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HHS Health Clinic Employee Receives Jefferson Award

Claudia Asprer Highlighted as "Unsung Hero" for Her Work with Foster-Care Teens

San Rafael, CA – Marin County Health and Human Services (HHS) is proud to announce that Claudia Asprer is the recipient of the Bay Area Jefferson Award. Asprer's work with foster teens will be highlighted this week on the CBS 5 Eyewitness News and the CBS 5 Early Edition.

"Claudia is known as the teen queen for her work with more than 80 foster care children," said Larry Meredith, PhD, Director of Health and Human Services. Asprer, who has worked for HHS for 15 years, has worked with Marin County foster children for over 14 years. She and her husband started a non-profit, Movin' On Up, to support former foster care children by providing housing after they are released from care at 21. Other programs exist that offer housing. However, Asprer believes her stipulation of enrollment in college provides a missing piece necessary for the long-term success of her former foster-care teens.

Asprer receives limited outside assistance for her efforts that have helped many of her former foster care children finish college. Currently, she provides housing to three former foster care daughters through one rental location and the on-site assistance of her mother. Asprer hopes to someday extend the program even further. "I am honored to receive this award and appreciate all the warm wishes and support," stated Asprer.

The Bay Area Jefferson Award program is part of a national effort to highlight local heroes that are making a difference. Asprer will join 51 other Bay Area recipients at the 2012 Annual Awards Ceremony where one nominee will be selected to represent the Bay Area at the National Jefferson Awards Ceremonies in Washington, DC.

For more information on the Jefferson Awards, see <http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2010/10/26/jefferson-awards-history/>. For more information on Marin County's Foster Care Program, visit us online at http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/HH/main/ss/Children_Services/children.cfm or contact us at (415) 473-2200.

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