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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SAN MATEO, CA, October 28th, 2014 –

Parca Auxiliary and St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School 8th Graders Hit a Home Run at Annual Halloween Party for Parca Clients

The Parca Auxiliary and members of St. Matthew's Episcopal School 8th grade class hosted over 40 Parca Organization (Parca) clients for Halloween festivities. Parca provides services to enrich the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

Held at the St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School, the sixth annual event was organized by the Parca Auxiliary for Parca clients and their families. Attendees were dressed in their Halloween best and treated to an evening that included dinner, dancing, craft making, and the World Series Giants vs. Royals Game Six was projected on the wall. The night was a win win for all who attended.

“We feel so fortunate to be part of this event. Seeing the clients dress up, laugh and dance is such a treat and a good reminder of why we support PARCA. The St. Matthew's students are incredibly welcoming and professional with the clients and it's hard to believe they are only 13 or 14 years old. The clients and the 8th graders taught us all some new moves on the dance floor and many new friends were made. A huge thanks to St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School and Parca for giving us the chance to celebrate Halloween in such a fun way,” said Alli Fitzgerald, President of the Parca Auxiliary.

“St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School educates the whole child, and our ongoing relationship with Parca teaches our students an enormous amount about their own humanity. I consider this a priceless lesson,” said the Reverend Amber Evans, St. Matthew's Chaplain.

Over 20 students and 30 Parca Auxiliary members helped organize the event that included decorating, serving meals, assisting with crafts, dancing and sharing laughs with attendees. The student participation is part of St. Matthew's Direct Service learning program, a critical element of the school's curriculum.

About Parca Organization

Parca Organization is a private, nonprofit association that serves people with developmental disabilities and their families in the Bay Area. Since its founding in 1952, Parca has been

committed to providing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities of all ages helping them experience choice, control and individuality in every aspect of their lives. In addition to independent living skills training for adults, Parca offers a range of residential programs, respite care for children and teens, childcare and recreational programs for children and support groups, information and referral services for families. Information about Parca may be found at www.parca.org.

About Parca Auxiliary

Founded in 1985, the Parca Auxiliary is a group of Peninsula-based women dedicated to raising money and awareness for Parca Organization. The Auxiliary hosts a springtime event every year as its primary fundraiser for Parca Organization. Generous donations from event sponsors and guests help contribute to the success of Parca's clients throughout the year. Over the last 13 years, the Parca Auxiliary has raised over \$2 million.

For more information about Parca Auxiliary, please contact: **Licia Davidson, Publicity Chair:** **415-902-1150** or liciahayden@gmail.com.

For information about Parca, please contact: **Diane Conti, Executive Director: 650-312-0730** or dianac@parca.org.

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