

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**West County Health Centers**  
**“Caring for our Communities”**

**Russian River Health Center \* Russian River Dental Clinic and Mental Health  
Services**

**Occidental Area Health Center \* Sebastopol Health Center**

**Forestville Teen Clinic \* Graton Day Labor Clinic \***

**Our Mission**

To provide comprehensive, quality and accessible health care services to the communities of West Sonoma County.

**Our Values**

We are a cohesive team of health care providers, support staff and volunteers dedicated to wellness, compassion, affordability and excellence of care. We believe in non-judgmental and equal care for all members of our diverse community.

**Our Vision**

We are committed to building a system of accessible healthcare by thoughtfully addressing the barriers that individual patients and underserved communities face; consistently seeking ways to increase the quality of our services and delivery systems; and collaborating with the people we serve and other community partners to eliminate health inequities in our service area and county wide.

**History and Accomplishments**

The Russian River Health Center first opened its doors to the community of West Sonoma County in 1974 and the neighboring Occidental Area Health Center opened in 1976. After many years of collaboration, the two independent health centers formally merged as West County Health Centers, Inc. in January of 2000.

For over 30 years, the health centers have been recognized as invaluable assets within the community and have continued to serve the growing and diverse needs of the people of West Sonoma County. Our service area covers hundreds of square miles stretching from Fort Ross to Valley Ford and from the Pacific coastline into Sebastopol, with an estimated population of 60,000.

Since our inception, we have grown to become one of the finest community-based healthcare organizations in Sonoma County. We provide high quality, comprehensive health services, particularly to the growing number of underserved and marginalized populations in the area.

Beginning in 1998, we initiated an extensive facilities improvement program including the acquisition of a new administration building, expanding the number of exam rooms at both the Guerneville and Occidental sites, and remodeling the Russian River Dental and Mental Health Clinic.

West County Health Centers was recognized and designated as a Federally Qualified Health Center in 2002, ensuring ongoing federal funding to care for low-income and uninsured patients.

In 2002, we established the first and only Teen Clinic in West Sonoma County, which moved to its own site in Forestville in 2003.

In 2006 West County Health Centers served over 8,150 patients with more than 36,800 recorded visits including 1,000 teen visits, 31,393 individual primary and mental health visits and 3,861 dental visits, representing an overall increase of 21% in patient visits in the last three years.

### **People and Finances**

West County Health Center's Board of Directors is comprised of dedicated community members with professional experience including business, law, real estate, human resources and healthcare. Nine out of fifteen members of the Board use West County Health Centers as their primary medical home and all fifteen live within West County Health Center's service area.

The staff at West County Health Centers plays a crucial role in delivering superior care to every patient. There are over seventy five employees actively working to support our mission including front and back office staff, physicians and mid-level providers, dentists, therapists, registered nurses, outreach workers and administrative staff. Our employees reflect the diversity of the patients that we serve and bring a wide range of experiences to West County Health Centers.

#### Revenue 2006

Patient Fee Revenue	\$4,286,562
Less Discounted/Free Services	-825,453
Donations & Other	59,079
Grants	1,531,679
Total Revenue	5,051,867

#### Expenses 2006

Medical Program	3,292,274
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Dental Program	463,515
Mental Health Clinic	229,742
Teen Clinic	95,123
Administrative Support	884,761
Total Expense	4,965,415

**What We Do and How You Can Help**

West County Health Centers promote innovative programs that are mission-based, responsive to community needs, cost-effective, culturally competent and accessible to all.

West County Health Centers strives to provide a medical home for patients, ensuring that they experience continuity of care and have a secure place to come for all their healthcare needs. At West County Health Centers, an expert team of professionals help patients successfully manage and integrate wellness practices into their daily lives.

West County Health Centers delivers health care to an important cross-section of our community including elementary age children whose parents cannot otherwise afford the medical care needed to keep them healthy and active in schools; those who are not accepted elsewhere due to HIV/AIDS, homelessness, mental illness or addiction; those in the community who lack the financial resources to pay for quality healthcare, as well as many others. No patient is turned away from West County Health Centers for lack of funds.

You can make a donation today that will help ensure that West County Health Centers has the financial resources to meet the needs of the rising number of uninsured patients in our community and that we continue to be a leader and model for delivering quality, accessible health care to West Sonoma County. Please make your check payable to West County Health Centers, PO BOX 1449, Guerneville, CA 95446 or call our Fundraising Manager, Jennifer Neeley, (707) 869-5977 ext. 313 for more information.

In 2006, West County Health Centers provided over \$800,000 of uncompensated care for low-income and uninsured patients. More than 26% of our patients are living below the federal poverty level and an estimated 300 people designated as homeless live in our service area.

Our Annual Campaign will allow us to continue serving thousands of low-income and uninsured community members. In support of West County Health Centers, all of our Board of Directors and 96.5% of our staff have given gifts to the Annual Campaign.

The medical, dental and mental health services provided by West County Health Centers are essential resources for West Sonoma County and are in ever increasing demand. Your gift today will allow us to continue providing comprehensive health care services to those who are most in need

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