

Community Catalysts Selects Kids Included Together as 2008-2009 Catalyst of the Year

Wed Feb 25, 2009 5:43pm EST

SAN DIEGO--(Business Wire)--

Community Catalysts, a non-profit agency that serves individuals with developmental and other disabilities, announced today that they have selected a winner for the 2008-2009 Catalyst of the Year award. The recipient is the Kids Included Together - KIT, a national non-profit organization, headquartered in San Diego, which promotes the full inclusion of children with disabilities in all aspects of community life.

Created in 2002, the annual award recognizes an individual, organization or community group that best represents the positive changes each of us can make in the lives of individuals with disabilities.

Kids Included Together (KIT) specializes in providing training to organizations which are committed to including children with disabilities in their existing recreational, social, and childcare programs. KIT provides preparation, technical assistance, site-specific instruction, and child-specific consultations to produce systemic change within the organization. The result is a philosophy of inclusion and a readiness to accept all children, regardless of their abilities, into their programs. KIT increases opportunities for children with and without disabilities to access recreational, child development, and youth development programs.

Previous years' Catalyst of the Year awardees include The San Diego Sports Foundation Injured Soldiers Program, La Jolla Playhouse for their ACCESS Performance Series, Scripps Mercy Hospital for their A-Visions pre-vocational training program, Challenged America which provides sailing education and rehabilitation programs, and Silver Gate Yacht Club which hosts the annual Wheelchair Regatta.

The 2008-09 winner will be honored at the 3rd annual Journey Toward Inclusion Awards Luncheon on Friday, March 20th at the Courtyard by Marriott San Diego Airport/Liberty Station. Community Catalysts is currently seeking individual and corporate sponsors to participate in the event. For more information about becoming a sponsor, please contact Wendy Forkas at 858-569-1057.

For over ten years, KIT has supported the inclusion of children with disabilities or other special needs in programs that occur in out-of-school hours. KIT accomplishes this by creating four-year affiliations with organizations like youth theatre, YMCAs, Jewish Community Centers, aquatic programs, Boys & Girls Clubs, parks & recreation departments, city 6 to 6 programs, etc. KIT focuses on sustainability so organizations will continue to provide inclusive environments long after KIT's initial involvement. KIT's services are provided free of charge to its more than 46 affiliate organizations. For more information about KIT, please call (858) 225-5686 or visit their website <http://www.kitonline.org>.

Community Catalysts of California is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) public benefit corporation that has offices throughout California and serves over 1,000 individuals with developmental and other disabilities. They provide training and support services including employment, housing, and daily living skills. For more information about Community Catalysts, please visit their website, <http://communitycatalystscalifornia.org/> or call 858-569-1055.