

Bright Futures

The Campaign for North Bay Children's Center



Project Leadership

Susan Gilmore, President & CEO

Susan Gilmore, the Founder, President & CEO of the North Bay Children's Center holds a degree in Child Development and has more than 40 years of experience in the ECE field. She is widely recognized as a leader in early care and education and well known in our school communities for establishing proven ECE programs that focus on school-readiness, and foster health and wellness for families across the income spectrum. NBCC currently partners with 6 school districts serving over 650 children at 13 locations throughout Marin and Sonoma County.

Susan's entrepreneurial spirit and passion inspires those around her and encourages collaboration toward system change. She is actively involved on committees for both counties on establishing strategies that support early education investments. Susan is a current member of Sonoma County's Cradle to Career Operations team and the North Bay Leadership Council.

In 2009 she received the prestigious Jefferson Award for Outstanding Public Service focusing on nutrition education for young children and their families. In 2011 she was the recipient of the Heart of Marin's Executive Director of the Year award for her "tireless commitment to the early education field, and exemplary leadership skills." Susan was identified by the North Bay Business Journal as one of the top non-profit leaders in the North Bay and was recently recognized at the North Bay Leadership Council's *Leaders of the North Bay Awards Luncheon* for her innovation and entrepreneurial spirit. In 2021 she was recognized by the California Legislator as Assembly District 10's the Woman of the Year for making an extraordinary difference in the community she serves.

Ralph O'Rear, Director of Facilities

Ralph O'Rear has nearly three decades of experience in large scale facility and operation management, strategic planning, and project management in Marin County. Ralph's career in Marin County was spent at Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, the Lucas companies (Lucasfilm Ltd., Industrial Light & Magic, LucasArts Entertainment Company) and the Buck Institute for Research on Aging.

During his career, Ralph's responsibilities have covered facility and operation development and management for projects of all sizes and complexities. As a member of executive teams at the Lucas Companies and the Buck Institute, he directed and managed facility and operations departments, on site initiatives for child care services, environmental health and safety departments, regulatory compliance activities at all levels of operations, short and long term planning initiatives for organizational growth, insurance and risk management activities, energy conservation, environmentally appropriate developments, and led the real estate and land use planning efforts of his employers.

Ralph has also served on the: San Rafael Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs and Education Committees, San Rafael School to Career Partnership committee, Novato Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee, Novato General Plan Update Committee, Novato Permit Streamlining Committee, Marin Economic Forum's Technology and Biotech Committees, and North Bay Leadership Council Board of Directors. Ralph is currently overseeing the permitting, relocation, and construction management of NBCC's 11 M re-development project.



seeding... nurturing... cultivating bright futures!