



**COMMUNITY
HEALTH TRUST**
of Pajaro Valley

PRESS RELEASE

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Community Health Trust to Honor Local Healthcare Leaders at Annual Phil Rather Awards Benefit and Dinner

[Watsonville, CA, May 12, 2023]: In 1999, the Community Health Trust of Pajaro Valley (CHT) instituted the Phil Rather Award for Leadership in Healthcare to honor Mr. Rather's legacy of service to the community. Phil Rather was an advocate for equitable access to healthcare for Pájaro Valley residents, especially those facing economic and social barriers.

This year, upon receiving nominations from the community, CHT will be awarding; Matko Vranjes, Interim CEO of Watsonville Community Hospital; Sister Rosa Dolores Rodriguez, Executive Director and Founder of Casa de la Cultura; Community Bridges, a community-based organization providing equitable access to essential services and resources; and Pajaro Valley Loaves and Fishes, a community-based organization dedicated to alleviating hunger in the Pajaro Valley.

"It is with great honor that we will recognize these outstanding community members and organizations who have contributed greatly to the health and wellness of residents in the Pajaro Valley." DeAndre James, Executive Director of the Community Health Trust. "We are grateful for their commitment and the work they do to provide equitable access to resources that enhance the quality of life of our local members."

The Phil Rather Annual Benefit and Awards Dinner will be held on Friday, June 16, at Seascape Golf Club. The evening's program includes a cocktail hour, dinner, and the awarding of four well-deserved Phil Rather Leadership in Healthcare awardees. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Phil Rather Memorial Endowment Fund, which helps fund CHT's Diabetes Health Center. The evening will also include a special tribute in memory of Betty Rather. For more information, visit pvhealthtrust.org.

CHT would like to extend a special thank you to this year's sponsors, Sutter Health Palo Alto Medical Foundation and Watsonville Community Hospital.

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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