



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Four Locals Honored for Contributions to Equal Access for All in SLO County**  
*The Paul Wolff Accessibility Advocacy Awards Ceremony*

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA—Four winners for three awards were announced at the Paul Wolff Accessibility Advocacy Awards (PWAAA) Ceremony presented by the San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation and Access for All on May 2, 2009. The PWAAA event recognized individuals, businesses, and community organizations for their outstanding efforts in the creation of a more accessible San Luis Obispo County for all.

This year's winners included:

**Individual:**

- Mark Shaffer – for his decade of dedication to United Cerebral Palsy, for launching Ride-On Transportation, and for reviving the Abilities Fair. Mark was also instrumental in initiating SLO Life Without Limits Week in 2008.

**Business:**

- Med-Plus – As the owner of Med-Plus, Dr. Newman provides free medical exams, as well as access and services to Special Olympics athletes. He has been a Board Member for Special Olympics and a dedicated volunteer for 20 years.

**Organization:**

*Note: this award was shared by two organizations for related activities.*

- The Bay Osos Kiwanis Club – raises funds for the local Special Olympics program. In 2008, they were part of 13 events that raised funds for over 700 athletes to train and compete in sports year round. The Bay Osos Kiwanis Club allows use of their equipment and provides talented volunteers for Special Olympics events.

- Special Olympics – In 2008, despite tough economic times, the local Special Olympics team doubled its efforts and delivered great programs that enrich the lives of kids and adults with developmental disabilities. The annual area meet is the highlight event where tenacity and positive determination in all those involved can shine.

Local blues, jazz, and rock band Moon Pie headlined the program, featuring Access for All's own John Lee on harmonica. Comedian and storyteller Thomas Athanasion opened the show, sharing a unique wisdom gained from being visually impaired in a sighted world. AutoMARK machines were made available to disabled attendees so that they could vote confidentially and in private.

Access for All is dedicated to breaking down physical, attitudinal, or informational barriers to equality for people with disabilities. Established in 2000 by Bryan and Beverly Gingg, the PWAAA honors local architect Paul Wolff for his contributions toward accessibility for all. For more information about Access for All or the SLOCCF, call (805) 543-2323 or log onto [www.sloccf.org](http://www.sloccf.org).

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