

WHEREAS, health literacy is one of the 10 most pressing challenges in health care, according to the American Medical Association. Patients not following doctors' orders correctly because of literacy problems add about \$73 million to U.S. medical costs per year through an increased number of trips to the doctor and emergency room; and

WHEREAS, people with low literacy skills are more at risk for not taking good care of themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, improved literacy skills can make a big difference to people in understanding written instructions from a physician; and

WHEREAS, *Prescribing Health Literacy* is a project of Vision Literacy with the goal of helping more than 600 patients with low literacy skills better understand information for their health care; and

WHEREAS, doctors at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center will be trained to recognize the signs of patients who have difficulty reading and understanding English and will prescribe a visit to the Community Learning Center on the hospital's campus; and

WHEREAS, the Community Learning Center is a collaboration among Valley Medical Center, PlaneTree Health Library and Vision Literacy that offers one-on-one assistance and literacy classes and a health library with materials in English, Spanish and Vietnamese; and

WHEREAS, Vision Literacy is celebrating its 20th anniversary providing literacy programs at libraries and other community sites throughout Silicon Valley in 2005.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, State of California does hereby recognize and commend

VISION LITERACY

for twenty years of helping residents of Santa Clara County improve their reading skills.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, this Second Day of August, Two Thousand Five by unanimous vote.

Liz Kniss, Chair
Board of Supervisors

Donald F. Gage
Supervisor, District One

Blanca Alvarado
Supervisor, District Two

Pete McHugh

James Beall, Jr.

Supervisor, District Three

Supervisor, District Four

Attest: Phyllis Perez
Clerk, Board of Supervisors