

PROCLAMATION

OF THE

MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RECOGNIZING SUSANNE NORGARD'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR MENDOCINO COUNTY

WHEREAS, since 1988 with her first position with the Mendocino Coast Hospital until September 2016 when she retired as CEO and President of The Community Foundation of Mendocino County, Susanne Norgard has been a dedicated, talented, tireless and brilliant visionary leader serving our non-profit organizations and diverse communities Mendocino County wide; and

WHEREAS in 1999, Susanne was appointed Director of the infant Community Foundation of Mendocino County, which had assets of barely seven hundred thousand dollars. In seventeen years she has built it to a nearly twenty eight million dollar institution. She realized her vision of growing the CFMC into the largest grant making organization in Mendocino County for our non-profits and communities; and

WHEREAS, Susanne Norgard is considered a pioneer in the growing Community Foundation movement, both in California and national, for her accomplishments. Within five years of her assuming Directorship, The Community Foundation of Mendocino County achieved the National Standard of Excellence status among its peers in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Susanne's leadership and vision for making Mendocino County a better place to live has led to these among her many accomplishments:

- Established seven regional advisors committees to guide the Foundation's county-wide efforts and make our far-flung communities more cohesive. Her board travels to different communities monthly and she has travelled far and wide exhaustively to accomplish this.
- Established the Angel Fund for small emergency grants to the needy.
- Established a General Fund within the Foundation to establish a tradition of service for county needs which can also be used as matching money to attract grants from elsewhere.
- Established workshops for non-profit organizations and mentored them tirelessly on management problem solving and funding.
- Established professional education forums for CPAs, attorneys, and realtors addressing estate and philanthropic issues.
- Established admirable formal structures for grant making and scholarship awards.
- Established Partners in Philanthropy within the Foundation.

- Authored a monthly column, published in newspapers throughout the county.
- Established structures so our Community Foundation can efficiently manage endowments and funds for organizations like The Botanical Gardens, Mendocino Art Center, The Mendocino County Museum, Rotary Clubs, Senior Centers, Student Loan programs and others. Her organizational skills were instrumental in the purchase of the Big River Estuary for public use.

WHEREAS, through her broad influence and respect, she attracted large grants from major national foundations like Cowell, Packard and James Irvine which nurtured our local foundation and continue to fund efforts like Arts for our Future, Arts in our Schools, and Community Enrichment for our county; and

WHEREAS, she oversaw the establishment of the self-owned, permanent headquarters in Ukiah, for the Foundation as an institution exemplary of its motto, “For Good, Forever;” and

WHEREAS, in total, her unselfish and tireless efforts have created:

- 36 Field of Interest and associated funds to benefit specific County needs;
- 27 Donor advised funds for philanthropic citizens;
- 19 scholarship funds;
- 19 designated use funds for specific charities and causes; and

WHEREAS, recently she established the Community Foundation’s own separate Scholarship Fund and a Disaster Fund for emergencies in our county. Her new Trails and Open Space project continued her dedication to this county’s environment; and

WHEREAS, those who have worked with Susanne Norgard have been inspired by her humility, her passion for helping others, her dedication to purpose, and her unselfish commitment of her time, talent and energy to bettering Mendocino County and the lives of our neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Susanne’s devotion is contagious, her integrity unquestionable, her leadership admirable and her accomplishments exemplary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino, hereby proclaims that Mendocino County owes deep gratitude to Susanne Norgard.

Dan Gjerde, Chair
Dated: November 1, 2016