

For immediate release
Media Contact: Dawn Stranne 415/893-1780

**BLUE SKIES CAFÉ GOES GREEN AS
INNOVATIVE JOB TRAINING PROGRAM
APPROACHES 6-MONTH MARK**

Photo Caption: Buckelew Program Executive Director Steve Ramsland (L) receives the green certification for Blue Skies Café from Dana Armanino, green business coordinator for the Marin County Community Development Agency Sustainability Team, (Center), with Laura Lee Sanford (R), a vocational counselor at Blue Skies Café.

(SAN RAFAEL, Ca September 11, 2009) A "green business" certificate was awarded to Buckelew Program's Blue Skies Café by the Marin County Board of Supervisors during its meeting on August 25. The six-month old Blue Skies Café is housed in the green-built Connection Center on the Marin County Health and Wellness Campus in San Rafael, sells organic food and drinks, uses recyclable tableware, eco-friendly cleaning supplies and adheres to green practices for waste disposal and energy use. Buckelew Programs, which serves adults with mental illness, operates and staffs the café with client trainees who work beside a vocational counselor and café supervisor.

"Blue Skies Café may be the greenest eatery in Marin," said Buckelew Programs Executive Director Steve Ramsland. "We hope that the café, along with our green janitorial service, helps make this corner of the world a healthier place to live, work and play for our clients, customers and the community as well."

The county's Green Business Program, launched in April 2002, has certified 360 other businesses so far. To be certified, a business must "meet higher standards than required by law in energy and water conservation, waste reduction and pollution prevention," according to the county Community Development Agency.

The delicious sandwiches, salads and side dishes at Blue Skies Café are prepared by San Rafael-based Jessie & Laurent, who have become famous for their catering business and healthy hand-prepared meals delivered to doorsteps around the Bay Area. Most ingredients are organic, including Equator Estate Coffees & Teas from San Rafael. Fresh baked muffins, cookies and other snack items round out the casual menu. Over a four-month period, the paid Blue Skies Café trainees will develop expertise in preparing specialty coffee drinks, customer service, use of the cash register, inventory control and accounting.

Besides Blue Skies Café, Buckelew Programs also operates Blue Skies Janitorial Services, and Blue Skies Personnel Services, a staffing service that places qualified clients in temporary and permanent jobs through collaboration with local businesses and government agencies. Buckelew Programs provides its clients with pre-employment counseling, vocational training, job development, placement, and job-coaching.

Blue Skies Café is located in the Connection Center at the Marin County Health and Wellness Campus, at 3240 Kerner Blvd. (near Bellam). Phone: 415-456-4950.

About Buckelew Programs

Buckelew Programs is a non-profit organization that creates homes, jobs, and hope for transition-aged youth and adults with mental illness in Marin, Sonoma, and Napa counties... Established in 1970, Buckelew Programs had revenues of \$9.5 million in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009. There are 120 employees throughout the three counties. www.buckelew.org