

## **Petaluma Health Care District Presents \$54,000 in Grants to Local Nonprofits and Announces Community Health Award Recipients**

*District-Hosted Partnership Appreciation Event Celebrates May as Health Care District Month, Honoring Seven Grant Recipients and Two Award Honorees*

**PETALUMA, Calif., May 16, 2018** – [Petaluma Health Care District](#) (PHCD) is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2018 Community Health Grants and Awards. For the past three years, PHCD has recognized individuals and organizations for their outstanding service benefitting the health and wellness needs of Southern Sonoma County. This year, PHCD launched its inaugural grant solicitation process as part of the program and formed a Grant Review Committee that welcomed community residents alongside PHCD representatives.

Today, at its annual Community Partnership Appreciation Breakfast, PHCD celebrated the work of its many partners and agencies working to improve the health of residents within the District service area. PHCD also recognized the winners of the Health Hero and Golden Heart awards, and announced seven nonprofit grant recipients, with a **total of \$54,000 awarded**.

“We are dedicated to tackling the health and wellness challenges faced by our community through support and collaboration with our incredible partners,” said PHCD CEO Ramona Faith. “We were so thrilled to recognize and celebrate our grantees and award winners today, and we’re also grateful to the residents who participated on our newly formed Grant Review Committee. They provided us with rich and insightful feedback and helped us direct our grants towards great programs addressing some of our community’s most critical needs, such as trauma-informed mental health services, cardiovascular health, healthy food access, literacy and drug and alcohol prevention.”

More than 100 attendees, including California legislators, county supervisors and Petaluma’s mayor and vice mayor, were present at today’s event and special recognition acknowledged May as Health Care District Month, which was declared for the fourth consecutive year by the Petaluma City Council and Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. Health Care District Month recognizes the essential role PHCD plays in Southern Sonoma County and the importance of creating and promoting health and wellness programs, services and initiatives that contribute to the health and vitality of the community.

“I am overwhelmed with gratitude today. I am grateful for the work of our dedicated District staff and board members, for the opportunity to work on behalf of a community to which I am so deeply connected, and most of all, to be among partners that share this commitment to Southern Sonoma County,” said PHCD Board President Elece Hempel. “It’s all about community and partnerships, and it is so heartwarming to recognize those who have found innovative ways to help those in need with clear and measurable goals.”

### **2018 Award and Grant Recipients**

#### **Heath Hero Award**

*Award recognizes a person who extends remarkable commitment and exemplary service to benefit the health of individuals and the well-being of communities within Southern Sonoma County.*

**Recipient:** Stephanie Bodi, Patient Relations and Volunteer Services Manager, Petaluma Valley Hospital (PVH)

Holding her position with PVH since 1999, Stephanie is revered by her patients and colleagues for going above and beyond to support hospital patients and volunteers. She is also credited with building PVH's Junior Volunteer program, which has inspired hundreds of students in the Petaluma community to pursue a medical career.

### **Golden Heart Award**

*Award recognizes individuals or organizations that have taken a "golden" opportunity to promote a HeartSafe Community and save lives.*

**Recipient:** Exchange Bank

In 2016, Exchange Bank became the first local financial institution to join PHCD's HeartSafe Community (HSC) initiative by becoming a HeartSafe business. HSC is a formal effort to decrease the number of deaths from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) by strengthening the community's response to SCA through life-saving cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) installation and training. Today, Exchange Bank has AEDs installed in nine of its offices and branches and trained more than 250 employees in using them and administering CPR.

### **Grant Award Recipients**

*Supplementing the funding that PHCD provides to organizations serving Southern Sonoma County throughout the year, a new process open to all nonprofit organizations addressing the community's greatest health priorities was created. Applications were received and reviewed by the Grants Review Committee, comprised of community residents and PHCD representatives. The following grants were awarded for 2018.*

**Recipient: Center for Well-Being**

**Award Total:** \$10,000

**Program Supported:** Promotores de Salud (PDS) or Community Health Workers (CHW) are integral in the fight against cardiovascular disease in Sonoma County. PHCD funding will support the establishment of a South County PDS/CHW Hub managed by the Center for Well-Being. The Hub will recruit, train and certify at least 10 South County residents who will conduct comprehensive heart health education and blood pressure screenings.

**Recipient: Committee on the Shelterless (COTS)**

**Award Total:** \$10,000

**Program Supported:** Operated by COTS, the Mary Isaak Center Emergency Shelter (MIC-ES) is the only shelter of its kind in the PHCD service area, and it is the second largest shelter serving adults in Sonoma County. The grant will directly fund MIC-ES personnel expenses, allowing the shelter to continue to serve 476 adults annually, including 129 from the PHCD service area.

**Recipient: Petaluma Education Foundation – Community Matters Program**

**Award Total:** \$10,000

**Program Supported:** Alcohol and drug use rates among youth in the PHCD service area continue to exceed Sonoma County averages and local schools are in need of resources for education and prevention efforts. PHCD funding will support the

establishment of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Peer-to-Peer Prevention Program at Casa Grande and Petaluma High Schools, training 50-60 youth and 10-14 staff to provide outreach and support groups for its youth.

**Recipient: Petaluma Health Center (PHC)**

**Award Total:** \$10,000

**Program Supported:** Research has established a clear link between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and life-long physical and mental health issues. PHC's Road to Resilience Pilot Project will transform the delivery of primary care to treat ACEs using trauma-informed models of care. PHCD is supporting the implementation of the pilot project in one of seven PHC care teams, initially impacting 2,811 PHCD residents, with the possibility to expand to all PHC care teams.

**Recipient: Petaluma Bounty**

**Award Total:** \$7,000

**Program Supported:** Petaluma Bounty combats cardiovascular disease by increasing access to local produce through the Bounty Hunters program and food distribution partnerships, advocating for food access programs, improving coordination among emergency food distributors, and educating residents about the importance of healthy foods. The grant supports the Bilingual Bounty Hunters Coordinator, emergency food providers meetings, advocacy and website toolkits and handouts.

**Recipient: Mothers Care**

**Award Total:** \$4,000

**Program Supported:** Pregnant Sonoma County women with a mental health diagnosis are hospitalized at 2.5 times the California rate. Mothers Care works with PVH-affiliated providers to identify women at-risk or experiencing prenatal and postpartum mood and anxiety disorders, providing trauma-informed evidence based mental health services at no cost to patients. PHCD's contribution alongside PVH operator St. Joseph Health provide the funding to support the continued operations of this proven and critically important program.

**Recipient: Kids Scoop News**

**Award Total:** \$3,000

**Program Supported:** Kids Scoop News is a free children's newspaper providing appropriate reading materials that students can bring home and share with their families. The funding will support the distribution of Kids Scoop News to 10 PHCD-area kindergarten through sixth grade classrooms, as well as sponsor health education content in three monthly editions.

**About Petaluma Health Care District**

The Petaluma Health Care District (PHCD) is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the Southern Sonoma County community through leadership, advocacy, support, partnerships and education. Its vision is to foster a healthier community, a thriving hospital and local access to comprehensive health and wellness services. PHCD has served the health and wellness needs of the community for more than 70 years and is a public agency managed by the community for the community. For more information, please visit [www.phcd.org](http://www.phcd.org).

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