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**PAJARO VALLEY COMMUNITY HEALTH TRUST
RECOGNIZED FOR PROMOTING DIABETES RESOURCES**

The Pajaro Valley Community Health Trust was honored to receive an ***Award of Excellence*** at a ceremony held in Sacramento on Tuesday, August 14, from the California Diabetes Program for the Trust's leadership in utilizing and promoting the Diabetes Information Resource Center (DIRC) among the members of the Regional Diabetes Collaborative.

The Community Health Trust is a south-county based nonprofit public benefit health care foundation created in 1998 to address the health care needs of area residents in Watsonville, Freedom, Pajaro and Aromas. The mission of the Community Health Trust is to improve the health and quality of life for all people of the greater Pajaro Valley by supporting programs and activities that ensure access to a full array of quality, culturally competent health care services which promote health, wellness and disease prevention.

In 2001, the Community Health Trust convened the Regional Diabetes Collaborative (RDC) comprised of more than 35 public and private agencies, as well as medical providers, and consumer representatives. The RDC's mission is to support, promote and coordinate diabetes efforts in Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties. The RDC uses DIRC to help them plan events, share data, and communicate with each other.

The DIRC Award of Excellence was presented to the Community Health Trust by Dr. Ann Albright, Director of the Division of Diabetes Translation, Center for Disease Control. The awards ceremony was held at the California Department of Public Health in Sacramento. The DIRC Award of Excellence is presented yearly to a California-based organization that portrays the following characteristics.

- Contributes ideas, expertise, and/or resources to the growth and development of DIRC
- Actively promotes the use of DIRC
- Maintains an active Partner Profile on DIRC
- Demonstrates quality and leadership in reducing the burden of diabetes and its complications in California's diverse populations

The Community Health Trust has maintained a Partner Profile with DIRC since October 2006, and during this short amount of time it has been viewed over 760 times.

A second organization, The Central Valley Chronic Disease Partnership, was also recognized with the DIRC Award for Excellence.

In the picture from left to right is:

Ann Albright, Center for Disease Control

Kathleen King, Pajaro Valley Community Health Trust CEO

Heather Jacobs, RDC Patient and Family Committee Chair

Raquel Ramírez, Diabetes Health Center Director

Chesney Hoagland-Fuchs, RDC Steering Committee Chair

