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The Arc San Francisco Recognizes Employees with Developmental Disabilities and Employer Champions

SAN FRANCISCO, February 23, 2016 – The Arc San Francisco today announced the recipients of the agency’s prestigious 2016 WorkLife Awards celebrating the work and life achievements of people with developmental disabilities and the employers that champion their success and benefit from their diverse skills and experience.

The theme is “Beyond Expectations” which is intended to highlight Arc client achievements and the range of opportunities made possible by the agency’s partnerships with area businesses, from internships and training programs to competitive careers. 31 different corporations and partners are supporting the award event.

WHEN

Thursday, March 10, 2016 5:00-7:00pm **WHERE:** The Arc San Francisco, 1500 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

EMPLOYER HONOREES

Employer of the Year: Hanson Bridgett Law firm Hanson Bridgett is recognized for their commitment to inclusion and diversity, and for leveraging their position in the corporate community to raise awareness about hiring clients with developmental disabilities. Hanson Bridgett has 6 full-time employees hired from The Arc on staff—3 of whom have been promoted from offices services to administrative positions.

New Employer of the Year: Linked In Linked In is recognized as a trailblazer in advancing the success of an Arc client in the company’s Talent Acquisition department, demonstrating how the strengths of employees with disabilities can be a key asset in vital administrative roles.

Industry/Sector Awards: Lending Club (Professional Services), **Serra Preschool** (Education), **Gilead** (Technology), **Friends of the Urban Forest** (Volunteer Project Partner). This group of awardees is recognized for championing diversity in the workforce and fostering the growth and development of people with developmental disabilities.

EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITIES HONOREES

The awards also recognize clients in these categories, based on ballot responses from co-workers:

- Employee of the Year, Guo Ren Guan, Intuit
- New Employee of the Year, Ruth Defoe, Nanigans
- Core Values Award, Steven Strauss, Deloitte
- Intern of the Year, Sean Ly, California Academy of Sciences
- Volunteer of the Year, Dmitry Kuvshinov, Friends of the Urban Forest

“The opportunity to work is the single most important factor in achieving personal independence for people with developmental disabilities,” said Dr. Glenn Motola, CEO, The Arc San Francisco. “I congratulate the businesses who are receiving The Arc’s WorkLife awards for their successful record of diversity and inclusion. These outstanding businesses are helping the individuals we serve reach their full potential. They support our clients in becoming taxpayers and fully contributing adults who are vital members of their communities.”

“The companies who employ people with developmental disabilities know that they are dependable, reliable, and highly motivated employees,” said Dr. Motola. “Our clients offer their employers greater stability in high-turnover positions and lower rates of absenteeism. They also allow businesses to be more inclusive and demonstrate their commitment to diversity.”

Event Sponsors

Event Sponsors for 2016 include Presenting Sponsors Union Bank Foundation, AT&T and Echo Technology Solutions. Additional sponsors include Ernst & Young, Fenwick & West, Hanson Bridgett LLP, Morrison & Foerster, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, Salesforce.com and Zendesk as well Alcatraz Cruise Lines, Burr Pilger Mayer, California Academy of Sciences, DH Insurance, Deloitte LLP, INTUIT, Kaiser Permanente, Linked In, Osterweis, Safeway, Wells Fargo Bank, Bar Agricole, EIS, G2 Insurance Services, Grosvenor Properties, Kixeye, State Street, Marin Software, San Francisco Giants and San Francisco Toyota.

About The Arc San Francisco

The Arc San Francisco is a lifelong learning and achievement center for over 750 individuals with developmental disabilities in San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin counties. For over 60 years The Arc has been widely recognized for its innovation in education and career programs as well as independent living services, health advocacy and a broad range of arts and recreation opportunities. The Arc supports individuals with autism, Down syndrome and other disabilities to meet the challenges of adulthood while achieving personal goals and lifelong success. Our affiliations with over 100 business, education and health partners help us to provide successful internships and employment opportunities while offering a more diverse, enriching life experience.

For more information visit www.thearc.org

The mission of The Arc San Francisco is to serve people with developmental disabilities by promoting self-determination, dignity and quality of life.

The Arc San Francisco Employment Programs

The Arc San Francisco provides specialized [employment services](#) that support the success of individuals with developmental disabilities in today’s competitive job market. Working collaboratively with clients, The Arc’s experienced team matches qualified, motivated job candidates to part- and full-time positions in office and facility services, data entry, customer service, education, hospitality and retail, ensuring success through ongoing job coaching and skills development.

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