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*Vision Literacy is a service of the Santa Clara County Library*

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## **Friends OF Vision Literacy Announce Sandy Reed as Board President**

**MILPITAS – April 11, 2008** --Sandy Reed, former editor of the San Jose Mercury News, has been named president of the Friends of Vision Literacy. Vision Literacy is a service of the Santa Clara Country Library that is committed to empowering adults in improving their literacy skills.

A Vision Literacy board member since 2006, Ms. Reed succeeds Carolyn Brown as the non-profit board president who remains on the board. Ms. Reed has more than 35 years of experience in the journalism field, at both daily newspapers and technology publications. She held various reporting and senior editing positions with The Miami Herald and the San Jose Mercury News. She served as editor in chief at Personal Computing, Macintosh Business Review and InfoWorld.

Ms. Reed grew up in Garden City, Kansas and earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Kansas State University in 1972. Ms. Reed moved to Santa Clara County in 1980 and lives in Saratoga with her husband, Bob Ingle, former Executive Editor of the San Jose Mercury News and former Knight-Ridder Executive.

"Vision Literacy, its board members, and staff are extremely grateful to Carolyn Brown for her dedication, vision and guidance during her tenure," said Pat Lawson-North, Executive Director of Vision Literacy. "We are fortunate to have another outstanding leader in Sandy Reed taking the reins as we continue our focus on encouraging community and business support of literacy across all of Santa Clara County."

"Vision Literacy is based on people and partnerships," said Sandy Reed. "My goals are to reach out to more people and more partners so we can create more learning opportunities for the 400,000 residents of Silicon Valley who cannot read above the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level." Ms. Reed adds, "Reading and writing are fundamental skills for building better lives. Every day, Vision Literacy tutors and staff members make a

positive impact on the lives of thousands of people by helping learners improve their literacy skills.”

“By making new partnerships with businesses, schools and fellow United Way agencies, Vision Literacy can reach out to many more people whose lives can be changed forever by learning to read and write English.”

According to Ms. Lawson-North, “Sandy brings a depth of commitment to literacy and literacy. Her vast literacy experience, as a tutor for five years and board member since 2006, and her journalism expertise reflects her passion and conviction regarding the importance of literacy for all people.”

In the coming weeks, Friends of Vision Literacy will lead a fund-raising effort to support learners, tutors and staff and raise awareness about the need for basic literacy services in Santa Clara County.

Vision Literacy relies heavily on some 200 volunteers, most working as tutors in 12 cities throughout Santa Clara County. Literacy programs feature individual and small-group tutoring sessions that focus on specific learner needs. Tutors enrich the community by helping adults become empowered community members by increasing their literacy skills.

**Vision Literacy** is a nationally recognized leader of community partnerships designed to teach adults to read in Santa Clara County. Vision Literacy is the only literacy organization in Silicon Valley to meet all 16 rigorous quality standards required by ProLiteracy America. It is one of only ten such library-based programs in California to be accredited by ProLiteracy. For more information about Vision Literacy, call 408-262-1349 or visit [www.visionliteracy.org](http://www.visionliteracy.org).

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**Editor’s note:** A hi res JPEG photo of Sandy Reed is available upon request.