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For Immediate Release

Golden Valley Health Centers (GVHC) Awards Alicia Dicochea with Lifetime Achievement Award.

Golden Valley Health Centers honored Alicia Dicochea for 45 years of activism and achievement during GVHC Foundation's "Making a Difference" Gala.

August 20th, 2022 – This year marks Golden Valley Health Centers 50th year anniversary, a golden milestone for any organization. During the GVHC Foundation's "Making a Difference" Gala, Alicia Dicochea was recognized for her 45 years of dedication to the mission of Golden Valley Health Centers.

"At 93 years of age, Alicia Dicochea has been a champion and pillar of the community all her life, exemplifying the power of giving back to others. Back in the 1960's she participated in a needs assessment in Merced County which showed that the primary community needs were daycare, affordable medical services, and affordable housing. Alicia spent the following decades advocating for change, lobbying for funds, and mobilizing communities into action." said GVHC's CEO Tony Weber during the event.

"She has lived a life filled with many ups and downs, hard work celebrations, and losses, like each of us. We all have stories and examples of weathering the harshest storms, rejoicing in life's miracles, and all the moments in between. But for Alicia, living through the storms fueled her desire to give back. To be the help and support that sometimes she was not given."

When asked why she cared so much about the mission of the Golden Valley Health Centers, Dicochea responded "I had lived the needs of the community. I had been through hardships myself. I didn't read it, I didn't hear about it. **I lived it.** And when you have lived hardship, you can feel compassion for others."

Over her 45 years of service, Alicia not only led planning efforts for the first Golden Valley Clinic but each of the [30] clinics thereafter until she retired. She advocated for farmworker, minorities, and the underserved and ensured that she gave a voice to the needs of her community.

Today, we recognize her critical contributions as a founding member and 45 years of service on the Board of Directors for the Golden Valley Health Centers. We also celebrate a woman who saw a need in her community

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and fought to be part of the solution. A woman, who despite great adversity, chose to exemplify the love of the human spirit to support and serve others.

The impact of her contributions spans generations. But the impact of her love, her selfless sacrifice, and her enduring fight for justice spans farther than we will ever know.

About Golden Valley Health Centers

As a Federally Qualified Health Center — an FQHC — we follow the Federal and the State of California regulations pertaining to the type and quality of health services provided to anyone, regardless of their ability to pay. GVHC has 44 clinical locations and serves over 145,000 patients a year in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced counties.

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(Attached: Photo of Alicia Dichochea and Family - and Photos of event.)

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