

## Mendonoma Health Alliance partners to celebrate National Rural Health Day

Mendonoma Health Alliance will join the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health and other state/national rural stakeholders in celebrating National Rural Health Day on Thursday, Nov. 15, 2018.

Events recognizing National Rural Health Day are being planned throughout the nation. MHA will celebrate by hosting an open house meet and greet event on Wednesday, Nov. 14, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the organization's new location, 38958 Cypress Way in Gualala, next door to North Gualala Water Company.

"The event is drop-in style so feel free to stop by during those hours to meet our staff, spend some time learning about MHA, view our new office space and enjoy delicious refreshments," said MHA Executive Director, Micheline White. "Mendonoma Health Alliance is proud to recognize the innovation, quality of care, and dedication of health professionals and volunteers in our community during National

Rural Health Day 2018."

National Rural Health Day was created as a way to showcase rural America, increase awareness of rural health-related issues, and promote the efforts of the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health, the State Office of Rural Health and others in addressing those issues. National Rural Health Day is an annual celebration held on the third Thursday of each November.

Approximately 62 million people – nearly one in five Americans – live in rural and frontier communities throughout the United States. These communities face unique healthcare needs. "Today more than ever, rural communities must tackle accessibility issues, a lack of healthcare providers, the needs of an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions, and larger percentages of un- and underinsured citizens," said NOSORH Director Teryl Eisinger. "Meanwhile, rural hospitals are threatened with declining reimbursement rates and disproportion-

ate funding levels that make it challenging to serve their residents."

State Offices of Rural Health play a key role in addressing those needs. All 50 states maintain a State Office of Rural Health, each of which shares a similar mission: to foster relationships, disseminate information and provide technical assistance that improves access to, and the quality of, health care for its rural citizens. In the past year alone, State Offices of Rural Health collectively provided technical assistance to more than 28,000 rural communities.

To learn more about MHA visit [mendonomahealth.org](http://mendonomahealth.org). For more information on MHA's open house celebration, call 707-412-3176.