

**For Immediate Release**  
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## Five Stars Recognized For Hiring Persons with Developmental Disabilities

### *Excellence in Employment Award from California Disability Services Association*

The Five Stars company of San Francisco has received an Excellence in Employment Award from the California Disability Services Association for recognizing the value of hiring persons with developmental disabilities.

Five Stars operates customer loyalty programs for businesses, using tablets and scanners that record customer purchases and award loyalty points. Five Stars utilizes a Hope Services facility in Santa Clara that employs an average of 60 people with developmental disabilities to test each tablet to assure that software is loaded and functional. The workers also assemble full kits for companies that include customer cards, scanners, the tablet and customer display.

“Five Stars recognized the employees with disabilities as a skilled and valuable workforce that could meet their needs,” explained Lori Arnberg of Hope Services. “Five Stars has the same expectation of our workers as they would of any sub-contractor and has found that our workforce consistently meets their quality and turn time requirements.”

Five Stars rents space in a Hope facility which creates a seamless team between Hope’s workers and theirs. The workers interact throughout the day and have the opportunity to see product from raw material delivery to completed product loading on the truck for delivery to the end user. The project provides opportunities for people with high-level skills who are able to test the computers and others with more significant challenges who are able to provide the assembly and packaging services.

“Hope Services and other members of CDSA help people with developmental disabilities work in a variety of settings across California,” explains Chris Rice, executive director of CDSA. “They have the expertise to help their clients develop the skills and be productive employees. What we need is more employers who understand the value of hiring someone with a developmental disability.”

For more than 40 years, the California Disability Services Association (CDSA) has been the voice of developmental disability service providers in California. CDSA is a trade association representing 80-plus community-based, direct care providers whose common purpose is to help Californians with developmental disabilities lead productive and fulfilling lives of their choosing. These organizations serve 51,500 clients and employ some 19,000 people.

Service providers respect the dignity, diversity of needs, feelings and independent thought of their clients, working with parents and families, the Regional Centers, and other advocacy networks.

Developmental disabilities include, but are not limited to: autism, epilepsy, intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome and other severe, chronic disabilities.

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## ORGANIZATION LOGOS



SEE ACCOMPANYING PICTURES

### **File Name: A-Five Stars-Bouchard, Ho, Kim**

Cutline:

Cathy Bouchard of Hope Services presenting Excellence in Employment Award to Victor Ho and Eugene Kim of the Five Stars company. Hope Services nominated Five Stars for a statewide award recognizing their employment of people with developmental disabilities. The award is sponsored by California Disability Services Association.

### **File Name: A-Five Stars Ho, Bouchard, Kim**

Cutline:

Victor Ho of Five Stars, Cathy Bouchard of Hope Services, and Eugene Kim of Five Stars. Hope Services nominated Five Stars for a statewide Excellence in Employment award

recognizing their employment of people with developmental disabilities. The award is sponsored by California Disability Services Association.

**File Name: A-Five Stars Ho, Kim**

Victor Ho and Eugene Kim of the Five Stars company holding the Excellence in Employment Award the company received from the California Disability Services Association for employing people with developmental disabilities through Hope Services.