Understanding Disabilities, Inc. Contact: info@understandingdisabilities.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNDERSTANDING DISABILITIES TO HOST ANNIVERSARY GALA ON MAY 15TH

On Friday evening May 15^{th} from 7 – 10 pm, Understanding Disabilities, Inc. will hold a Gala Celebration to celebrate its milestone 30^{th} Anniversary promoting disability awareness in the Reading schools. The event will take place at the Unitarian Universalist Church Fellowship Hall on Summer Street in Reading.

Guests will enjoy hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer, desserts, and a silent auction. The event will feature guest speaker Olympian Molly Sullivan Sliney.

Space for the event is limited, so all are invited to register as soon as possible by visiting UD's website at <u>www.understandingdisabilities.org</u>.

Understanding Disabilities' history dates back 30 years to 1984, when Reading resident Judy LeBlanc founded the community organization (then called Understanding Handicaps) after she was impressed with the enthusiasm she saw among students and teachers whom she spoke with about her blindness.

UD has provided successful awareness programming on a range of disabilities for the three decades that have passed since Judy first envisioned a community in which children with and without disabilities learn together as friends.

"Making a positive impact on generations of students through disability awareness is very much worth celebrating," says Understanding Disabilities' Paula Tucci. This is also a celebration of every school administrator, teacher, parent, and community member that made the past and future disability awareness workshops possible. Tucci adds, "For an organization to perform powerfully, it must have good collaborators and ours have been remarkable."

Understanding Disabilities is a non-profit organization that has provided disability awareness programming in the Reading Public Schools for 30 years. UD's goal is to teach children to see beyond people's disabilities and to focus on the ways we're all the same inside. More information about Understanding Disabilities can be found on their website at <u>www.understandingdisabilities.org</u>.