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Marilyn Pratt and Barbara Silverman are the 2007 Esther B. Clark Award Recipients

Palo Alto, CA—The Children's Health Council is pleased to announce that Marilyn Pratt and Barbara Silverman are the recipients of this year's Esther B. Clark Award. These two remarkable women are being recognized for outstanding contributions to the agency over their many years of service.

Marilyn Pratt first became involved with CHC in 1993. "I was inspired by the mission of the Children's Health Council, the unique work they did for children, and with the longevity of the organization," Pratt remembered. She is particularly impressed with the work done at the Esther B. Clark School, CHC's therapeutic day school for children with developmental, behavioral, emotional and learning challenges. "It is such a gift to those children. They can change so much with what they learn at the school, and that changes their lives forever." Marilyn served as Chair of the School Committee, Treasurer and Board President during her nine years on the Board.

Marilyn and Barbara Silverman were vice-chairs of the 50th Anniversary Endowment Campaign continuing after their Board tenures ended. The campaign was extraordinarily successful and doubled the endowment ahead of schedule. They worked hard, but had a great time doing the work. Marilyn commented, "We really felt we were making progress in raising significant resources for the agency."

Barbara became involved with CHC when she went back to school to get a Masters in Marriage and Family Counseling. She had heard about the work done at CHC, and applied to volunteer to get the hours she needed to satisfy her masters' program requirement. She saw first-hand what a special place CHC is and how much good is done for children and families. After completing her degree, Barbara joined the CHC Board of Directors in 1995 where her knowledge and training provided valuable insight into the assessment and treatment of children with behavioral, emotional, developmental and learning challenges.

Barbara chaired the 50th Anniversary Gala held in 2004 to celebrate CHC's 50th year and has fond memories of that event. "It did a great deal to increase awareness of CHC within the community," she noted.

"Everyone I have worked with at CHC, the Board and Staff, are all amazing people. They are able to get things done," she said. Barbara added that working here has been an enriching and rewarding experience. She has shared her skills and talent chairing several Board committees and serving as an articulate ambassador in the community about CHC.

The Children's Health Council's mission is to make a measurable difference in the lives of children and their families who face developmental, behavioral, emotional and learning challenges.

CHC has a rich history of serving our community's children and their families. CHC provides assessment and treatment services in multiple disciplines, including psychiatry, psychology, neuropsychology, social work, education, behavior management, family therapy, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and art therapy. Our goal is to help children reach their maximum potential by building on their strengths and teaching them strategies to overcome their challenges. CHC's multidisciplinary approach and areas of expertise - children with Autism Spectrum Disorders; preschool, school-aged and adolescent group therapy; children with complex medical problems; and developmental and behavioral assessment of infants through school-aged children - make it unique among care providers in the Bay Area.

