



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 5, 2012
For more information contact:

Sarah Wilkins, Communications Coordinator
Columbia Valley Community Health
P: 509-662-6000 x1028 / E: selizabeth@cvch.org

Columbia Valley Community Health Celebrates 40 Years

Patient stories and generous outpouring creates a night of community connections

Friday, October 5, 2012: **Wenatchee, WA:** [Columbia Valley Community Health](http://www.cvch.org) (CVCH) celebrated its 40th Anniversary on Thursday, September 27, 2012. Over 350 people gathered at the Wenatchee Convention Center to reflect on the humble beginnings and commemorate the accomplishments of the community health center that started as the North Central Washington Migrant Health Project in 1972.

The patients of CVCH, however, were the focal point of the evening. There were stories of gratitude, recognition and personal achievement on every table. There was also a unique silent auction comprised of patient-made items, accompanied by their personal stories relating the impact CVCH has had on their lives. Guests could bid on items such as an intricate hand-stitched tablecloth, hand-beaded jewelry, even an exclusive private music concert. The winning bid of each auction item will go directly to the participating patients. Together, the bids for all eight auction items totaled over \$1,500.

There was a ninth auction item that was donated by local artist [Martha Flores](#). Flores' art, and all other proceeds and donations from the event, (*not including the silent auction*) will go directly to the CVCH **Helping Hands Fund**, which assists the neediest patients by paying for healthcare and other medical services. The evening's donations raised over \$5,500 for Helping Hands, which is primarily funded through voluntary staff contributions throughout the year. Over 50% of CVCH employees donate to this fund which helped more than 330 patients in the last two years alone.

In his remarks, **Patrick Bucknum**, CEO of Columbia Valley Community Health, stated that the primary goal for the celebration was for guests to leave feeling connected.

"There is no better way to feel connected to what we do than to join us in our efforts to support our neediest patients, and to gain a clearer vision into the disparities that exist in the lives of our neighbors," Bucknum said.

Bucknum also challenged guests not to back away from service and finding one's true purpose.

"Our true purpose is not found when we are all dressed up and out on the town. It is found when we are getting our hands dirty in the service of others.

– MORE –



CVCH Press Release: 40th Anniversary Event Created a Special Connection

“After 40 years, we are most proud of the knowledge that our communities are living healthier lives because of our Mission and service,” Bucknum said. “It’s the culmination of stories and testimonies that reinforce our dedication to the communities we serve.”

[Wells Fargo Bank](#), [Coordinated Care](#) and [Community Health Plan of Washington](#) were the event’s “**Champion Sponsors**,” with [Numerica Credit Union](#) and [Aldrich + Associates, Inc](#) participating as “**Patron Sponsors**”.

About Columbia Valley Community Health

[Columbia Valley Community Health](#) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that offers medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, WIC and outreach services to everyone in Chelan and Douglas Counties. Their mission is to provide access to improved health and wellness with compassion and respect for all.

Established in 1972, CVCH is now an industry leader and was the first in the Pacific Northwest to achieve the Joint Commission’s Primary Care Medical Home certification. CVCH serves well over 20,000 patients a year between all of its departments and locations in Wenatchee, East Wenatchee and Chelan.

END