

City of Petaluma Declares May 2015 “Health Care District Month”

City Council Vote Pays Tribute to Petaluma Health Care District’s Work and Promotion of Health Care Awareness and Options in the Community

PETALUMA, Calif., May 5, 2015 – Petaluma Health Care District (PHCD) is pleased to announce that the Petaluma City Council voted last night to declare May 2015 as Health Care District Month. This declaration 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.

In celebration of Health Care District Month, PHCD has formally launched its new website, www.phcd.org, and released its [2014 Annual Report](#), providing easy-to-access information and resources pertaining to its many community health programs and services. Throughout May, PHCD will be present at various local events, educating Southern Sonoma County residents on the district’s role in the community, including how to access its services and programs. These events include the Petaluma Kids Gran Fondo race, the Tuesday East Side Farmers’ Market on May 26 and the Saturday West Side Farmers’ Market on May 30. PHCD will culminate this month-long celebration with a breakfast in appreciation of its community partners. PHCD will also share information throughout the month on social media via its [Facebook page](#).

“It’s an honor to receive this formal recognition, which we see as a platform to prompt awareness of the fact that we are here every day advocating for the health and well-being of our community. PHCD has a multitude of offerings and benefits related to community health, education, partnering efforts, and emergency and acute care services, as well as programs in place for our residents to access,” said PHCD CEO Ramona Faith. “Our belief is that good health is a state of complete physical, mental and societal well-being and not merely the absence of disease – and it takes a dedicated collaborative effort in today’s world to keep people educated on healthy habits and choices, as well as to provide access to high-quality medical care.”

Ensuring access to local quality acute and emergency hospital services, PHCD owns [Petaluma Valley Hospital](#) (PVH) and leases its operations to St. Joseph Health. The PVH Emergency Room is the second busiest in the county, serving nearly 18,000 patients annually. In addition to guaranteeing that the community has local access to emergency services and medical treatment, PHCD is seen as a leader and resource for wellness and prevention. PHCD provides direct services such as [Lifeline of the North Bay](#) and [Healthquest CPR](#), serves as a backbone organization for [Community Health Initiative of the Petaluma Area](#) (CHIPA) and [HeartSafe Community](#) (HSC), and provides funding and support to local non-profits, schools and service providers to promote health and wellness.

Added Faith, “We hope that Health Care District Month will prompt our residents to look into options for furthering personal and broader community health and wellness, such as visiting one of the local farmers’ markets, learning CPR through HeartSafe Community and making an appointment for that wellness check-up. Additionally, it is our goal to help people gain a better understanding of the layers involved to foster a healthy community, such as investing in early childhood education, expanding mental and behavioral health services, addressing the needs of our homeless population, and increasing access to fundamental staples, like healthy food, housing and transportation.”

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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