

Terry Racciato

Together We Grow



Terry Racciato is the president of Together We Grow. The organization has numerous services, including pediatric daycare, skilled nursing care, preschool education, medically fragile weekend program and early start program.

Years ago, Racciato realized the need to provide daily care for medically fragile children. From this need, Together We Grow was born – the place where medically fragile and typical children grow together in an inclusive environment. Racciato is an innovator with the concept of Together We Grow and a humanitarian for the efforts she has made in pushing for government funding so all children can learn and play in the safest, most state-of-the-art facilities possible.

Through her efforts with the government and bureaucracies, she saw California State Senate Bill 126 amended to include pediatric day health care, allowing funding for qualified individuals and facilities. Her hard work now lets the families and the children in need of pediatric day-health care to receive it.

Racciato represents children, a group that cannot represent itself. Her tireless efforts have changed the entire health care system for medi-

cally fragile children and their families. Many care about their patients, employees and community, but few dedicate their lives to their cause as Racciato has.

Parents may drop their children off at Together We Grow with the perception that their child will never walk or be able to speak. Racciato has implemented a program at Together We Grow that empowers children to accomplish things everyone from their parents to their doctors have told them they cannot. Racciato can tell countless stories about children beating the odds and accomplishing the impossible.

Together We Grow started as SpecialCare in the 70s. Since the beginning, Racciato has had to deal with hospitals, banks and bureaucracies. As a nurse trying to get contracts in the 1970s, Racciato was often advised to “go away.” Loan officers told her everything from “go home and do your dishes” to “I would not do business with a nurse or a woman.” Racciato pressed on and later became known in Sacramento as the “woman on her soapbox,” as she tried to get recognition for medically fragile children. Her efforts paid off as Together We Grow is now a successful establishment.