Panhandle Health District

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Panhandle Health District

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Panhandle Health District Reflects on 50 Years of Home Health

HAYDEN, ID – This October, Panhandle Health District is celebrating 50 years of providing home health services to Idaho's five northern counties. With a long history in health care, Panhandle Home Health has grown to become the leading non-profit agency serving homebound seniors in the region. Since its inception in 1966, Panhandle Home Health providers have traveled over 2.6 million miles and reached over 10,000 homebound residents in need of skilled nursing, therapy or respite care.

"For 50 years we have successfully improved health care access for vulnerable populations by bringing the clinic to their homes," said Lora Whalen, Panhandle Health District Director. "In-home care is a key component in the continuum of quality health care in Idaho's five northern counties."

According to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, over 18% of Idaho's population will be seniors by year 2030; many of whom will be suffering from at least one chronic disease. Panhandle Home Health provides services in remote locations including Desmet, Clark Fork, Priest Lake and as far north as the Canadian Border in order to meet the health care needs of our communities. Panhandle Health District is the only agency to treat clients, no matter their circumstance, health status, location or ability to pay.

"Over the years, the need for in-home care has increased, especially in our more rural areas," said Home Health Manager, Rousal Mahakam. "For some of our clients, Panhandle Home Health is the only way they would get access to care and healing."

Trends also demonstrate an increasing demand for comprehensive care. Panhandle Home Health coordinates with other public health services, such as Senior Companions, Fit and Fall Proof, Diabetes Prevention Program and Women's Health Check cancer screening services. This allows patients to continue improving their health long after the in-home medical services are complete.

Mahakam continued, “Our goals go beyond providing quality access to in-home care. We strive to enhance the quality of life, well-being and independence of seniors and those suffering with chronic disease.”

You can find more information about Panhandle Home Health Services here.

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About Panhandle Health District:
Panhandle Health District is one of seven health districts in the state of Idaho. In 1970, the Idaho Legislature recognized the value a formal public health structure would provide Idaho residents. That year, the Legislature created the health districts to ensure that all Idahoans have access to local public health services. Panhandle Health District is locally controlled and governed. County commissioners from Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah and Shoshone counties appoint a Board of Health that governs the Health District’s policies based on the community’s unique needs.