

*The Board of Supervisors of
Contra Costa County, California*

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 2015/350

Honoring Head Start's 50th Anniversary and National Head Start Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Head Start began in 1965 as one of the programs in the War against Poverty legislation with the goal of increasing social competence in disadvantaged children so that they performed at the same level as their higher income peers; and

WHEREAS, since the beginning, Head Start distinguished itself from other pre-school programs by providing comprehensive services (medical, dental, mental health, nutrition, disabilities and social services) to children and families and establishing parent involvement as the cornerstone of the program; and

WHEREAS, brain development research shows the most formative years are from birth to three, and in 1998 Contra Costa expanded the preschool program for 3 to 5 year olds to include pregnant women and children 0 to 3 years of age; and

WHEREAS, because of Head Start's success and demand in Contra Costa County, nearly 3 thousand children are served and more than 6 thousand are on waiting lists and the program has expanded from part-day, part-year to primarily full-day, full-year services; and

WHEREAS, the award winning Contra Costa County Head Start Program run by the Community Services Bureau of the Employment & Human Services Department has been serving children for more than 50 years; its staff has received numerous individual recognitions while the program as a whole has been recognized for excellence by the National Head Start Association, California Department of Education, and Contra Costa Health Services; and

WHEREAS, Head Start was named as One of the Top Workplaces in the Bay Area in 2010; and

WHEREAS, more than a quarter of Contra Costa Head Start staff consists of past or current Head Start parents who continue this tradition of excellence in early childhood education and comprehensive services; and

WHEREAS, October is National Head Start Awareness Month.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on the 50th Anniversary of Head Start, that the Board of Supervisors recognizes and expresses its appreciation for this indispensable program, its extraordinary teachers and staff, dedicated parents and thriving children.

JOHN GIOIA

Chair,
District I Supervisor

CANDACE ANDERSEN

District II Supervisor

MARY N. PIEPHO

District III Supervisor

KAREN MITCHOFF

District IV Supervisor

FEDERAL D. GLOVER

District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: October 20, 2015

David J. Twa,

By: _____, Deputy