



# PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE of the MAYOR | RALPH BECKER

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Mayor Becker to Proclaim November 3 “Kim Peek Day”** *Celebration inaugurates first Peek Award for Disability in Media*

SALT LAKE CITY – Mayor Ralph Becker will officially proclaim November 3 “Kim Peek Day” in honor of the man who inspired the film “Rain Man” at a special celebration on Thursday, November 3, 2011 at 7 p.m. at the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center, 138 West Broadway.

Peek, a Salt Lake City native, used his fame and knowledge to increase awareness of disabilities through the media and improve education for children with special needs.

Thursday night’s event will include the presentation of the first Peek Award for Disability in Media – an award that celebrates the legacy of Kim Peek and will annually honor a subject, director or actor in a film that has helped to shape the perception of disability in society. Renowned scientist, author and lecturer Temple Grandin – subject of the recent Emmy and Golden Globe Award-winning biopic – will be the first recipient of the award.

Diagnosed with autism as a child, Dr. Grandin has an ability to “think in pictures” and makes the case that the world needs people on the autism spectrum. Dr. Grandin is considered a philosophical leader of animal welfare and autism advocacy.

Barry Morrow, the Academy Award-winning screenwriter of “Rain Man,” will present the Peek Award to Dr. Grandin and permanently loan his Oscar statuette for the people of Salt Lake City to enjoy. The statuette, lovingly carried and displayed by Peek in his travels and lectures to over 60 million people around the globe for the last 20 years, will be permanently displayed in Salt Lake City in a case specially built by the O. C. Tanner Company.

“Kim Peek and his father Francis Peek worked tirelessly as advocates for children with special needs and to promote respect for differences among us,” said Mayor Becker. “Salt Lake City is honored to be the home of the Oscar – generously loaned by Mr. Morrow – as a fitting tribute to Kim Peek’s contributions.”

The Utah Film Center, the Utah Autism Foundation, the Disability Law Center and other community partners will present three days of events aimed at increasing community awareness about disabilities and the critical role that media can play in promoting understanding and acceptance. Events include a free showing of the film “Temple Grandin” at the Salt Lake City Main Library, 410 South 200 East, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 1.

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