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## **FRESNO COMPANY THAT PIONEERED LOW-INCOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS MARKS 40 YEARS OF HELPING UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES**

*Richard Heath & Associates Celebrates 40 years Helping Californians Gain Access to Life-Improving Programs*

**Fresno, CA, January 24, 2020** – Richard Heath & Associates, Inc. (RHA) isn't a common household name, but the Fresno-based company, that made history by pioneering some of California's first low-income energy efficiency programs, is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This week 40 years ago, Richard Heath and co-founder Dr. James O'Bannon, launched the company that would help millions of California families and business save money, protect our environment and make our communities a better place to live through its innovative programs.

RHA's first project was the development of a contractor workforce training center and curriculum for home energy efficiency retrofits to help utility customers save energy. This project was quickly followed by a landmark study, *The Heath Report*, that demonstrated that low-income households were not able to take advantage of utility energy efficiency programs due to a number of barriers to participation. The report would serve as a foundational element in the development of no-cost utility energy efficiency programs in California. RHA would become the original architects of public/private partnership that would bring together California's major utilities, community-based organizations and private contractors to carry out the weatherization of millions of low-income homes.

As RHA grew, it expanded services to raise awareness and enroll low-income households in programs beneficial to them including Healthy Families, Covered California, LifeLine and California Low-cost Auto Insurance. At the same time, RHA expanded its work in energy efficiency to serve a wide range of customers including small businesses, industrial and commercial businesses and schools.

Since then the company has developed and administered more than 50 innovative programs for utility customers, schools and businesses. It is a certified minority-owned business and with 200 employees and offices in Fresno, Chico, City of Industry and San Diego, RHA has been able to make an impact with these programs throughout the state.

### **Impact**

- Through the combined efforts of the company's employees, contractors, community partners and clients RHA has been able to:

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**PAGE 2: RICHARD HEATH & ASSOCIATES 40 YEARS OF HELPING LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES**

- Provide 2.3 million low-income households and 19,149 small businesses with energy and water efficiency upgrades.
- Help more than 10 million individuals and businesses conserve energy and water and provide access to programs that maximize their health, comfort and safety.
- Save 614,194 metric tons of CO2 from being released into the environment, the equivalent of taking 130,361 cars off the road for one year.
- Train over 10,000 contractor staff to do work in the emerging energy efficiency job market, improving their professional skill set and increasing their ability to serve the community.

“Our mission at RHA is to deliver programs that have a positive impact on lives; it’s at the core of everything we do here,” said RHA Chief Executive Officer, Cynthia Bruno Rafferty. “Our team is truly invested in helping the most vulnerable in our communities, whether it’s helping them lower their utility bills so they can put food on the table or making sure they have affordable health and auto insurance. By helping the most vulnerable it makes the entire community stronger and healthier.”

RHA leadership and staff plan to celebrate throughout the year by continuing to improve the lives of those they serve, fundraising to grant a wish for a critically-ill child through their non-profit partner Make-A-Wish, launching a new website and producing a video highlighting the company’s history of innovation and commitment to diversity and social responsibility. For more information on RHA, please visit [www.rhainc.com](http://www.rhainc.com).

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