



**COMMUNITY  
HEALTH TRUST**  
*of Pajaro Valley*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Community Health Trust Celebrates Healthcare Leaders  
at the Building a Culture of Health: Annual Benefit and Award Soiree***

**Watsonville, California –**

Since 1999, the Community Health Trust has been honoring Phil Rather's legacy of service to the community through the **Phil Rather Award for Leadership in Healthcare**.

This year, the awards were reformatted into a formal soiree setting, taking place Saturday, September 18 at the Seascape Golf Club. Attendees enjoyed a sit-down dinner and were invited to participate in a meaningful tribute to the lasting impact of Mr. Rather's work and those that have followed in his footsteps. Numerous community nominations were received. Awards were granted to those who made the most outstanding contributions to health in Pájaro Valley.

"We are pleased to celebrate these leaders who rose to the challenge and made a difference in the community," said DeAndre' James, Executive Director of the Community Health Trust. "These organizations and individuals are doing remarkable work, addressing challenges only magnified by the pandemic."

Awardees included the following:

UC Santa Cruz, Colligan Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory

Watsonville Campesino Appreciation Caravan

Paulina Moreno

Paz Padilla

Erica Padilla-Chavez

Tamara Vides

Nancy Faulstich

And receiving the first ever *Phil Rather Lifetime Achievement Award for Leadership in Healthcare*, for a life and career devoted to creating health equity and wellness for all, Dr. Wells Shoemaker.



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In addition to the recognition received by the awardees, CHT will also be donating \$500 grants on behalf of each of the awardees, to the charity of their choice. Nonprofits receiving these grants include: Salud Para La Gente (UCSC), Action Council of Monterey County (Caravan), Community Action Board – Housing & Intervention Program (Moreno), Community Action Board- Thriving Immigrants Collaborative (Padilla), Pajaro Valley Prevention & Student Assistance (Padilla-Chavez), Monarch Services (Vides), Regeneración - Pajaro Valley Climate Action (Faulstich), and Digital Nest (Shoemaker).

CHT would like to extend a special thanks to all who attended this event and congratulations to all the awardees.

**About Community Health Trust of Pajaro Valley:** Founded in 1998 and serving a tri county area, the Community Health Trust is recognized for its leadership as a convener in the South Santa Cruz County area. CHT is motivated to foster an equitable Pajaro Valley with health, wellness and a full quality of life for all through access to resources, activities, and choices that help prevent illness and improve quality of life.

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