

**Association of California Healthcare Districts Names
Petaluma “Healthcare District of the Year”**

*Governing Association Touts PHCD’s Inspiring Community Health Initiatives in
Bestowing Prestigious Award*

PETALUMA, Calif., May 13, 2015 – [Petaluma Health Care District](#) (PHCD) is proud to announce that it has been honored as California’s Healthcare District of the Year by the [Association of California Healthcare Districts](#) (ACHD). PHCD Board President Elece Hempel, Treasurer Josephine Thornton and CEO Ramona Faith attended ACHD’s 63rd annual conference in Monterey where they were presented with the award at a special dinner and ceremony on May 7. The award, given to just one out of 78 districts, seeks to recognize a District that has implemented programs and/or services that have yielded direct and measurable benefits on the health and well-being of its residents.

For more than 65 years serving Southern Sonoma County, PHCD has worked to develop and support health and wellness services, programs and initiatives that uniquely benefit its residents. In particular, through the Healthcare District of the Year award, ACHD touted PHCD’s model of convening unconventional partners across all sectors to take action and improve local health issues, and highlighted two of PHCD’s community initiatives, [Community Health Initiative of the Petaluma Area](#) (CHIPA) and [HeartSafe Community](#) (HSC). CHIPA is an Advisory Committee of PHCD’s Board of Directors that seeks to identify root-level health issues and takes action to engage in policy, system and environmental change to improve local health. HSC is an initiative led by PHCD to strengthen the community’s response to cardiac emergencies through CPR/AED training, strategic AED installation, maintenance and registration, and heart health education.

“We look forward to this awards program each year as it gives us an opportunity to hear about the unique and encouraging work that California’s Healthcare Districts are doing in their communities,” said David McGhee, CEO of ACHD. “It’s an understatement to say that we were impressed with PHCD’s initiatives, programs and accomplishments. Its pioneering philosophy and work to address underlying public health issues, such as access to early childhood education programs, mental and behavioral health services, access to fresh, healthy, local food, and CPR training for all ages should be models for all other districts.”

“We are humbled and incredibly grateful to ACHD for this special recognition,” said PHCD CEO Ramona Faith. “It is our belief that good health is a state of complete physical, mental and societal well-being and not merely the absence of disease, and we are motivated more than ever to continue working towards this in collaboration with our partners at the local, county and state level.”

In addition to being honored with the prestigious Healthcare District of the Year award, PHCD is celebrating several other accomplishments in May that have allowed it to promote and educate residents on the District’s role in the community and how to access its services and programs. Also at ACHD’s conference, PHCD received the designation of “Certified Healthcare District,” requiring demonstration of, among other things, compliance with best practices in governance and public agency reporting, as defined by ACHD.

On May 4, the [Petaluma City Council officially declared May 2015 as “Health Care District Month”](#) in recognition of the essential role PHCD plays in Southern Sonoma County and acknowledging the importance of educating the community on its work, programs and services. PHCD has also formally launched its new website, www.phcd.org, and released its [2014 Annual Report](#), providing easy-to-access information and resources.

About Association of California Healthcare Districts

The Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) serves the diverse needs of California Healthcare Districts through advocacy and education. California’s 78 Healthcare Districts can be found throughout the State, in both urban and rural settings and offering a variety of services including community grant making, chronic disease management education, senior services, ambulance services, primary care clinics, dental clinics, nutritional counseling, physical education, long term care/skilled nursing, senior housing and acute hospital care. For more information, please visit www.achd.org.

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 65 years and is a public agency managed by the community for the community. For more information, please visit www.phcd.org.

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