

Nominee: Able Advocates, Katrina Michelle Oh President

Nominated by: Frances Reyes Acosta

\*\*\*I'm impressed with Able Advocates as it reflects the basic virtues of self-determination, independence, productivity, community integration and inclusion

Able Advocates filed Articles of Incorporation on Friday, February 8, 2013 and is approximately three years old, according to public records filed with California Secretary of State. Able Advocates grew out of the shared experiences of a group of young mothers who gathered for lunch, mutual acceptance and support as they faced the challenge of mothering children with special needs. Each parent had a different situation with their child and whereas their situations were diverse, from the onset they held in common the necessity to find programs, services and the support to pursue positive outcomes for their children. Their strength grew from their shared desire for everyone's child to succeed and receive a shot at all opportunities possible, to excel.

Able Advocates had its genesis in the desire for these families to assist others who were facing the same petitions for help, support and a shoulder to cry on. This organization grew to help folks throughout the Central Valley. The motivation to have their children excel encouraged them to find the answers and grow an organization to support other families and decrease the stress as they assume their journey in caring for their children.

#### FAMILY SUPPORT

Able Advocates offers support to local families in a variety of ways including, but not limited to support groups, diagnosis matching, community events, and informative guidance literature.

#### HELPING OUT THE COMMUNITY

In July 2015 Able Advocates donated a wheelchair accessible swing at Inspiration Park. Inspiration Park opened in the Fall of 2015 and is located at 5770 W. Gettysburg in Fresno, CA.

#### LOCAL EQUIPMENT CLOSET

Provides a no cost equipment closet to Central Valley families in need.

Able Advocates has developed a large assortment of accessibility tools. These items are important for children aged 6 months and up.

Able Advocates provides a sponsorship for one family to attend Easter Seal's Family Camp in Boulder Creek CA.