



**SONOMA COUNTY MAYORS' COMMITTEE**  
ON EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

We are an all-volunteer membership committee that promotes the hiring, retention and promotion of people with disabilities.

In addition to our annual Best Practices Awards we also participate in candidate selection and mentoring activities for the Youth Leadership Forum, a statewide leadership-building program for junior and senior year high school students with disabilities.

Support us by becoming a member. Annual dues are just \$25. Please email [scmayors@sonic.net](mailto:scmayors@sonic.net) for more information.

## Our Affiliations



Community Resources  
FOR INDEPENDENCE



SONOMA COUNTY  
**WORKFORCE  
INVESTMENT BOARD**



4th Annual Sonoma County Mayors' Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities Best Practices Awards Presentation

Hosted by Community Resources for Independence



Community Resources  
FOR INDEPENDENCE

# Welcome Home

Breakfast Seminar and  
Best Practices Awards Presentation

Getting Disabled  
Veterans  
Back To Work



Featured Speaker: Marcy Orosco, MSW

Director of Workforce Services,  
North Bay Veterans Resource Center



Bob Blanchard  
Mayor, City of Santa Rosa

Bob Blanchard was elected to the City Council in November 2002. He was re-elected in 2006 and has served as Mayor since December of that year. He and his family moved to Santa Rosa in 1981. He is a Political Science teacher at Santa Rosa Junior College.

Prior to being elected, he co-chaired the General Plan Management Team, Charter Review Committee and chaired the Planning Commission.

His primary focuses are public safety, management of traffic congestion and smart growth of jobs and housing.



Pamela Torliatt  
Mayor, City of Petaluma

Pamela Torliatt is a fourth generation Petaluman and has served the public for the last 12 years: from 1993 to 1996 as a Petaluma Planning Commissioner and for the last nine years as a Petaluma City Councilmember.

Pamela was born and raised in Petaluma and attended local public schools. In 1989, she graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

Her philosophy on government is simple: it's about valuing every individual's needs.

## AGENDA

### Welcome

Bob Blanchard, Mayor,  
City of Santa Rosa

### Featured Presentation

"Getting Disabled Veterans Back to Work"

Marcy Orosco,

Director of Workforce Services,

North Bay Veterans Resource Center

### Best Practices Awards Presentation

Introduction by Steve Shaw, President,

Sonoma County Mayors' Committee on

Employment of People with Disabilities

"Youth With Disabilities - Our Future Workforce"

April Dawson,

Youth Leadership Forum Alumna

Awards Presentation by

Pamela Torliatt, Mayor,

City of Petaluma



Thank you for attending the Sonoma County Mayors' Committee's Fourth Annual Best Practices Awards. Today we honor our 2007 awardees for their leadership and achievements.

I am especially proud that our presentation topic concerns veterans with disabilities returning to the workforce, and that the focus is on "invisible disabilities".

Our newly elected Board of Directors is an energetic group that is committed to supporting California's Youth Leadership Forum. Today you will hear from YLF alumna April Dawson, who will visit local high schools to share her enthusiasm about this mentoring program. Check out the inside back cover of this booklet for more about the Youth Leadership Forum.

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



communique



SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING

tel: (707) 546-6869 v/tty  
www.cqterps.com

## Featured Presenter Marcy Orosco

Marcy Orosco, MSW, is the Director of Workforce Services for North Bay Veterans Resource Centers, a division of Vietnam Vets of California. Marcy has over 15 years experience in grant and program development, with an emphasis on regional workforce development.

Many of the 350 veterans discharged to Sonoma, Lake, and Mendocino Counties each month return home unaware that the skills they acquired while in the military are in high demand. These veterans are needed in many fields, including security, bioscience, construction and technology. Employers that hire veterans find that their job skills and work ethic make them dependable, reliable and loyal employees.

NBVRC understands that returning veterans are not only qualified for many fields, but also that they should be given assistance as a sign of gratitude for their service to the country. Its Veterans' Employment Assistance Program assesses the employment needs and skills of separated veterans of all eras and provides workforce development, Winning the Employment Game workshops, training, and job placement with the program's partner employers.

**North Bay Veterans Resource Centers**



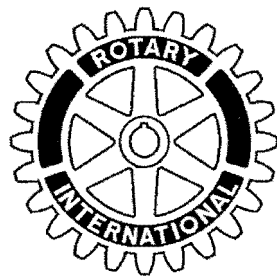
IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

# 2007 BEST PRACTICES AWARDS

## Individual Initiative Award

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

Katherine Ramondo has been with the Calistoga Road Safeway Store for many years, and has worked her way up to Front End Manager. She has a hearing impairment and reads lips and uses a text pager to communicate with her customers and co-workers. She is a very positive person and always greets people with a smile. She is well liked by her co-workers and customers and has turned down opportunities to transfer to other Safeway stores due to her dedication to her customers and co-workers at the Calistoga Road Safeway location.



Award Sponsor

The Rotary Club  
of  
Santa Rosa

[www.santarosarotary.com](http://www.santarosarotary.com)

## Employer Best Practices Award

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

Round Table Pizza and manager Paul Lemus have been very open to hiring people with disabilities. They have provided a work environment with dignity, support and accommodation for everyone. All of the employees work as a team and exemplify the goal of inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of our community.

Safeway Stores in Sonoma County pride themselves on working with different organizations to hire employees with disabilities. There are 49 employees with known disabilities in their Sonoma County stores. Each employee with a hearing impairment is offered a text pager and training with a sign language interpreter. All employees are provided many different accommodations based on their disability needs.

## Service Provider Award

*Recognizes a service provider such as a job developer, counselor or job coach for the leadership necessary to achieve placement of people with disabilities.*

Julie Branscomb is an experienced Job Coach with Redwood Empire Industries in Santa Rosa. Using her strong communication and problem-solving skills, Julie works closely with employers and individuals with disabilities to ensure that a person's transition to employment is successful. Julie's positive and supportive coaching style motivates people to overcome their barriers in a variety of work settings.

Sandy Cole is an Employment Service Specialist for Goodwill Industries of the Redwood Empire. She is a strong advocate for people with severe mental illness who want to become employed. She has been very successful in helping them to find and maintain jobs by working closely with local employers.

On behalf of Community Resources for Independence (CRI), our Staff, Board, Volunteers and Consumers, welcome to "Welcome Home, Getting Disabled Veterans Back to Work".



The tremendous influx of returning service men and women with disabilities reminds us of the fragility of our physical and cognitive well-being. These brave individuals, and the over 50 million people with disabilities in our country, have learned the unfortunate truth that, in our society, disability is often feared, difficult to recognize, and misunderstood, and those affected are often exempted from access and opportunity.

It is incumbent upon all of us, wherever and whenever possible, to reverse these damaging trends affecting inclusion and equality.

We commend the work of today's awardees for helping to ensure that our returning veterans, as well as all people with disabilities, are provided quality vocational training and opportunities. Moreover, we honor their efforts in creating a welcoming and participatory environment for people with disabilities.

Thank you,  
Adam Brown, Executive Director  
Community Resources for Independence



## About Our Best Practices Awards

Our annual Best Practices Awards recognize Sonoma County businesses and individuals for their exemplary practices in the recruitment, hiring, promotion and retention of people with disabilities.

Our awards are presented in three categories - Employer, Individual Initiative (Employee), and Service Provider.

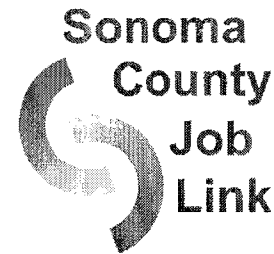
Anyone is welcome to submit nominations for one or all award categories. Each spring we request award nominations from the public by email, web site postings and print advertisements.

The Awards Selection committee is comprised of volunteer representatives from private business, social service agencies, non-profit organizations, and local governments.

We are a fun, diverse and energetic group. We encourage you to volunteer to help us with next year's event by emailing us at [scmayors@sonic.net](mailto:scmayors@sonic.net).

### Employment & Training

**Job Seeker Site**  
2245 Challenger Way  
Santa Rosa, CA 95407  
Ph.: (707) 565-5550  
Fax: (707) 565-5555

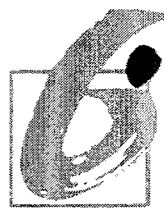


**Employer Services**  
606 Healdsburg Ave.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
Ph.: (707) 576-2850  
Fax: (707) 576-2859

[www.socojoblink.org](http://www.socojoblink.org)

Sonoma County Job Link provides employment and training support for job seekers and job changers. We also provide business services, including assistance with hiring employees, labor market information, and seminars relevant for business.

**Please call us at either site for further information!**



*We are...*

# Becoming Independent

"Promoting community inclusion and participation for people with developmental disabilities."

1425 Corporate Center Parkway ~ Santa Rosa, CA 95407  
Phone: 707-524-6600 Fax: 707-527-1206  
[www.becomingindependent.org](http://www.becomingindependent.org)

# HANSEL

## AUTO GROUP

Santa Rosa ■ Petaluma



CITY OF  
SANTA ROSA

Member  
of the  
Sonoma County  
Mayors'  
Committee on  
Employment of  
People with Disabilities



The Youth  
Leadership  
Forum

For Students with  
Disabilities is an exciting,  
fun, educational, five-day  
vocational awareness

program for high school students with disabilities in California.  
Educational programs include developing self esteem, choosing a  
career, the history of disability as a culture, and assistive technology



for independence. Presenters who meet with the students include disability community leaders, legislators, and other professionals. Each student develops a "Personal Leadership Plan" which includes specific action plans for the students when they return to their communities. Held annually by the non-profit Friends of Californians With Disabilities, eligible high school juniors and seniors may apply during January for the July event week. Our Mayors' Committee is active in the selection process and also the week's events. Join us in making the 2008 event the best ever!

