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City of Palo Alto Launches linkAges Timebank with Palo Alto Medical Foundation

Service Exchange Program Lets Locals Learn, Give, Connect

Palo Alto, CA – May 4, 2015 – The City of Palo Alto is pleased to announce a new partnership with the Palo Alto Medical Foundation (PAMF) for a neighborhood service-exchange network. The linkAges TimeBank™ program provides an opportunity for residents to share and receive various community services from others in the network. Members “bank” their time helping others, enabling them to take advantage of services themselves.

The City of Palo Alto will be using the TimeBank to recruit “Ambassadors” for home utility efficiency and Zero Waste practices. Trained Ambassadors will be matched up with neighbors interested in learning about reducing waste, improving energy and water use efficiency through home surveys and direct installation of efficiency devices throughout the home. The goal is to help ‘green’ the Palo Alto community, while creating connections across all ages to build a strong social support network. Members learn new skills, share hobbies and interests.

In the TimeBank program, everyone can contribute their time and everyone’s time is valued equally. Participants earn hours by providing services and use those hours to receive services in return. Some of the common offers and requests include transportation, tech support, language translation, cooking, gardening, and home repair.

“The Ambassador effort is a low-cost, innovative way to improve energy and water efficiency,” says Utility Account Representative, Lacey Lutes. “We are excited to partner with PAMF to foster positive connections and help Palo Alto homeowners learn from each other about how to reduce consumption.”

According to Zero Waste Coordinator, Wendy Hediger, “The City of Palo Alto’s Zero Waste Group is excited to be partnering with PAMF on the linkAges TimeBank program. Zero Waste is an ambitious effort that is only successful with participation from the whole community. The linkAges TimeBank is a perfect partner since it creates a means for the community to come together, share ideas and resources, and help one another.”

Interested residents can learn about the program and sign up at various orientations hosted in the Palo Alto area. The orientation sessions provide details on how Timebank works and last about one hour. For a list of orientation dates, visit timebank.linkages.org.

About the City of Palo Alto Utilities (CPAU): The City of Palo Alto is the only municipality in California operating a full suite of utility services. Energy and water efficiency services help the City “green” up its resource supply portfolio, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and assist toward meeting climate protection goals. For more information, visit cityofpaloalto.org/utilities

About City of Palo Alto Zero Waste Program: In 2005, Palo Alto City Council adopted a goal of achieving Zero Waste (no waste burned or buried) by 2021. The Zero Waste program educates residents and businesses about appropriate recycling and composting practices to meet that goal. Visit cityofpaloalto.org/zerowaste for more information.

About the Palo Alto Medical Foundation: The Palo Alto Medical Foundation (PAMF) for Health Care, Research and Education, is part of the Sutter Health network of care. Founded in 1930, PAMF is a not-for-profit health care organization that is a pioneer in the multi-specialty group practice of medicine, health innovation and patient-centered care. PAMF’s more than 1,200 affiliated physicians and 5,400 employees serve nearly 850,000 patients at its medical centers and clinics in Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. For more information about the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, please visit pamf.org