

# *Workers Compensation Philanthropy Award*

## **Maria Henderson**

A consummate workers compensation and disability professional, Maria has received a Comp Laude® Award for her philanthropic efforts. She is the founder and president of Kids' Chance California and truly a force of nature. Under her guidance, the young chapter has raised nearly \$500,000 in donations and awarded more than 15 scholarships to young adults with a parent who was fatally injured or permanently disabled in a work-related incident.

Maria's skills as a collaborator are clearly apparent as she works side by side with applicant and defense attorneys, labor union members, employers and industry vendors – all on behalf of the kids.

"California got to the Kids' Chance table a little later than some of the other state groups," said Maria, who started her career in 1988 as vocational rehabilitation catastrophic case manager. "It took us a year to get a 501(c)(3). Generous sponsors gave us \$50,000 to ensure a successful startup while we waited for that to come through. Now we have sponsors at many levels and many other groups support our activities, including WorkCompCentral."

As a consultant, Maria provide data analytic services to employers, insurance carriers, third-party administrators and other organizations that seek to control health and disability costs and improve employee health and productivity. In her former position as director of workforce health at Pacific Gas & Electric, Maria led strategic development of workforce health management programs across a company with more than 23,000 employees.

