

Media Contact:

Birgit Johnston, (408) 656 8025, birgitjohnston@me.com

MEDIA ALERT/PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Furlong Vision Correction Donates the *Gift of Sight*

- Eleven HOPE Services clients and staff will receive free vision correction on August 19 to help improve their lifestyle and make their work day easier -

For Immediate Release:

WHAT: One of the biggest accomplishments for a HOPE Services client is to have a job. This Thursday, Dr. Furlong, Medical Director of Furlong Vision Correction, will make working a little easier for three HOPE clients by helping them see better and not have to rely on their glasses on a daily basis. Leticia Fernandez, who works at SaveMart in Watsonville, is 35-years old and has worn glasses since her teens. She cannot wait to get rid of her glasses as they get in her way and she constantly forgets them, making it hard to see clearly. Leticia and 10 other HOPE clients and staff are the recipients of the 2010 *Gift of Sight* program, which was started by Dr. Furlong in 2002 to help those who cannot afford corrective procedures. Dr. Furlong provides all exams, surgery and follow up care at no cost. HOPE Services provides programs and services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

WHEN: Thursday, August 19, 9 a.m. - noon

WHERE: Furlong Vision Correction, 2107 N. First Street, Suite 101, San Jose

WHO: Three HOPE Services clients and eight HOPE staff who live and/or work in Monterey, Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties.

HOW: This is the fifth year that Furlong Vision Correction has selected HOPE Services as the beneficiary of the *Gift of Sight*. Recipients were chosen by a lottery system and selected based on their ability to sustain vision correction. Since launching the program in 2002, Dr. Furlong has donated approximately \$420,000 worth of surgery and operated on nearly 100 eyes of individuals in need of corrective procedures.

Media is invited to attend and photograph the surgeries and interview patients following their surgeries.

About Furlong Vision Correction

Furlong Vision Correction is a leading vision correction center based in San Jose, California, with the latest state-of-the-art technology. Dr. Michael Furlong is an expert in vision correction procedures including Custom LASIK, PRK and Cataracts with Advanced Lenses. Dr. Furlong established Furlong Vision Correction in 1998, specializing in refractive (LASIK) surgery. Since then he has performed more than 20,000 procedures and is one of the first doctors in the nation to perform CK (conductive keratoplasty), a non-laser vision treatment designed to treat presbyopia, or "aging eyes."

Furlong Vision is the only Bay Area TLC Vision associate center, North America's premier eye care services company. Dr. Furlong serves the Bay Area, and Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. For more information on Furlong Vision, visit www.furlongvision.com.

About Hope Services

HOPE Services, a nonprofit agency, provides programs that assist children, adults and seniors with developmental disabilities to become valued and participating members of their communities. They serve more than 2,500 individuals with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders, Down's syndrome and other related conditions. HOPE serves the counties of San Mateo, Santa Clara, Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito.

###