



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PathPoint Celebrates 45th Anniversary

Santa Barbara, CA ---To celebrate its 45th Anniversary and its adoption of a new organization name, PathPoint (formerly Work Training Programs, Inc.) is hosting an Open House on April 29, 2009 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm at its South Santa Barbara branch located at 137 Aero Camino in Goleta. Founded in 1964, PathPoint is a local nonprofit organization that provides comprehensive training and support services that empower people with disabilities to live and work as valued members of our communities.

According to Alana Walczak, South Santa Barbara Vice-President/Director, many of PathPoint's program participants, family members, employer partners, supporters, and funders will be on hand to celebrate the notable occasion. "We look forward to coming together to celebrate our new agency name, and the many successes we have achieved over the past 45 years."

Bob Voorhees, Senior Vice President of Pacific Capital Bancorp, an employer of PathPoint participants for the past nine years, will speak at the event. Voorhees strongly believes in PathPoint's mission to give adults with developmental disabilities the opportunity to work and give back to their community. He sees the positive results in his workplace on a daily basis. After six years serving as chair of the PathPoint Board of Directors, Voorhees notes: "It is so satisfying to be a part of making these opportunities available to so many determined and dedicated individuals."

PathPoint employer partner and Vons District Employment Representative, Patricia Manfredonia, knows first hand the benefits of hiring PathPoint trainees to work at Vons stores throughout the Central Coast. "Our partnership with PathPoint is very important to Vons," said Manfredonia. "PathPoint has always provided us with the support we need to provide meaningful employment opportunities for the individuals they support. The individuals we have been able to hire at Vons have brought added value to our stores, so it's truly been a win-win."

Program participants appreciate that PathPoint helps to create a community where people with disabilities have opportunities to lead full and productive lives. "I am proud of the accomplishments I have made and the things I have done," noted Nicole Turofsky whose success story, along with others, will be featured at the Open House.

Helping PathPoint celebrate its 45th Anniversary with certificates of recognition will be Goleta Mayor Roger Aceves, Santa Barbara Mayor Marty Blum, and County Supervisor Doreen Farr, along with other elected officials and local community leaders.

To participate in the Open House, please RSVP by Friday, April 24, 2009 at (805) 961-9200, ext. 10 or email carmen.nevarez@pathpoint.org. PathPoint is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, federal tax ID # 95-2371668. To support the festivities, any "celebratory" tax-deductible donations are welcomed. If you would like to make a contribution, please visit www.pathpoint.org or send your donation to 137 Aero Camino, Goleta, CA, 93117.

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Connecting people, purpose and communities since 1964, PathPoint (formerly known as Work Training Programs) is a non profit organization providing comprehensive training and support services that empower people with disabilities or disadvantages to live and work as valued community members. PathPoint serves 2,300 people in the communities of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Kern and Los Angeles.