



Kainos Klarion

*Helping adults with developmental disabilities
live their best lives.*

September 2026
Vol. 50 - No. 4



SPECIAL EDITION!



Citizen of the Year | Heather Wachter

It is our great honor to recognize Heather Wachter as the 2026 Kainos Citizen of the Year.

This award is the highest honor presented by Kainos, and Heather embodies everything it represents: kindness, friendship, helpfulness, resilience, and an extraordinary enthusiasm for life.

Heather recently celebrated her 40th birthday and has been a valued member of the Kainos community since 2015. Throughout her more than ten years in her home, she has brought tremendous joy, energy, and vibrancy to everyone around her.

Heather has made many wonderful friendships and is a thoughtful and caring housemate. She shares a special bond with her roommate, Bridget, and is very much like a helpful younger sister to her. Heather's manager describes her as cooperative, helpful, and eager to learn. When someone is absent, Heather is quick to volunteer to take on additional chores. She is always looking for ways to help her housemates and staff, contributing to the warm, caring, and supportive spirit of her home.

Most of all, Heather is known for her remarkable positivity. She lights up every room she enters. Her joyful personality has a way of lifting the spirits of everyone around her, and we are continually amazed and inspired by the enthusiasm and positive attitude she brings to every part of her life.

Last year brought an exciting new chapter for Heather when she began dating Alexander, who lives next door at La Vista House. The two enjoy spending time together and recently made their debut as models in the Kainos Fashion Show, which featured several Kainos couples. Heather took to the runway with confidence, strutting her stuff like the true superstar she is! - **continued on Page 3**



Participant

Mentor

Eyra Alonso
Marshelle Barnett
Robbie Batista
Kayla Belick
Kamya Bickford
Gail Biela
Alexander Burrs-President
Susan Buzzard
Matthew Clark
Matthew Clark
Patty Colman
Victor Cooper
Suzette Courson
Elyssa Cumming
Noah Curiel-Miranda
Dominque Davalos
Mary Dempsey
Lukas Draper
Tony Duncan
Patty Eason
Allison Easterbrook
Richard Farmer
Lynne Filios
Greg Fogelstrom
Jayne Glascock
Daniel Grubb
Lorraine Haerr
Travis Hatton
Margaret Hedvall
Scott Hroziencik
Eric Hutar
Jennifer James
Jennifer James
Bill Janz
Jesse Junglas
Kristin Kilty

Jill Asher
Kate Di Giacomo
Johnny Escalante
Janelle Escalante
Gianna Archini
Elena Gettis
Jesus Fuentes
Ed Parcell
Thelma Orias
Gloria Shiff
Barbara Rovins
Andrea Stilleson
Nicole Venturelli
Robbie Moffat
Sally Vitello
Debbi Jones-Thomas
Alyssa Vo
Dan Gregg
Mary Kate Puerto
Elisabeth Doxsee
Sofia Demelio
Stephanie Rolland
Heather Washington
Mary Kate Puerto
Bobbi Baumgartner
Rocky Chan
Daisy Segal
Pettigrew Family
Ellen Washington
Preston Huang
Ginny Frisch
Tara Fowler
Ellen Haas
Ian Bain
Diane Estipona
Andy Frisch

Participant

Mentor

Janay LaGrave
Josh Lyons
William Mark
Peter Matthes
Maureen McLoughlin
Bryan Mickey
Brian Morris
Alex Munoz-Bergman
Pam Naftzger
David Nathanson
Michael Neenan
Tod Ostrom
Jim Philbrick
Diane Phillips
Scott Phister
Pablo Puerto
Gaurav Rai
Susan Regan
Judy Ribeiro
Henry Rivas
Robin Roach
Laura Ruder
Bridget Ruff
Alex Schneider
Stacy Schreiber
Louie Shiff
Robb Smith
Scot Steinbaugh
Connie Steingrube
Candy Stoker
Mark Van Swearingen
Heather Wachter
Heather Wachter
Brian Walker
David Widdra
Dane Wilton
Simone Wright

Lisa Simmonds
Mark Haberman
Nathan Gibson
Rob Lajoie
Nancy Olsen
Evelyn Haddad
Paola Silva
Judy Koeppen
Gayle Johnson
Anne Fillin
Stephanie Rose
Andrea Stilleson
Glen Nissen
Frances Foster
Christiane Barth
Drake Corrigan
Samantha Castaneda
Karrie Amsler
Mary Nissen
Ashley Stilleson
Nicole Wilson
Carla Vives
Sue Wright
Ben Frisch
Debbie Kielty
Stephanie Corrigan
Emelito Pineda
Carole Fogelstrom
Cauvery Kanade
Sharon Bagley
Evelyn Welling
Liza Bizzarro
Diane Howard
Elliott Meyer
Suzy Ferrari
Randy Reynolds
Joanna Dagum





Kainos is pleased to recognize these additional individuals who have demonstrated substantial improvements in their daily lives.



Arash Afjei
Kamya Bickford
Susan Buzzard
Matthew Clark
Elyssa Cumming
Noah Curiel
Mary Dempsey
Richard Farmer
Greg Fogelstrom
Cesar Graciano
Joan Graciano
Lorraine Haerr
Michael Kearney

Kristin Kilty
Jeff Leach
Josh Lyons
Alex Munoz-Bergman
Pam Naftzger
Diane Phillips
Henry Rivas
Laura Ruder
Victor Saldivar
Mark Van Swearingen
David Widdra
Dane Wilton



Heather, continued -

Heather also enjoys participating in the Kainos day program and spending time with her friends at Kainos' Community Connections twice each week. Her eagerness to participate, connect with others, and try new experiences is just another example of what makes Heather such a valued and beloved member of our community.

Recently, Heather has faced some significant health challenges. Through these challenges, Heather continues to show the courage, optimism, and determination that have always defined her. Her ability to find joy, remain positive, and face each day with a smile is nothing short of inspiring.

Heather is deeply devoted to her family and shares close relationships with her grandmother, Barbara, her father, Ron, and her stepmother, Joan. Her family has long been supportive of Heather and actively involved with Kainos, and they remain an important and cherished part of her life. Heather especially treasures family vacations, as well as regular dinners and visits together.

Heather Wachter is a truly remarkable woman whose kindness, generosity, resilience, and joyful spirit represent the very best of Kainos. She makes her home, and our entire community, a brighter and happier place simply by being herself.





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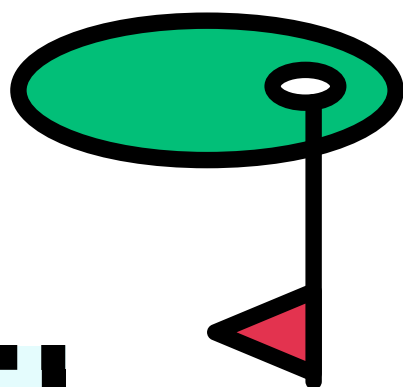
Kainos Home & Training Center
3631 Jefferson Avenue
Redwood City, CA 94062
September 2026

Please email us your name and address if there have been any changes or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list. Thank you!

Communications@KainosUSA.org



Please contact us with any questions about the Gala
Kristen.Noce@kainosUSA.org



Annual Lunch
Grand Bay Hotel
Friday, February 5, 2027

Golf Tournament
Stanford Golf Course
Monday, April 26, 2027



A Salute to Our Stars Gala
Saturday September 26th, 2026
5:30 No Host Cocktails
6:30 Dinner
8:30 Dancing
Crowne Plaza Foster City
1221 Chess Drive, Foster City