



"Enriching Lives"

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES



www.laccod.org

### PRESS RELEASE

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## THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES ANNOUNCES THE 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ACCESS AWARDEES

In recognition of October as "Disability Awareness Month," the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities will be hosting their **18th Annual Access Awards Luncheon on Monday, October 19, 2009, at 11:30 a.m. at the Kyoto Grand Hotel and Gardens in Downtown Los Angeles.** The event is held each year to honor individuals, corporations, and public entities that have made outstanding contributions and/or have demonstrated leadership, commitment, inspiration, facilitation or promotion of accessibility and equality for people with disabilities.

This year's 18th Annual Access Awardees are:

#### **Billy Barty Award**

I AM PWD  
Inclusion in the Arts and Media for  
People with Disabilities

#### **Nadia Powers Leadership Award**

Rafer Johnson  
Humanitarian and Founder of Special  
Olympics Southern California

#### **Pearl Ella Johnson Award**

The Beauty Bus  
"Bringing Beauty Home"

#### **Chairperson's Award**

Sharon Crittendon  
Disabilities Advocate

#### **Jane Small Advocacy Award**

Stephen Simon  
City of Los Angeles AIDS Coordinator

#### **1<sup>st</sup> District**

L.A. Care Health Plan

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> District**

Consuella Mackey  
Operation Confidence

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> District**

Deaf West Theater

#### **4<sup>th</sup> District**

Angela Madsen  
California Adaptive Rowing Program

#### **5<sup>th</sup> District**

Winnie Reitnouer  
Recording For The Blind and Dyslexic

Proceeds from this event are used to support the Commission's programs and outreach to the disability community. One of the Commission's primary programs is the Bill Tainter Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities. Through this program, the Commission awards scholarships to graduating high school seniors with disabilities from each of the five Supervisorial Districts. These scholarships enable students with disabilities to continue their quest for an education beyond high school, independence and the fulfillment of their goals and dreams.

At the September 15, 2009, Board meeting, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Commission on Disabilities presented \$1,000 scholarship awards to David Ritter (1<sup>st</sup> District), Xylene Grace Bulosan (2<sup>nd</sup> District), Joseph Huniu, (3<sup>rd</sup> District), Steven Ngo (4<sup>th</sup> District), and Kelsey Sherman (5<sup>th</sup> District), five deserving high school graduates.

An outstanding program combined with a delicious lunch catered by the Kyoto Grand Hotel and Garden's Western/Japanese Kitchens promises an event that is sure to please. Those wishing to attend the 18th Annual Access Awards Luncheon or participate as a sponsor for the event should contact the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities office at (213) 974-1053 voice or (213) 971-1707 (TTY) for ticket and sponsorship level information.

We look forward to your participation and your continued support of the disability community.