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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORE NAMED 49ER COMMUNITY QUARTERBACK FINALIST FOR VOLUNTEER WORK AT INNVISION - OPPORTUNITY CENTER, PALO ALTO, CA

PALO ALTO, Calif., December 31, 2009 – The San Francisco 49ers recognized 14 year-old Marissa Mirbach (furthest left, above), a sophomore at Los Altos High School and resident of Los Altos Hills, CA, as a Finalist in their Community Quarterback Award program—a program that acknowledges local individuals who are dedicated to improving the lives of others in their community—for her volunteer work with the InnVision Opportunity Center in Palo Alto. InnVision provides shelter and services to homeless and at-risk families and individuals at 20 locations throughout the Bay Area.

Marissa made her first donation to help the local homeless when she was 7 years old by bringing in a jar of coins that she had collected to the InnVision Palo Alto location (then called the Urban Ministry, run by Phillip Dah). Since she was 12, Marissa has been volunteering her time at the InnVision Opportunity Center tutoring kids and playing with young children while their parents gain job training, life skills counseling, and other services, and she also spearheaded a successful fundraising campaign to collect household goods for InnVision families. In Addition, Marissa went to Whole Foods in Los Alto and Palo Alto and handed out pamphlets for a direct mail fundraising campaign that has made \$20,000 so far—for more information and about how to contibute, please contact susan@mirbach.com.

At a recognition luncheon on December 3, 2009, former 49er Quarterback Steve Bono, now of Palo Alto, presented Marissa with a \$1,000 grant for InnVision, in addition to a special wooden football trophy (see Marissa holding it, above). Marissa was also recognized during an on-field presentation that was held prior to the 49ers game against the Jacksonville Jaguars on Thanksgiving (2009) weekend.

Part of the NFL Charities Community Quarterback Program, and in its ninth year, the 49er Community Quarterback Program calls for nominations of Bay Area community volunteers who demonstrate leadership, dedication and commitment to bettering their communities. InnVision nominated Marissa for her outstanding work, involvement and commitment to her community for this year's award.

The overall winner, Frank Marrero, was presented with a grant of \$10,000 for the Efrain Anthony Marrero Foundation (TEAM), a foundation that was formed in honor of his late son and football player who was struggling with taking steroids during athletic events, and then later committed suicide. TEAM is dedicated to helping athletes excel without the use of ability-enhancing drugs.

In addition to Marissa, there were five other finalists who were recognized for their community services, and who each received \$1000 grants for their organizations, as follows:

- Jamie Tan, President of Stanford University Colleges Against Cancer Chapter
- Julie De Maria, Founder of Operations: Car and Comfort
- Robert Duey, with the Boys and Girls Club of San Leandro
- Oral Lee Brown, Founder of the Oral Lee Brown Foundation
- Tia Tonne, of Sunny Hills Services

About InnVision – the Way Home:

InnVision serves more than 25,000 people in Silicon Valley annually at 20 locations. Over the past 36 years InnVision has developed housing and resources to help homeless and at-risk families and individuals become stable and self-sufficient. Homeless clients including Veterans and those diagnosed with mental illness are able to choose from a full range of housing and services that includes shelters, supportive transitional and permanent housing and multiservice day centers – all successfully tailored to help, support, and accommodate the needs of the most vulnerable in South Bay and Peninsula communities. To learn more about InnVision or to make a donation, please call (408) 292-4286, or visit <u>www.InnVision.org</u>.



www.InnVision.org

~ Assisting homeless families to find a way home & providing support so they remain empowered, stable, and self-sufficient ~ Main Office – 974 Willow Street San Jose, CA 95125 ~ Tel: 408:292-4286 ~ Fax: 408-271-1798 Peninsula Programs – P.O. Box 702 Palo Alto, CA 94302

About the San Francisco 49ers

The San Francisco 49ers, owned by Denise and John York, currently play in the NFC West division and won each Super Bowl contest it entered, earning five Super Bowl trophies including Super Bowl XVI, XIX, XXIII, XXIV and XXIX. The franchise also has five conference championships and 17 divisional championships and was the first major league professional sports franchise to be based in San Francisco over 60 years ago. To learn more about the San Francisco 49ers, the 49ers Foundation, Community Relations Program and this award and others, please visit http://www.49ers.com or contact Lisa Goodwin at 408-562-4957 or lisa.goodwin@niners.nfl.net.