



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sally French
Director of Santa Cruz District, HOPE Services
Sfrench@hopeservices.org
831-600-1502

**HOPE SERVICES RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF SANTA CRUZ IN SUPPORT OF EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS**

(Santa Cruz, CA - July 27, 2010) Employment is considered to be one of the most effective ways for people with developmental disabilities to gain independence and self-sufficiency in their lives. HOPE Services in Santa Cruz is pleased to announce the receipt of a \$10,000 grant from The Community Foundation of Santa Cruz to support their community employment services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

With a historical annual unemployment rate of 86% in the State of California for people with developmental disabilities, the need for employment is great. "Funds from The Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County will be used to fund the gap between our costs for services and State's reimbursement for job coaches, transportation fees associated with clients getting to and from their job site, and general program expenses for trainings," stated HOPE Services' District Director, Sally French. "We are very grateful for the generous support from The Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County, for helping our clients to reach their goals."

HOPE Services' Community Employment program provides services that successfully place people with developmental disabilities in jobs in the Santa Cruz Community. Clients begin by participating in various trainings such as learning interview skills, writing a resume, and acquiring the appropriate social skills to ensure success in the workplace. Job Developers work with potential employers to identify job opportunities for HOPE Services' clients. Once a client is hired, HOPE Services' job coaches will initially work with the individual clients at their job site, and later help ensure that the client continues to succeed.

HOPE Services was founded in 1952, and provides a full range of life-long human services for infants, children, adults, and seniors who have developmental disabilities. The program strategies have been created to enrich the lives of these individuals by facilitating their inclusion and participation in their communities. Besides work training and job placement, programs include developmental activities,

professional counseling, community living services, children's developmental services, and mobility training. HOPE Services provides services to approximately 300 individuals with developmental disabilities in Santa Cruz County.

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HOPE Services, 220 Lincoln Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Phone: 831-421-9900, FAX: 831-421-9280

www.hopeservices.org