

Because They Care: Adult Social Services of the Health & Human Services Division of County of Marin and In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority of Marin Present Provider Appreciation Gala on Saturday, November 4, 11:30am

Event coincides with November's "National Family Caregiver Month."

Marin, CA ([PRWeb](#)) November 1, 2006 -- The In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority of Marin ("Public Authority") in collaboration with Adult Social Services of the Health and Human Services Division of the County of Marin is pleased to announce a gala recognition ceremony for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) care providers in Marin County on Saturday, November 4 at 11:30am at the Marin Youth Center (1115 Third Street in San Rafael. The luncheon and ceremony honors and appreciates IHSS care providers who are employed by IHSS recipients -- Marin County residents who are low income, elderly, blind or disabled. The event will include a buffet luncheon, awards ceremony, healthy cooking demonstration, and live entertainment. Dr. Larry Meredith, Director of Marin County Health & Human Services will deliver a welcome address and introduce the keynote speaker the Honorable Susan Adams, President of the Marin County Board of Supervisors. Following Supervisor Adams remarks she will award certificates of appreciation to the care providers.

"In-home care providers are the unsung heroes in our community who tirelessly give a helping hand to those in need. These caregivers are too frequently invisible to the broader community but give selflessly of their time, energy and wisdom to ensure that many who are frail, elderly, blind or disabled can remain comfortably in their home. The Department of Health & Human Services is pleased join with the IHSS Public Authority to recognize these unsung heroes and to celebrate their acts of kindness...they truly make Marin a much better community," said Dr. Larry Merideth, Director of Health and Human Services.

The goals of the event are threefold:

Education: This will encompass training on healthy meal preparation, an important tangible component in helping providers better serve their recipients.

Appreciation: Acknowledgment, recognition, and publicity for caregivers who traditionally go unrecognized.

Socialization: An attempt to form a supportive community of caregivers who can begin to come together on a regular basis to exchange resources and to share stories.

Additionally, there will be an emphasis on the local community and its resources, especially with regard to healthy food grown within the area. The site selected for the event is the new Marin Youth Center in downtown San Rafael. We will be utilizing the GenChefs, the youth group which caters meals for these types of community events, giving the event a multigenerational component.

"The Public Authority takes great pride in joining Adult Social Services of Health and Human Services in Marin County in taking time to recognize the great efforts of in-home care providers in the County," said John Stansbury, Executive Director of the Public Authority. "Our In-home care providers deserve our deepest thanks and respect."

The Provider Appreciation Gala is being held during the month of November, which is National Family Caregivers Month (NFC Month). Now in its 13th year, the annual NFC Month is a nationally recognized event that seeks to draw attention to the many challenges facing family caregivers, advocate for stronger public policy to address family care giving issues, and raise awareness about the community programs that support family

caregivers. NFC Month is a time to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of caregivers and advocate for the needs of more than 50 million in-home caregivers across the country.

About IHSS:

IHSS is a program which supports the elderly, as well as, disabled adults and children in receiving care in their homes, which is essential to their safety, health, and well-being. IHSS pays for individuals to receive both domestic and personal care as needed. Often times, the program is the difference between a person remaining in their own home as opposed to being placed in a more institutional type setting. Therefore, IHSS not only enhances the quality of people's lives but also saves the state substantial amounts of revenue annually, In Marin County alone, IHSS serves over 1300 individuals. Through the IHSS program, recipients can remain engaged in family and community life. For more information, visit www.co.marin.ca.us.

About the IHSS Public Authority of Marin

Since 2003, the IHSS Public Authority of Marin has managed care provider referral services and administered health benefits for the State of California's IHSS program. The Public Authority supports the IHSS program by recruiting, screening, training and referring qualified caregivers to IHSS recipients, as well as, by administering care provider benefits. Without this help, many people receiving IHSS would be forced to live in nursing homes. The Public Authority has a constituency of 2600 IHSS recipients and caregivers. Caregivers currently receive a wage of \$10.50 an hour and after working half time for 3 months, are eligible for health and dental benefits. For more information, visit www.pa-marin.org.

Mauricio Bertin an entertainer based in the Bay Area from Chile, will perform Latin style music, including an array as varied as Mariachi-Beatles.

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