



Dialogue

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Fall 2008

Spotlight Awards Honor Excellence

The 12th Annual Spotlight Awards drew close to 800 people to the Hyatt Regency Irvine on Oct. 24 to honor fourteen outstanding individuals, organizations and programs that demonstrate excellence in enhancing quality of life and expanding opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities in Orange County.

A judging panel, composed of past Spotlight Award recipients, selected the honorees.



Kim Vuong and Gregory Mathes

“This year, due to uncertainty about the state budget and the challenges that brought to our community, we postponed the event until October,” said Chris Dubia, chairman of RCOC’s board of directors. “However, the Regional Center board felt strongly that – even in these difficult times –

it is important to carry-on our community’s tradition of honoring and holding up people and organizations that are role models. Those we honor carry-on with their outstanding work, in both good times and bad, so it is right that we continue to give them the recognition they so richly deserve.”

Henry DiCarlo, meteorologist for CBS 2 and KCAL 9 television, was master of ceremonies for the second year in a row. Special guests for the evening included Assemblyman Michael Duvall and his wife Susan, as well as San Juan Capistrano Mayor Joe Soto and his wife Carol.

After the awards were presented, attendees danced until 11 p.m., with live music courtesy of one of the event’s underwriting sponsors.



William Kheirandish (left) and Lester Nunez



Jerold McCullum and Diane Bradford

The Spotlight Awards are supported by numerous individual and corporate sponsors, along with dozens of volunteers. Contributions fund a variety of specific items, such as music, printed invitations and the crystal awards themselves. Donations are also used to subsidize tickets, helping to keep prices low. Sponsors also provide large numbers of “scholarship” tickets for people with developmental disabilities and family members who might otherwise be unable to attend.

Profiles on the 2008 Spotlight honorees appear on pages 4 through 11.

Dialogue

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Dialogue can also be read online at RCOC's Web site: www.rcocdd.com.

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2009 Board Meetings

January 6 • March 5 • May 7

The public is invited to attend. Meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are held in the Regional Center Board Room at 801 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana.

RCOC Administration

Janis White, *Interim Chief Executive Officer*

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2008-09 Board of Directors Includes More Consumers



New to the RCOC Board of Directors for 2008-09 are (left to right) Chad Arnett, Sylvia Delgado and Kathy McCrystal.

The RCOC Board of Directors provides policy leadership and oversight of RCOC on behalf of the community. Board members volunteer their time to attend meetings for several hours every other month. They also serve on committees that make policy recommendations to the board as a whole, and lead initiatives in areas such as housing and legislation. The commitment made by these volunteers is significant. Like the Spotlight Award recipients profiled in this issue, RCOC's board members deserve the recognition and appreciation of the entire community. Everyone served by the regional center benefits from their dedication.

As we enter 2009, the RCOC board is made up of fifteen dedicated and hardworking individuals. Seven members are parents of children or adults served by the regional center. Five members of the board are consumers. These include Jay

Connor, who as Secretary is also a board officer, and Cheryl Day – both of whom are veterans on the board – as well as newly elected members Chad Arnett, Sylvia Delgado and Kathy McCrystal.

While board members do not represent themselves alone or any special interest group, the active participation by individuals with developmental disabilities, as well as parents, helps to ensure that RCOC remains sharply focused on the Orange County community's needs. This is especially important during challenging budget times, as we are experiencing now, when prudent stewardship will be essential to safeguarding the critical services and supports upon which people with developmental disabilities and their families rely.

If you are interested in attending RCOC's board meetings, see the shaded box on the left of this page for more information.

Message from the Chairman

Major Budget Challenges Likely in the Coming Year

By Christian Dubia, Jr.,
RCOC Board Chairman

Many had hoped that when California finally passed a budget for the 08-09 fiscal year (three months late), that the worst was behind us. There were a number of things about that budget that we did not like, but everyone was relieved to have much-needed funds once again flowing to regional centers and to the thousands of service providers upon whom people with disabilities and their families depend.



Unfortunately, not long after the budget was enacted, it became clear that revenues to the state – that is, the amount of tax dollars coming into the California treasury – were well below what they needed to be. Just weeks after the budget was enacted, it is estimated that California is facing a \$28 billion deficit by the end of the 2009-10 budget year. Most blame the revenue shortfall on the state's unemployment rate, which is higher than the national average, as well as the general economic slowdown, and

the housing slump that has hit California especially hard. Of course, the global financial crisis that has dominated the headlines recently is expected to have an impact, but no one knows to what extent.

While the situation in California is more pressing than most, our state is not alone in this dilemma. States across the nation are making dramatic cuts in services and jobs in response to decreasing revenues. Here in California, where significant budget cuts have already been made, there is a growing recognition that further cuts could seriously damage many state systems – including developmental services. At the same time, there is reluctance to raise taxes during a sluggish economy and risk an even greater slowdown.

As I write this column, there are still a lot of unknowns. The Governor has called a special session of the Legislature to address this latest budget shortfall. He has also set forth a variety of proposals for tax increases and cuts to programs, including developmental services. It is unknown what, if any, of these proposals will be adopted.

Just weeks after the budget was enacted, it is estimated that California is facing a \$28 billion deficit by the end of the 2009-10 budget year.

There are, however, some things we do know. The challenges that the

current economic situation present to the community care system are unprecedented. Budget pressures affecting all state departments and service areas will force difficult choices to be made, and these choices will likely result in major changes to the community care system.

Budget pressures affecting all state departments and service areas will force difficult choices to be made.

We at RCOC believe that our community is best served when we actively participate in discussions about the choices that must be made. In doing so, we can offer constructive ideas to minimize the impact on individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. All would prefer that tough choices would not need to be made. However, we are convinced that participating in the process is far preferable to sitting on the sidelines and letting others – who may be unfamiliar with our community's needs – decide our fate.

As we look toward the coming year's challenges, RCOC will be working in partnership with our local service providers, family members, advocates and others who share our commitment to protecting the Lanterman Act promise of community-based services and supports.

Spotlight on Consumer: Jeff Barnes

Like many other people of his generation who have developmental disabilities, Ralph “Jeff” Barnes spent most of his childhood and his early adulthood in an institution. He was born at a time when, sadly, many parents of children with developmental disabilities were offered little hope that their children could grow up to be productive, independent citizens. But when his family moved from Indiana to California, and brought him with them, everything changed for Jeff. Living in the community, and experiencing mainstream society for the first time, he blossomed.

Embracing and overcoming challenges beyond the wildest dreams of so many who had underestimated him those decades ago, Jeff is truly an inspiration to others in the community.

“He’s very brave,” said Jennifer Richey, the IABA manager who supervises him at work and nominated him for the Spotlight award. “He’s a role model for me. There are things that would take someone else weeks to get up the courage to do, but he just goes right ahead.”



Henry DiCarlo and Jeff Barnes

A professional man who takes pride in his achievements, Jeff is a productive, active and engaged member of society. He holds several jobs, including working at Jack in the Box and as an office assistant for the Institute for Applied Behavior Analysis (IABA), where he assists with a variety of projects, such as making photocopies, distributing mail, and taking attendance at staff meetings. In December, he will celebrate five years as an employee of IABA.

Jeff also runs a micro-enterprise, selling snacks and beverages to his office co-workers.

“He has an incredible work ethic, and is so responsible,” said Jennifer, who has known Jeff for 12 years. “He takes ownership of everything he’s a part of.”

“Jeff likes to work and has a lot of fun working,” said Abde Hamada, Jeff’s RCOC service coordinator. “He gets a lot of pride and satisfaction from it.”

He also travels, and does so independently. Earlier this year, he traveled by himself to visit family members in Idaho.



Jeff Barnes at work at IABA.

The person honored with the Consumer Spotlight award sets an example for other individuals with developmental disabilities, and Jeff is definitely someone who has earned the esteem and affection of his friends, co-workers, and fellow citizens.

“Jeff is a fantastic example to the non-disabled individuals he meets and interacts with each and every day,” Jennifer wrote in her nomination. “Jeff does not accept anything less than being treated as an equal and the public takes heed. He is showing others that he is a fully capable and independent adult who deserves respect.”

“He’s a role model for other consumers because of his independence and his love of other people,” said Abde. “If somebody meets him in the community, they see that he can do a lot of things... When you meet him, you’re going to like him.”

Jennifer agrees. “I’m his supervisor,” she said. “But I also see him as my friend.”

Spotlight on Lifetime Achievement: Dr. Dennis Mattson

The Spotlight Award for Lifetime Achievement

honors someone whose contributions, over a long period of time, have been exceptional. With more than three decades of professional achievement and dedicated service to his credit, Dr. Dennis Mattson is both respected by his peers and loved by many who now live successfully in the community because of his help.

Dr. Mattson's philosophy is to encourage community services that promote consumer choice, reduce restrictiveness, and enhance opportunities for independence for every individual. His belief is that every person, no matter how significant their disabilities, can live a successful and healthy life in the community. In fact, it is estimated



Dr. Dennis Mattson (right) with his wife Rebecca Helgeson-Mattson (left) and children (left to right) Kevin, Sean, Eric and Laure

that more than 100 individuals have successfully moved from a developmental center into community living with the support of Independent Options, the agency he founded in 1984.

That is an impressive record on its own. But there is much more to Dr. Mattson. As a volunteer on several non-profit boards, he ensures that those organizations stay focused

on what is best for people with disabilities. A recognized leader in his field, Dr. Mattson serves as volunteer chair of the Developmental Services Network, a statewide coalition of residential service providers. He has also been a tireless advocate at both the state and federal level for increased funding for quality care and for better training for direct care staff and management.

Spotlight on Parent: Vivian Bottino

Vivian Bottino became a dedicated advocate of children with autism when, as a toddler, her son was diagnosed with autism *and* it was discovered that the boy's phenomenal drawing skills placed him in that rare category of savant. At a time when there was little information about autism and few resources for treatment, she became an expert. She sought out top professionals and tools to create programs that would nurture her son's strengths. Her groundbreaking work made it

possible to fully integrate her son into classrooms, from elementary school to college. Vivian never allowed her son's disability to marginalize his life. Recruiting and training a circle of typical peers, she facilitated the opportunity for her son to form lasting and meaningful relationships. Due to her efforts to celebrate his artistic gift, he is known worldwide for his artwork. His artistic talents have been showcased in several BBC and Discovery Channel documentaries.

Children throughout Orange County benefitted from her work to integrate those with developmental disabilities in schools. They have also benefitted from the social skills programs she developed for use in elementary through high school classrooms, and in the home.

Editor's Note: Vivian Bottino was unable to attend the Spotlight Awards event, so we regret there is no photo to accompany this story.

Spotlight on Frontline: Joseph Nassif

The Frontline award recognizes a person who provides direct services to people with developmental disabilities. For the past six years, Joseph Nassif has provided support to six men, and in the home they share, it is like family. In fact, five of the men attended the Spotlight Awards with him (one needed to be with his sick mother) and the whole group celebrated the honor with a trip to Disneyland.

Joseph is truly committed to maximizing the men's opportunities and choices in all aspects of their lives — from their personal relationships with others, to

day-to-day recreational activities like bowling and going to the gym, as well as their annual trip to Las Vegas.

Originally from Lebanon, Joseph came to the United States in 1997. It was by coincidence that he began working with people with developmental disabilities, when a cousin recommended him for the job. He was studying law and working nights when Grace Cenicerros, who he says is like a mother to him, hired him to staff one of the homes that she and her now-late husband operated. Now, in addition to his work in this home, Joseph is an administrator for all



Grace Cenicerros and Joseph Nassif

four of Cenicerros Residential's facilities. And it is clear that the work is much more than a job to him.

"I love it," he said. "I'm so blessed."

Spotlight on Elected Official: Assemblyman Michael Duvall

Assemblyman Michael Duvall was honored with the Elected Official Spotlight Award for the commitment that he and his family have to enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities in Orange County. Each year, his family opens their Yorba Linda ranch to children with disabilities, enabling them to learn about and interact with the animals there.

In her nomination of Assemblyman Duvall, Tresa Oliveri recounted a touching story about one of these events when the Assemblyman offered a little boy who was there



Chris Dubia with Susan and Michael Duvall

with his mother the opportunity to hold a baby goat: "As the little boy held the goat, he said the word 'baby.' Assemblyman Duvall noticed the little boy's mother crying. He thought

somehow the boy had gotten hurt, but instead the mother explained that 'baby' was the first word she ever heard her son say."

This story demonstrates both the value of this event for helping some children to achieve communication breakthroughs, as well as the Duvall family's deep and genuine connection with those with disabilities.

The Assemblyman, who was elected in November 2006, represents the 72nd Assembly District, which includes the cities of Fullerton, Anaheim, Placentia, Orange, Brea, Yorba Linda, and La Habra. He attended the Spotlight Awards event with his wife, Susan.

Spotlight on Support Services Vendor: Footprints Behavioral Intervention

Footprints Behavioral Intervention, which received the Support Services Vendor award, is helping to meet Orange County's growing need for behavioral services. As they help people with behavioral challenges learn important social skills and appropriate behaviors, they enable those consumers to participate more fully in community life. The agency's strong emphasis on parent participation and education also allows these consumers to thrive in the family home, using natural supports.

"They help families strive for that natural environment, that least-restrictive setting where they can enjoy being a family together," said

Destini Kulik, the RCOG Behavioral Services Specialist who nominated Footprints for the award.

"We get so much positive feedback about them from families," she continued. She said families are pleased both with the results Footprints helps them achieve – in terms of their family members' improved behavior and new skills learned – and the professionalism of the staff.

The agency is also unusual in that it is able to serve adults, as well as children, and provides services in six different languages: English, Vietnamese, Spanish, Japanese, Farsi and Korean.

Quynh Nguyen, who founded



Quynh Nguyen with Bill Bowman

Footprints four years ago with Julia Kim and Thang Do, said that their approach is simple. "We do what we believe in," she said. And the staff, which now numbers 36 people, shares that perspective. She said they always try to keep in mind how they want to be treated, as individuals, and extend that courtesy and caring to the clients and families they serve.

Spotlight on Healthcare Professional: Leann Schouten

Leann Schouten, MS, CCC-SLP, was honored with the Spotlight Award for Healthcare Professional.

This speech and language pathologist is so skilled at gaining the trust of her young patients and creating a positive environment for therapy, that parents are willing to drive long distances to make sure their children have the opportunity to work with her.



Leann Schouten

The mother who nominated her wrote that Leann's patience and understanding mean that children actually look forward to the days they get to see her for speech therapy. It may be Leann's own childhood that set the stage for her remarkable capacity to inspire children in therapy. When she was growing up, her mother was a family home child care provider.

"I grew up with a lot of extra kids around, so I really know how to play and I play well," Leann laughs, explaining how as a professional she employs those skills to make speech therapy fun for children.

She says she always knew she wanted to be a therapist – either a physical therapist, because of her dance background, or a speech therapist. It was while volunteering with CHOC (Children's Hospital of Orange County) that the decision was made. When she was asked to help out in the speech department at CHOC, she knew she had found her passion.

"It all revolves around the child," she said, describing her approach to her work. The parent who nominated Leann would, no doubt, agree. That mother credits Leann with giving children the confidence to go out into the world and communicate.

Spotlight on Living Options Vendor: Independent Options

Independent Options has specialized in providing residential support to people with the most significant needs for nearly a quarter of a century. Today, more than 300 individuals with developmental disabilities rely on this vendor. Some consumers have been with them since they opened their doors.

It is easy to see why this is the case. The staff at Independent Options share the vision and expectations of founder Dr. Dennis Mattson – that each individual must be welcomed, celebrated and listened to.

In his acceptance remarks at the Spotlight dinner, Dr. Mattson lauded the important contributions of Independent Options' more than 400 direct support staff and managers.

He thanked them for upholding the highest standards for services and supports and, in his words, "finding their own happiness in a career supporting others."

Dr. Mattson gave special credit for the success and commitment to excellence of Independent Options to the woman at the helm of the day-to-day operations of the organization.

"Every agency needs someone who is the agency's heart and soul, and the agency's compass," he said. "The best professional decision I ever made was to hire 25 years ago Independent Options' first employee and first administrator – Rebecca Helgeson-Mattson. The best personal decision I ever made was, of course, to marry her."



Rebecca Helgeson-Mattson and Dr. Dennis Mattson

Included with the nomination for Independent Options were testimonials from several people with developmental disabilities who receive support from the agency. One of those people probably said it best. He or she said: "Independent Options rocks!"

Spotlight on Employer: City of San Juan Capistrano

The Employer award honors a company or organization that provides integrated job opportunities to people with developmental disabilities. This year's recipient, the City of San Juan Capistrano, has included regional center consumers in its workforce for more than 15 years. It currently employs 12 men and women with developmental disabilities who perform janitorial services at both parks and city buildings.

What began as an experiment has grown into a mutually-beneficial partnership. The employees with disabilities garner both a paycheck and life-enriching experiences, while the City enjoys an enthusiastic and dependable workforce. Expressing the community's appreciation and pride, San Juan Capistrano Mayor

Joe Soto attended the Spotlight Awards dinner with his wife, Carol, and accepted the honor on behalf of the City.

Through its example, the City has also encouraged a multitude of local businesses to launch similar efforts to integrate people with disabilities into their workforces. Commenting on the impact of the City's efforts at a recent city council meeting, an employee of the supported employment service provider that works with the City said that over the years he has received dozens of phone calls from local residents who admire both their work and the opportunity the City provides for these dedicated employees to participate more fully in the community.



Chris Dubia with San Juan Capistrano Mayor Joe Soto

In nominating the City of San Juan Capistrano, the service provider wrote: "Their commitment to the developmentally disabled sets an example of compassion that is visibly seen throughout their community on a daily basis."

Spotlight on Professional Achievement: Myrna Capsuto

Myrna Capsuto is a special education teacher whose positive influence is felt every day by students in her classroom who benefit from the engaging, research-based curricula she uses. A master teacher, her impact on students is multiplied by the work she does to help new teachers hone their skills and develop best practices for working with students with developmental disabilities.

“She is highly regarded by her fellow educators and is generous in both time and in sharing information to increase the level of service and support,” wrote one of those who nominated her.

In addition to her exemplary work in the classroom and with colleagues,

Myrna has created opportunities for social interactions between typical students and those with special needs. The peer assistance programs she has organized and facilitated on a number of campuses ensure that all students involved have opportunities to develop character, leadership and friendships.

Myrna also volunteers with the Jeremiah Society, which helps link Jewish individuals with developmental disabilities with the Jewish community and society as a whole. She has employed her professional skills to enhance the members’ daily lives. For example, she has led programs that help them deal with real life issues such as how to handle anger, how to make good decisions and choices, and how to get along with others.



Myrna Capsuto

One of those who nominated her commended Myrna’s energy and commitment to community: “We need more dedicated people with these values who not only talk about issues, but who actually follow through with their time and training.”

Spotlight on Community Partnership: Robert Sterling

Robert Sterling, recipient of the Community Partnership Spotlight Award, was honored for his work with Harbor Village – one of Orange County’s most outstanding examples of affordable housing in which people with developmental disabilities are fully integrated with residents who do not have disabilities. Harbor Village sits on land that was once part of the Fairview Developmental Center, but has since been developed into residential streets with single family homes as well as



Robert Sterling

apartments. It is now home to more than 250 people with developmental disabilities who are in supported living or independent living situations, and nearly 100 more who live in community care or intermediate care facilities located within the complex.

An employee of the Department of Developmental Services, Robert is the state’s “go to” person for a variety of projects that involve RCOC consumers at Harbor Village. He is involved in tenant relations, helping to resolve conflicts that involve consumers.

When a consumer is preparing to move into the complex, he conducts an assessment to identify an appropriate unit and determine what types of modifications might be necessary, and is then responsible for ensuring that work is completed.

That contact with consumers what Robert finds most rewarding about his job: “Being able to be in the trenches, working with our consumers,” he said.

In addition to his work with Harbor Village, Robert is currently leading an effort to award a second housing development project on Fairview property that will include approximately 300 housing units.

Spotlight on RCOC Achievement: Nikki Strauss

The 2008 Spotlight Award for RCOC Achievement went to Nikki Strauss, a service coordinator who was nominated by two mothers of children served by RCOC. Both of them view Nikki as one of their children's very best advocates – a true professional who gives her all to understand each child's individual needs, and each family's individual circumstances.

“She keeps us informed of programs, both educational and service oriented, that best support [our son] now and that will prepare him for the future,” wrote one parent. “In IEP meetings, she has demonstrated her knowledge of our son, his needs and the opportunities required to prepare him for a

meaningful and productive future. Her contributions at these IEP meetings and during our yearly Regional Center planning meetings are always on point and reflect a knowledge of both [our son] and the opportunities best suited for his needs.”

Families report that this service coordinator has the knowledge and wisdom to help them make good choices, as well as the compassion to help them embrace the possibilities that the future holds for their children.

“A case worker with the credentials, experience and the long-term commitment that we have received from Nikki Strauss has allowed us

the freedom NOT to worry about our child's future, for she provides the constant eye of what is next on the horizon for my son,” wrote another mother. “Each year at our annual meeting, Nikki prepares me for what to anticipate in the next transitional step.”



Nikki Strauss (left) with Rosalinda Lopez

Spotlight on Volunteer: Dave Brach

Dave Brach is a role model for nurturing, and promoting growth. His involvement with the community began nine years ago, when he was landscaping his front yard. His handiwork caught the attention and interest of a neighbor boy who is an RCOC consumer. In her nomination for Dave, the boy's mother wrote that her son was so fascinated by this landscaping work that he soon was there every day watching the progress being made on the job. As the two became friends, Dave began to teach the boy how to mow a lawn, prune bushes, and work on various garden projects. In sharing his knowledge and expertise, Dave cultivated the young boy's passion

for gardening and encouraged his dream of making that his career.

Dave's involvement deepened a few years ago when he volunteered with the boy's school district transition program. There, he worked with the students to create a beautiful garden. With his help, they have learned how to care for the garden — watering plants, raking leaves, and trimming plants. At the same time, they learned important life skills, such as following directions, taking responsibility, and completing tasks.

Because of Dave's support and generosity, many students have had the opportunity to explore gardening as a life-long hobby or possibly even



Dave Brach

a career. By also volunteering his time with the transition program instructor and teaching her new skills, he has ensured that she will be able to continue the garden project for years to come.

Spotlight on E. Kurt Yeager Servant Leadership Award: Tresa Oliveri

The E. Kurt Yeager Servant Leadership award honors an individual who has served in a volunteer leadership position in an organization that serves people with developmental disabilities. This year's honoree, Tresa Oliveri, is someone whose contributions to the developmental services system – Orange County and statewide – will continue to be felt well into the future.

The future is, in fact, what motivates Tresa. The mother of a teenage son with autism, she has committed herself to ensuring that California's Lanterman Act promise of community services will continue to provide a safety net for people with disabilities long after she is gone. This is what has driven her

tireless involvement as a long-time volunteer member and vice chairman of RCOC's board of directors. As chair of the board's legislative committee, Tresa has devoted countless hours to meetings with elected officials with whom she speaks passionately about the concerns of parents of children with developmental disabilities.

Now in her second year term as volunteer president of the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA), she has introduced new tools to help that vital statewide organization become more focused on key priorities and be more accountable for achieving results



Chris Dubia (left), Tresa Oliveri and OCTA Executive Director of Development Kia Mortazavi

on behalf of those served by California's regional center system.

Tresa's dedication to the stewardship principles that guide RCOC, and which are key to the future of the regional center system as a whole, is remarkable and makes her truly deserving of the recognition this special award bestows.

Make the Holidays More Festive by Supporting Wish Tree

Each year, RCOC's Wish Tree program helps brighten the holiday season for hundreds of people with developmental disabilities. If you, your company, volunteer organization or church group are looking for a great way to help others in Orange County in the coming weeks, please consider participating in Wish Tree!

The Wish Tree begins when low-income individuals and families served by RCOC fill out cards that

bear their names and holiday gift requests. Those cards then decorate the Wish Tree. Donors fulfill the wishes – ranging from children's toys and clothes, to music CDs and store gift cards – by purchasing the requested items and delivering them to RCOC. Volunteers then wrap the gifts and deliver them to the families.

Donors who may not have the time to purchase gifts during the busy holiday season can still participate.

Financial contributions are used by volunteer shoppers to fulfill specific wishes from the Tree. Checks should be made out to "Brian's Fund," and mailed to RCOC's Santa Ana office.

For more information on participating in Wish Tree, contact Karen Schaeffer at RCOC at 714-796-5330.

Bill Bowman Departs RCOC CEO Post

After devoting the past 14 years to leadership of RCOC, Bill Bowman has decided to leave the position of Chief Executive Officer and pursue other opportunities. Bill's departure, which was effective November 7, is a great loss to the organization. His tireless efforts on behalf of the community have improved the way both RCOC and the regional center system as a whole operate. The business practices he pioneered in Orange County, and

his unwavering focus on the best interest of the people RCOC serves, have made this regional center a model across the state.

Dr. Janis White, who has headed RCOC's operations for the past 10 years and is well known in the community, has been named Interim Chief Executive Officer of the organization. Janis has appointed Consumer/Community Resources Director Larry Landauer as the Interim Chief Operating Officer.

In making the announcement, the RCOC Board of Directors voiced strong support for the management and staff of the regional center and their continued full commitment to all those that the organization serves. They expressed full confidence that RCOC and the community's excellent service providers will continue to deliver the highest quality of service and outcomes that RCOC consumers and families expect and deserve.

Regional Center of Orange County Locations

Santa Ana Office	Orange Office	Irvine Office	Westminster Office
801 Civic Center Dr. West 24-hr Phone: (714) 796-5100	3111 N. Tustin, Suite 150 24-hr Phone: (714) 796-3700	46 Discovery, Suite 200 24-hr Phone: (714) 796-4060	5555 Garden Grove Blvd., Suite 100 24-hr Phone: (714) 796-2900

Dialogue Newsletter

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INSIDE

- Spotlight Awards Honor Excellence.....1
- 2008-09 Board of Directors Includes More Consumers.....2
- Message from the Chairman.....3
- Spotlight Honoree Profiles.....4
- Make the Holidays More Festive by Supporting Wish Tree.....11

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