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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
9 A.M. PDT, January 28, 2015

Los Medanos Community Healthcare District Recognized for Tobacco Prevention in Contra Costa

Pittsburg, CA, January 28, 2015

Los Medanos Community Healthcare District was awarded Outstanding Contribution to Tobacco Prevention in Contra Costa at the 30 Year Celebration of the Contra Costa Tobacco Prevention Coalition held in Pleasant Hill, California on January 26, 2015.

The Tobacco Prevention Coalition celebrated 30 years of preventative measures against tobacco and electronic cigarettes. More than a dozen nonprofits, businesses, community groups, educators, and individuals were recognized and honored for their efforts towards tobacco prevention in Contra Costa County. The celebration concluded with a video presentation that highlighted 30 Years of Tobacco Prevention in Contra County from 1984 – present day. The video emphasized rallies, campaigns, council meetings, and adoption of ordinances and laws against smoking and secondhand smoke.

The Tobacco Prevention Coalition is the longest running tobacco prevention coalition in California. It began in 1984 as the Smoking Education Coalition, a collaborative effort between the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association and Contra Costa Health Services. The award celebration recognized cities that adopted policies in the last 5 years and honored hardworking community members and organizations that advocated for stronger tobacco control policies in the County over the last 5 years.

In 2012, LMCHD's five summer interns organized a public outreach presentation related to preventing tobacco sales to minors. The interns surveyed over 136 teenagers in the Pittsburg area regarding their smoking habits and where they purchased cigarettes. Using their research and focusing on public policy, the interns presented their findings to the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors, Association of California Healthcare Districts, LMCHD Board of Directors and State Senator Mark DeSaulnier in Sacramento.

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Bobbi Palmer, CEO and Melinda Harris, Intern Coordinator of Los Medanos Community Healthcare District accepted the award on behalf of the passionate work the interns accomplished.

LMCHD has hosted young adults transitioning from foster care to independent living for the past 4 years in their Summer Internship Program. The program is designed to provide youth with a unique work experience and to create an environment for youth to work in a team based, community outreach project. The internship's mission is to "bring public awareness to a public health issue and to introduce youth to healthcare professions.

Well done to *Urban Minds*—Jason, Deasha, Eric, Domingos, and Lanetta.

~Melinda Harris, LMCHD Intern Coordinator

Note:

Los Medanos Community Healthcare District leases the 5 story 130,900 square foot building located at 2311 Loveridge Road to the County of Contra Costa for \$100,000 a year as an in-kind resource to the Pittsburg and Bay Point community residents.

About the Los Medanos Community Healthcare District:

Created by state legislation and launched by voter approval in 1948. Los Medanos Community Healthcare District serves the communities of Pittsburg, Bay Point, Clyde, Clayton and unincorporated Antioch by cultivating a community in which good health may flourish by providing community-based, community funded healthcare service to the District's residents

Los Medanos Community Healthcare District
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