



Virginia Garcia Foundation to honor local health care heroes

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

The Hillsboro Argus

PORTLAND - Virginia Garcia Memorial Foundation is hosting a fundraising breakfast honoring local health care heroes.

The fundraising breakfast, Ambassadors of Hope, will be held from 7 to 8:30 a.m., Sept. 24, at the Oregon Zoo's Vista Room.

Proceeds from the event - which is open to the public - will help Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center develop and implement programs in support of community members in Washington and Yamhill Counties with barriers to health care access.

"Ambassadors of Hope provides a unique opportunity for citizens concerned with the state of our health care system to witness how the community is currently providing universal care to its most vulnerable citizens," said Christine Rontal, executive director of Virginia Garcia Memorial Foundation. "If the current system has left you feeling helpless, this is a great chance to inspire hope in the lives of others while ensuring that our vital health care programs continue in 2010 and beyond."

Ant Hill Marketing will be honored for its more than two-year partnership with Virginia Garcia which has resulted in a new identity, Web site, print materials, tagline, and overall feel of the organization.

Lynn Baker, Virginia Garcia Cornelius Clinic manager; Laura Byerly, MD, medical co-director of Virginia Garcia; and Kaiser Permanente will be honored for their roles in funding and implementing electronic health records at the Hillsboro Clinic in the spring of 2009.

Ruth Dallas, RN, CDE, will be honored for her leadership in the creation of a diabetes education program at Virginia Garcia.

Ambassadors of Hope will be moderated by Ryan Kenney, director of Human Resources at Regence and will feature Gil Muñoz, CEO of Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center. Patients of Virginia Garcia will be presenting awards to each honoree. Virginia Garcia's new short film on its programs, created by Spirit Media, will also debut at this event.

Sponsors of Ambassadors of Hope include Spirit Media, Ant Hill Marketing, CareOregon, Kaiser Permanente, Pacific University, McDonald Zaring Insurance, Regence and Providence Newberg.