

“20 Year Anniversary Celebration”

On Saturday, August 4th, 2018, Moving Forward Towards Independence celebrated 20 years of service in the community of Napa. Moving Forward staff, residents, families, boardmembers, supporters, and partners in the community came together to celebrate this achievement. It was a lovely event held along the river in downtown Napa. Thank you to Napa General Store, Napa River Inn, and Maroon Wines for sponsoring such a wonderful gathering. It was so nice to see everyone at the event! Thank you all for your support!

Many businesses in Napa made donations to the event. A silent auction was held to benefit Moving Forward. Congratulations to those of you that placed winning bids on items. All proceeds will directly help the Moving Forward program and benefit our residents.

At the event, Moving Forward was presented with a proclamation from the city of Napa. It congratulates Moving Forward for being a vibrant part of the community for the last 20 years.

As our mission statement details:

We support our residents through helping them achieve their highest level of independence related to their living environment and the work that they do.

Residents in our program live, shop, work, go to school, and participate in community events right here in Napa, as they have been for the past 20 years.

We look forward to being a part of this community for many years to come!
“Thank You!” by: The Executive Director of Moving Forward, Rhonda Daniels

First of all I want to thank everyone that attended our event, for supporting Moving Forward, for giving generously, and for donating so many amazing choices for our Silent Auction. Without each and every one of you an event like this could never happen.

I want to recognize two very special Moving Forward residents, John G. and Erin A. John and Erin are a perfect example of how Moving Forward residents become an integral part of the Napa community. They have worked, socialized, and volunteered in Napa for so many years. I think they know everyone in town and when it comes to making an event like this a success they are front and center in recommending vendors. They also solicited at least half of the silent auction items that were bid on at our event. Thank you John and Erin!

Thank you to all of our Residents without whom there would be no Moving Forward. You inspire us every day with your talents and your perseverance and it is a true pleasure to work on your behalf.

I also want to make a very special thank you to the amazing sponsors of our event. The Napa General Store, The Napa River Inn, and Maroon Wines have been incredibly generous in their donations to make Anniversary Celebration possible.

It goes without saying that Moving Forward has been very lucky to have an amazingly dedicated group of parents since day one. Three of our founding 6 families were able to attend our event: Dave and Susan Pyle with their daughter Jennifer, Jeannie and Butch Dellio, and Mike and Peggy Torpey. We were so happy to have you all with us at the event. I also want to acknowledge Jim Pearson and his wife Ann, who were also one of the founding families. Jim and Cathryn were attending a family reunion and were unable to make it to the event, but they were with us in spirit.

The founding families had a vision and it has been our amazing Board of Directors and Family Association Boards, both past and present, who have seen that this vision and mission stay true. These remarkable people are the backbone of this organization and we all thank you for your dedication.

We want to give a special thank you to Diana Gordon who will be stepping down as our Board President. Diana is one of the many reasons that make Moving Forward so special. She traveled the country, 20 plus years ago, to find out what other programs were doing, brought back the best practices, and became the first Executive Director of Moving Forward Towards Independence. She also managed to stay connected for the past 20 years, culminating in acting as our Board President for the past 3 years. Thank you Diana.

Our amazing staff is another reason we have such a fantastic client-centered program. Our staff are dedicated, hardworking and totally committed to the team work it takes to help make the best life possible for our residents. It is a pleasure to come to work each day knowing I will be partnering with this amazing group of individuals who are all here to help enrich the lives of our residents while teaching Independent Living Skills.

Lastly, I would like to thank our incredible Celebration Committee: Events like our Anniversary Celebration do not just happen. They take a lot of planning and hard work. We have Bruce and Merilee Bennett, Pat and Linda Pingatore, and Jim and Megan Askim to thank for putting together our lovely event. Thank you!
“Celebrating Community” by: The Executive Director of Moving Forward, Rhonda Daniels

Reflecting on the 20 years that Moving Forward has been a part of this community, we celebrate the partnerships we have formed in Napa over the years. We have chose 5 organizations to acknowledge at our Anniversary Celebration. These organizations represent countless employers, government agencies and other non profit agencies who we interface with on a daily basis.

Special Olympics – Napa Valley Special Olympics offers training and competitions in twelve sports for Special Olympics athletes. The Napa Special Olympic sports include basketball, bocce, bowling, flag football, floor hockey, golf, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track and field and volleyball. The long-standing partnership with Napa Valley Special Olympics provides many Moving Forward residents an enriching and engaging recreational opportunity where residents shine. This organization is made up of the most amazing volunteers who keep our staff busy year round driving our residents to practices, games and tournaments. This amazing group of people coach sometimes 5 different sports a week! Countless numbers of our Residents have enjoyed participating in Napa Special Olympics activities over the years and for this we want to acknowledge all of you for your partnership with MFTI in enriching the lives of all of our residents whether they are athletes or have joined your float at the Fourth of July Parade or attended your yearly banquets, we cannot thank you enough for all you do.

Napa Valley College - Napa Valley College prepares students for evolving roles in a diverse, dynamic, and interdependent world. The college is an accredited open-access, degree- and certificate-granting institution. Our long-standing partnership with Napa Valley College provides Moving Forward residents the opportunity to explore self-expression through the arts as well as further their academic achievements. Sheryl Fernandez and her team of Disability specialists have helped us help countless residents find the right pairing of classes and teachers and accommodations for both academic and non academic classes. It is a pleasure to partner with NVC and we are proud to continue this relationship while finding ways to enhance the experiences of all students with disabilities.

Napa Food Bank, Since 1965, Community Action of Napa Valley has been helping to increase self-determination and self-sufficiency for low-income families, disadvantaged people, and senior citizens in our community. Volunteering at the Food Bank not only provides our residents with the opportunity to volunteer in a meaningful, community environment where their hard work makes a difference in our community, but also to give back themselves through our own MF Food Program where residents are collecting food each week when they shop to fill a bag and donate to the food Bank every two months. We are so proud to be a part of this program. Volunteering at the Napa Food Bank has also been the start for many residents to learn pre vocational skills from the first day they start at MFTI. We are proud to partner with such an important organization that means so much to so many in our Napa community.

Moving Forward Celebrates 20 years of providing Independent Living Skills to Adults with Intellectual Disabilities in Napa and honors Napa partners:

Pictured from left to right: Susie Jordan of Napa Special Olympics, Shirley King of Napa Food Bank, Tami Pacho of the Meritage Hotel, Rhonda Daniels of Moving Forward, Jeannie Smith and Beth Kahiga of Napa Valley Support Services.

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“Celebrating Community” (Continued)

Meritage Resort and Spa - The Meritage Resort and Spa, with 322 guestrooms and 80,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor event space needs to hire hundreds of workers. The Meritage provides meaningful and long-lasting employment for many Moving Forward residents as well as partners with many local sister agencies. Today we want to honor the Meritage as a representative of so many employers in Napa who have hired our residents and given them the opportunity to integrate into the workforce and become contributing members of the Napa Economy. Since opening their doors in 2006, the Meritage Hotel has hired numerous Moving Forward residents giving them a chance to build their resume and learn what they need to know about the World of Work. We thank you for your partnership and honor you with this acknowledgement.

Napa Valley Support Services - And speaking of the World of Work, for 20 years we have been a proud partner with Napa Valley Support Services. Our clients have attended their Brown Street Gallery and NVSS Day Program. Napa Valley Support Services supports quality of life for individuals with disabilities through a person-centered approach to self-discovery, community-engagement, employment, and education. Through employment, art and community access Napa Valley Support Services continues to provide quality services and Moving Forward is thankful for their long-standing partnership. We are in daily contact with NVSS staff as they support our residents, helping them find jobs, assess their skills with assessments and provide job coaching. This true partnership has enriched the lives of so many of our residents and we honor you with this acknowledgment for all the work you all do on a daily basis to help our residents navigate the world of work.

Moving Forward Towards Independence greatly appreciates not only these partnerships, but all of the wonderful relationships we have formed in the Napa community over the past 20 years. This is truly a community to be proud to be a part of.

Together, we are MOVING FORWARD!

The newsletter, MOMENTUM, is usually written and created by the residents of Moving Forward

<THIS IS A SPECIAL EDITION>   Newsletter Writing support and Editor: Ryan W.

More information about Moving Forward Towards Independence can be found on our website:

moving-forward.org