

**Friday, Jan. 17, 2014**

### **Dominican Gives Over \$155,000 in Funding to Ten Local Nonprofits**

Through the annual Dignity Health Community Grants program, Dominican Hospital has awarded over \$155,000 in funding to 10 local nonprofits throughout Santa Cruz County, Martina O'Sullivan, Director of Community Engagement, announced today.

In accordance with Dominican's mission to improve the health and well being of the community, the awardees for 2014 were recognized for their commitment to providing innovative resources and support that improve the quality of life for the Santa Cruz County residents most in need.

This year's grantees include:

- **Community Bridges & Collaborative Agencies** received a \$55,000 grant for the Health Access Project. This county-wide collaborative of family resource centers, community clinics and preventive service providers will strengthen the access to primary care physicians and maximize preventive care for at-risk, primarily Latino families of farmworkers and service workers. [www.communitybridges.org](http://www.communitybridges.org)
- **Dientes Community Dental Care** received a \$7,500 grant for Dientes Cares, with a goal of providing dental care to 40 uninsured and under-insured adults in Santa Cruz County. This care also will help prevent ER visits due to acute dental problems for another 100 residents. [www.dientes.org](http://www.dientes.org)
- **Encompass Community Services (formerly Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center)** received a \$7,500 grant for the HIV/AIDS services they provide to the farmworker community. In partnership with the Santa Cruz AIDS Project (SCAP), Encompass Community Services will use these funds to emphasize wellness and safety in the farmworker community and reduce late diagnosis of HIV/AIDS through outreach, education, HIV testing, and case management. [www.encompasscs.org](http://www.encompasscs.org)
- **Health Improvement Partnership** received a \$20,000 grant for Healthy Kids of Santa Cruz County. This program works to enroll all eligible children in Medi-Cal, Healthy Families and the Healthy Kids Health Plan, insuring access to health services necessary for healthy childhood development. [www.hipsc.org](http://www.hipsc.org)
- **Homeless Services Center** received a \$10,000 grant for the Recuperative Care Center (RCC). The RCC will provide medically supervised follow-up care for uninsured and under-insured homeless individuals who have been hospitalized, with the goal of decreasing unnecessary subsequent ER visits for the same illness,

reducing the length of their hospitalizations, and preventing costly, avoidable hospital readmissions. [www.scsheelter.org](http://www.scsheelter.org)

- **Hospice of Santa Cruz County** received a \$7,500 grant for the Transitional Care Services program, which addresses the most pressing needs of seriously ill patients who may not feel ready for hospice care and instead have been referred or have self-referred for transitional care support. Transitional care support helps these patients navigate critical end-of-life decision making, create a safe care giving plan, and provides information and referrals to available community resources. The program also will provide continuity of care and facilitate a safe transition back to pre-hospice care for patients who have been discharged from hospice due to a change in prognosis. <http://www.hospicesantacruz.org>
- **Mental Health Client Action Network (MHCAN)** received a 15,000 grant for Latino Mental Health Treatment Disparity Remediation, which will provide language services to primary Spanish speakers. The program will provide classes in English and Spanish language instruction. It will also offer a Spanish speaking mental health support group and a Spanish language singing group led by Pipa Pinon. [www.mhcan.org](http://www.mhcan.org)
- **RotaCare Bay Area Inc.** received a \$15,000 grant for the RotaCare Santa Cruz Clinic to provide improved access to healthcare services for the community's uninsured or under-insured residents. [www.rotacarebayarea.org](http://www.rotacarebayarea.org)
- **Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County** received a \$10,000 grant for the Healthy Families, Healthy Futures project. The grant helps support the continued collaboration between Second Harvest and Nourishing Generations to create healthier behaviors among low-income families through healthy food distribution, complementary adult and youth nutrition education, cooking classes, and physical activities. [www.thefoodbank.org](http://www.thefoodbank.org)
- **United Way of Santa Cruz County** received a \$7,771 grant for the Jovenes SANOS Healthy Corner Markets Initiative. Led by a Watsonville-based youth advocacy group, this project works to reduce childhood obesity by forging key partnerships with local community market owners, and supporting them in improving the availability of fresh produce and other healthy snack options. [www.unitedwaysc.org](http://www.unitedwaysc.org)

Since the early 1990s, community organizations have received nearly \$2 million in grants from Dominican Hospital to promote the health and wellness of Santa Cruz County.



### **About Dominican Hospital and Dignity Health**

Dominican Hospital (a member of Dignity Health) is a 288-bed facility that offers a wide range of services to residents of California's Central Coast. With 24/7 emergency care and some of the most technologically advanced diagnostic equipment on the Central Coast, we continue to lead the region in medical innovation and excellence in healthcare.

Santa Cruz is the quintessential beach town. Here, you enjoy life among the most beautiful coastal beaches and redwood forests of California. It was here that Hawaiian royalty first introduced surfing to the mainland—and locals and visitors alike have been riding the waves ever since. Not far from the surf break, music and laughter fill the air at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, the West Coast's only remaining seaside amusement park. A few blocks from the beach is Santa Cruz's newly renovated downtown. The pedestrian-friendly, tree-lined streets are filled with vibrant shops and galleries, outdoor bistros and sidewalk musicians—all in keeping with Surf City's offbeat personality. At Dominican Hospital, you can truly change people's lives while living yours with a strong sense of meaning and finding that much-needed balance you deserve.

[www.dominicanhospital.org](http://www.dominicanhospital.org)

Dignity Health, one of the nation's five largest health care systems, is a 17-state network of more than 300 care centers, including hospitals, urgent and occupational care, imaging centers, home health, and primary care clinics. Headquartered in San Francisco, Dignity Health is dedicated to providing compassionate, high-quality and affordable patient-centered care with special attention to the poor and underserved. In 2012, Dignity Health provided \$1.6 billion in charitable care and services. [www.dignityhealth.org](http://www.dignityhealth.org)

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