

# Our Affiliations



Community Resources  
FOR INDEPENDENCE



In partnership with



Second Annual  
Best Practices Awards  
October 20, 2005

**W**elcome to the Sonoma County Mayors' Committee's Second Annual Best Practices Awards!

Join me in honoring our outstanding awardees for their leadership and achievements.

Each of them deserves an entire book about their work, but we aspire to do more than write words about them – we want to bring their achievements to life on a DVD that will showcase each of our award winners doing the activities that earned our recognition.

Exchange Bank has agreed to be one sponsor of our DVD. I invite a community-minded business or organization to co-sponsor this exciting and inspiring project.

Let me hear from you!

**Steve Slaw**  
President,  
Sonoma County  
Mayors' Committee  
on Employment of  
People with Disabilities  
*(With Petaluma Mayor  
David Glass, right)*



## AGENDA

### Welcome

Peter Harsch, Chair, Job Link Steering Committee

### Introduction of The Best Practices Awards

Steve Shaw, President, Sonoma County Mayors' Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities

### Best Practices Awards Presentations

#### Individual Initiative Awards

Presented by Jane Bender, Mayor of Santa Rosa

#### Employer Best Practices Awards

Presented by Jake Mackenzie, Mayor of Rohnert Park

#### Universal Access Award

Presented by Valerie Brown,

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

### Acknowledgement of Achievement

Joe Nation, State Assembly

### Conclusion of Program

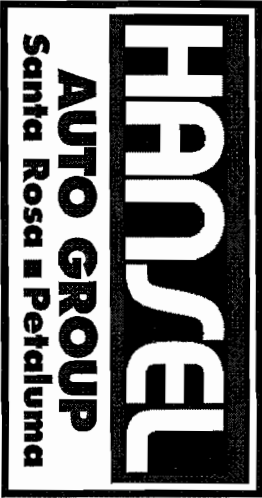
### Refreshments and Social Mixer

Welcome to Sonoma County Job Link. Job Link's mission is to promote integrated community partnerships which provide employment and training services to job seekers and the business community.

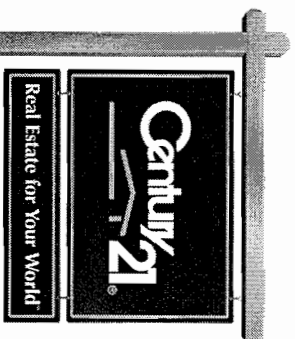
We strive to inspire all individuals to reach their fullest potential and provide resources in a user friendly and accessible environment.

It is our pleasure to work in close partnership with the Mayors' Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.

Thank you for joining us today to honor those individuals and employers who add to the quality of life in Sonoma County as we strive to provide opportunity for all of our citizens to participate in the world of work.  
Peter Harsch,  
Chairman, Job Link Steering Committee



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In honor of Max Machinery founder John Max  
Sponsored by John Torres and  
Century 21 Les Ryan Healdsburg Realtors

**MAX** Max Machinery, Inc.

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*Oliver*  
MARKET



# 2005 Best Practices Awards

- **Individual Initiative Award**

*Recognizes an employee with a disability who has provided exemplary initiative in the workplace*

**VIRGINIA HOTZ-STEENHOVEN**

Virginia is the client contact for disabled students at Santa Rosa Junior College. She has created a virtually seamless process for disabled students to register with the SRJC Disability Resources Department.

**RANDY KITCH**

Randy is one of the original founders of Community Resources for Independence and the disability movement in Sonoma County. He is currently a Client Advocate for the North Bay Regional Center and speaks all around the country as a national advocate for assistive technology.

- **Universal Access Award**

*Recognizes disability awareness in facilities design that enhance employment opportunities*

**JIM ALLEN**

Jim Allen is a developer and general partner of Yulupa Cohousing in Santa Rosa. The project has 29 condo units which the architect Michael Black designed so that the groundfloor units are disability accessible. The common

- **Employer Best Practices Award**

*Recognizes an employer for leadership in employment of people with disabilities*

**FOOD MAXX**

Food Maxx employs or sub-contracts with developmentally disabled clients of Becoming Independent.

**RUPERT GIBBON & SPIDER, INC.**

Rupert Gibbon & Spider Inc. are the largest contributor of sub-contracted assembly work for developmentally disabled clients of Redwood Empire Industries.

- **Innovative Media and Technology Award**

*Recognizes creative media efforts to recruit or target an audience of people with disabilities*

**RIALTO CINEMAS LAKESIDE**

Rialto Cinemas Lakeside screened the documentary film Murderball about members of the U. S. para-olympics wheelchair rugby team and provided 180 free tickets for disabled viewers even though this film was not a "money maker".

## BEST PRACTICES AWARDS EVENT

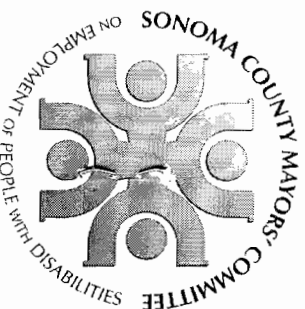
### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**ALIX SHOR & STEVE SHAW, Event Co-Chairs**

**PEGGY DOMBECK, Awards Selection**

**KATHY YOUNG, Publicity**

**JACK GEARY, Sponsorship**



## BEST PRACTICES AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE

**Peggy Dombek, Sensory Awareness Foundation**

**Bonnie Burrell, Winzler & Kelly**

**Bernadette "Bernie" Gibb, Hansel Auto Group**

**Sharon Izen, California Dept. of Rehabilitation**

**Nancy Walker, City of Santa Rosa**



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

P R O C L A M A T I O N

by the Governor of the State of California

Our state is home to approximately six million people with disabilities who are an integral part of our social and economic fabric. Californians with disabilities represent two and half million qualified and skilled personnel in the employment pool. More than 100,000 disabled citizens are currently preparing for or seeking employment, which will lead to greater independence and integration in their communities.

My Administration is strongly committed to ensuring fair and non-discriminatory employment practices, and we recognize that equal employment opportunity for all segments of society is not fully realized without vigilance and conscious effort.

I encourage public and private employers in California to push past misconceptions or barriers and provide job opportunities to this accessible and energetic employment resource.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER,

Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim

October 2005, as "Disability Employment Awareness Month."



1030 Apollo Way  
Santa Rosa  
ncheonline.com

A CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION SERVING  
SONOMA, LAKE & MENDOCINO COUNTIES

## 2004 Best Practices Awards

*Last year's Award recipients*

- **Individual Initiative Award**

*Recognizes an employee with a disability who has provided exemplary initiative in the workplace*

NANCY HALL  
CHRIS SCHIRLE

- **Employer Best Practices Award**

*Recognizes an employer for leadership in employment of people with disabilities*

KAISER PERMANENTE  
OLIVER'S MARKETS

- **Universal Access Award**

*Recognizes disability awareness in facilities design that enhance employment opportunities*

HAROLD SHERLEY,  
NORTH BAY INDUSTRIES

- **Innovative Media and Technology Award**

*Recognizes creative media efforts to recruit or target an audience of people with disabilities*

JOE DE VITO,  
COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY TELEVISION

**KAISER**

**PERMANENTE®**



**thrive**

**Board of  
Directors**

**Michael  
Ellenwood, Pres.**  
Filmmaker

**Jack Geary,**

Vice-Pres.  
Vocational Rehab  
Counselor

**Matt Canatta,**  
Treas. Sec.  
Loan Consultant

**Donna  
Clendennin**  
Mother / Student

**Tiffany Cooper**  
Legal Processor

**Robert Gilchrist**  
Retired Public  
Health Admin

**Stephen R.  
Cospe, M.D.**  
Retired  
Rheumatologist

**Winston  
Johnson**  
Recreation  
Specialist

**Geets Vincent**  
SRJC adjunct  
teacher/journalist

**Daryl Wright**  
Retired Teacher

**Richard Zimmer**  
Psychologist /  
Professor



**Community  
Resources**  
FOR INDEPENDENCE

October 5, 2005

We, the Board of Directors of Community Resources for Independence, wholeheartedly endorse the efforts of the Sonoma County Mayors' Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.

The Mayors' Committee's three themes of awareness, recognition and mentoring convey important aspects of life that are not limited to any one group, but apply to every member of our communities.

This month we applaud the committee's Best Practices Awards Ceremony, an event that recognizes individuals, businesses, and organizations for exemplary practices involving the employment of people with disabilities.

We are proud that CRI Board Vice President Jack Geary is a former Mayors' Committee President, and wish to express our thanks to him for volunteering countless hours of his time to re-establish the committee and provide the leadership for it to continue to prosper.

We congratulate the Sonoma County Mayors' Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities for their achievements.

*Michael Ellenwood*

Michael Ellenwood, Board President

**Friends of the Mayors' Committee**

David Brown, Vista Broadband Networks

Communiqué Interpreting Services

Tom Corbett, Council For Community Television

Halls Executive Gifts & Awards

Herman and Lois Hatt

Art D. Kane, AK & Associates

Personnel Association of Sonoma County (PASCO)

Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce

Sir Speedy Printing Center

Carl Wong, Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools

"It gives me great pleasure to honor and support those in the business community that have gone above and beyond the requirements of reaching out to and accommodating employees with disabilities."

Joe Nation, Assemblyman



**North Bay Industries**  
649 Martin Avenue  
Rohnert Park  
[www.nbrs.org](http://www.nbrs.org)

**Sonoma County  
Employer Advisory Council**

