

## Local hero reflects on education, literacy work

By Leslie Katz

**A good cause:** "Heart in Bloom" by Sara Morris is available at the Heroes & Hearts benefit.



*Midge Wilson, executive director of the Bay Area Women's and Children's Center, is an honoree at this year's Heroes & Hearts Award Luncheon. The event, a fundraiser sponsored by the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation, recognizes people who make extraordinary contributions to The City. The luncheon also showcases hearts created by local artists; the hearts will be sold to benefit S.F. General.*

**You've been working in the Tenderloin — to create the Tenderloin Community School and oversee school and family resource center programs, among other things — for decades now. How does it feel?**

I love it as much as I ever did. And it's easier now; I have all these years of experience. We keep listening to people in the neighborhood and creating programs that are needed.

**Can you mention a program of which you're particularly proud?**

In the last couple of years, we've really expanded the literacy work at the school, helping bring kids up to reading levels.

**Anything else you want to talk about?**

The Tenderloin youth sports ice skating program is phenomenal. We have these kids who are living in single rooms who are going on to win major competitions.

**How do you like being recognized as a hero?**

I was surprised and honored when I learned about the nomination. I've seen the hearts over the years, and I have a huge appreciation for San Francisco General — what people talk about, when they're dealing with health issues, is S.F. General.

**How would you describe your work-life philosophy?**

When you're staring in the face of a huge, seemingly impossible effort, just take one day at a time, and be determined to never let the naysayers win!