

Dominican Hospital awards \$148,495 in community grants

Sentinel staff report

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SANTA CRUZ - Dominican Hospital and its parent Catholic Healthcare West have awarded \$148,495 in community grants to eight local nonprofits to improve community health and wellness.

"We are thrilled that we are able to give out more than \$140,000 this year. For us, that's the largest amount ever," said Martina O'Sullivan, director of community engagement.

Last year, the grants totaled \$145,000; the year before, it was \$134,000. This year's recipients:

- Community Bridges, Davenport Resource Center and Diabetes Health Center: \$48,495 for the Medical Home Access Project, to improve healthy habits for at-risk families.
- Health Improvement Partnership; \$25,000 for Healthy Kids of Santa Cruz County, which works to enroll all eligible children in Medi-Cal, Healthy Families and the Healthy Kids plan, providing access to health services necessary for healthy development.
- RotaCare Bay Area: \$25,000 for clinics including one in Santa Cruz offering free care to the working poor.
- Homeless Services Center: \$20,000 for a recuperative care center so homeless people discharged from the hospital receive follow-up care.
- Hospice of Santa Cruz County: \$10,000, for the Transitions Program, addressing the

psychosocial, emotional and practical needs of patients and their families confronted with life-limiting illnesses while a patient is in the hospital.

- Dientes Community Dental Care: \$10,000 total for programs that will provide dental treatment to more than 200 children in schools, and complex dental care to low-income county residents.
- Second Harvest Food Bank's Passion for Produce: \$5,000 for nutrition education classes and fresh produce for parents of the prenatal and pediatric clinic patients at Dominican Hospital to address childhood obesity among low-income families.
- United Way of Santa Cruz County's Go for Health!'s 52-10 campaign, \$5,000, to promote healthy eating and physical activity among youth via social marketing. The numbers 52-10 stand for five fruits and vegetables a day; two hours at most of screen time a day; one hour of vigorous play a day; and zero soft drinks or sweetened beverages.

Dominican has contributed more than \$1.6 million in grants since the early 1990s toward community health and wellness.

