

**COMMENDING
PARENT SERVICES PROJECT
FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE IN MARIN COUNTY AND THE GREATER BAY AREA**

WHEREAS, Parent Services Project has served families in Marin County, the greater Bay Area, and throughout the country over the past 30 years. Throughout its history, Parent Services Project's work has been grounded in the belief that strong families are the cornerstone of healthy child development and that networks of support allow families to best care for their children; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, the Zellerbach Family Fund and the Beryl H. Buck Trust, funded Parent Services Project to develop a model program that could be replicated in child care centers serving low-income children of different ethnic and racial backgrounds, many with language barriers. The model emphasized how child care centers could connect with and provide support to families, thereby increasing family well-being; and

WHEREAS, Parent Services Project pioneered the concept of family-centered child care and brought the fields of family support and early care and education together in order to better serve children and families. Parent Services Project's work is based in the principles of family support – mutual partnership with families, shared power, viewing families as assets, valuing culture, self-determination, and social support, and grounding all of the work in hope and joy; and

WHEREAS, Parent Services Project has provided training and technical assistance to over 800 program sites throughout the United States; has developed tools and curricula for training professionals and parents in family support and parent leadership; and

WHEREAS, Parent Services Project's early childhood education curriculum, *Stronger Together*, has been taught and disseminated throughout the United States, enabling early childhood teachers and directors to partner with the families they serve in creating a network of support; and

WHEREAS, Parent Services Project created groundbreaking training programs for early childhood professionals to support the inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender families in early childhood settings with the publication of *Making Room in the Circle* – a guide for child care professionals; and

WHEREAS, Parent Services Project has increased the involvement of parents in their children's education through its *Parent Leadership Institutes*, designed for parents to build their skills to effectively work with the education system from early childhood up through high school and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Parent Services Project continues to work deeply in the local community through its *Mentores Project*, which works with over 200 families annually in San Rafael's Canal District to assist them with access to resources and to link them to civic engagement opportunities; and

WHEREAS, through the *Raising A Reader* program, Parent Services Project reaches over 2,000 Marin children and their families each year, successfully increasing the time parents spend reading with young children; and

WHEREAS, Parent Services Project has been honored for its partnership with San Rafael City Schools receiving the Marin County Office of Education's 2010 Golden Bell Award. It also received the 2005 Public Health Hero Award from Marin County Department of Health and Human Services. Nationally, Parent Services Project was recognized as an exemplary program of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Center for the Study of Social Policy in 2003, and by the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Families Count National Honors Program in 2000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin acknowledges the Parent Services Project's 30 years of service in Marin County and the greater San Francisco Bay Area.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held this 21st day of September 2010.