



**Resolution  
of  
The Board of Supervisors of Ventura County**

**HONORING RICK PEARSON  
UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM PROJECT UNDERSTANDING**

**WHEREAS**, Rick received his Bachelor of Science in engineering from UCLA, his Masters in Christian Education and a Masters in Divinity from Claremont School of Theology; and

**WHEREAS**, before coming to Ventura, Rick served as associate pastor and youth director in the Bashford, Wisconsin United Methodist Church, as the educational director of the Santa Paula First United Methodist Church, and has also served as a diaconal minister at First United Methodist Church in Ventura since 1982, in which he later became a deacon; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to Project Understanding, Rick was the Director of Habitat for Humanity in Ventura, joining Project Understanding in 1989, first running the food pantry and only a year later became Director in 1990; and

**WHEREAS**, during his time at Project Understanding Rick obtained grants and city approval to develop the Vince Corner Family Lodge into what has been a shelter, a tutoring center and most recently became the food pantry. He developed a good neighbor policy toward those who lived around Project Understanding, turning their fears into support for the work of Project Understanding. Rick improved the SARAH center, which provides basic services such as showers, washing machines and mail delivery, and instituted a lottery system to prevent long lines of needy persons waiting for assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, Rick oversaw the opening of the Transition House in Oxnard, providing housing and services for families transitioning from homelessness to independence, increased Project Understanding's tutoring sites from two to six, professionalized the Reception Center, spent more than ten years working with the City, the County and private donors to create what became SHORE, a 15 unit section of WAV (Working Artists of Ventura) which provides permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless individuals and families, he led Project Understanding in working with many city and county agencies in providing services to the homeless and the low income working poor; and

**WHEREAS**, he has served on the Ventura Social Services Task Force, and the Ventura County Homeless and Housing Association; and

**WHEREAS**, Rick is devoted to his wife Ellen, his children Jonathan and Sonja and his father, he says his heroes are those who made statements and took stands for social justice, such as Desmond Tutu and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Rick will continue to live out his beliefs; teach Christian education and is planning a web site to discuss social justice issues.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Ventura County Board of Supervisors take great pleasure in honoring Rick Pearson upon his retirement from Project Understanding after 21 years of dedicated and loyal service.

**PRESENTED THIS 20<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2010**

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Chair of the Board of Supervisors  
Kathy I. Long, Supervisor 3rd District

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Steve Bennett, Supervisor 1st District

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Linda Parks, Supervisor 2nd District

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Peter C. Foy, Supervisor 4th District

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John C. Zaragoza, Supervisor 5th District