



## CALIFORNIA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES  
TO END POVERTY

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FORMER CHD CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PASSES AWAY

Santa Rosa, CA (October 7, 2017) – California Human Development (CHD) and the anti-poverty movement lost another brave social justice soldier as Christopher Paige has passed away.

Christopher Paige served in a various leadership roles for CHD since 1975. He had only recently retired as the agency only third Chief Executive Officer in June. Chris joined CHD in 1975 as a Program Planner in the CETA 303 Program. In 1979 Chris became CHD's Chief of Operations overseeing program delivery for all CHD programs. Chris served as Deputy CEO under the organization's only two CEOs prior to being asked by the Board to step into the CEO role.

Chris was at the helm “graduated” from California Human Development with it serving over 15,000 clients in 31 Northern California counties in the five broad areas of employment and training, affordable housing, disability services and drug free living.

Chris has had a long-standing interest in justice for farmworkers dating back to the end of the Bracero Program and early job training efforts to assist farmworkers under the War on Poverty. Chris has been actively involved and providing leadership in planning and program development relating to disaster assistance, dislocated farmworkers, immigration reform, health care, and equity for farmworkers in California. He was instrumental in ushering the agency from a single focus entity to a nonprofit “umbrella organization” which provides services, advocacy for a multitude of individuals struggling in the grips of poverty in CHD's service area footprint and far beyond. Staff often heard Chris use the phrase, “no wrong door” which could mean many things, but chief among them was that regardless of where people find themselves, there is always an avenue of hope, possibility and opportunity. Chris continued to challenge staff and Board alike to act accordingly.

Chris has been recognized for his volunteer activities by the Volunteer Center of Sonoma County, in particular their Human Race fundraiser. Chris can be found at the end of the original and only centipede every year. Additionally, he was an active Board member of Sutter Care at Home - formerly Sutter VNA and Hospice, the Sutter VNA and Hospice Foundation and the Redwood Arts Council. He has been an active participant the Workforce Investment Boards of

Sonoma and San Joaquin Counties, and the North Central Counties Consortium. Chris was also recognized by the Central Valley Opportunity Center in 2005 with the Dolores Huerta Lifetime Achievement award.

He is a past Board member and past President of the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP) and is a member of their Farmworker Hall of Fame and just last year won their President's Award for exceptional contributions to improving the lives of migrant seasonal farmworkers.

Most recently, Sonoma County nonprofit, Listening for a Change will be honoring Chris with its Connie Coddling Humanist Award at an event this evening at the DeTurk Round Barn in Santa Rosa.

The CHD Family extends its thoughts and prayers to Chris's outstandingly supportive wife Bettina (Tina), daughter Maggie Blumenfeld, son Matthew Paige and grandchildren Caleb, Melia and Devon.

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