12 noon to 5 p.m., RES SUCCESS will hold its annual fall fundraiser Artistry for Autism at its day-treatment facility located at 801 Ferry Street in Downtown Martinez. It will be an opportunity to purchase student artwork, as well as local and national artwork donated to the agency. Other auction items include gift baskets and other donations. Admission is free. For more information on the fundraiser, please contact the RES SUCCESS administration at (925) 229-8228.

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### **Additional Resource/Reference Websites**

East Bay Regional Center:	<a href="http://www.rceb.org">www.rceb.org</a>
CA Department of Developmental Services:	<a href="http://www.dds.ca.gov">http://www.dds.ca.gov</a>
CA State Council on Developmental Disabilities:	<a href="http://www.scdd.ca.gov">http://www.scdd.ca.gov</a>
CA Association of Regional Center Activities:	<a href="http://www.arcenet.org">www.arcenet.org</a>
National Association of Dually Diagnosed:	<a href="http://www.thenadd.org">http://www.thenadd.org</a>
UCLA Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities Center:	<a href="http://mhddc.ucla.edu">http://mhddc.ucla.edu</a>
National Organization for Developmental Disabilities Council	<a href="http://www.nadcc.org">www.nadcc.org</a>
Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities	<a href="http://www.c-d-d.org">www.c-d-d.org</a>
Autism Society of America	<a href="http://www.autism-society.org">www.autism-society.org</a>