



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 6, 2018
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***Hospital Award Honors City of Yakima Water Division
for Promoting Public Health with Clean Water***

Diane Patterson, Virginia Mason Memorial's chief operating officer, presented an award on behalf of the hospital in "grateful appreciation" to the city of Yakima Public Works Department Water Division at the Yakima City Council meeting on Tuesday, June 5.

"We are very blessed as a community to have a Water Division with employees who are so dedicated to providing high-quality fluoridated water that helps improve the oral health and overall health of every resident," Patterson said. In addition to her position at the hospital, Patterson is a board member of Arcora Foundation, the foundation of non-profit Delta Dental of Washington.

The presentation was a follow-up to a tour by City Council and others of Yakima's Naches Water Treatment Plant in conjunction with National Drinking Water Week May 6-12.

Yakima City Council Member Carmen Mendez said the hard work of Water Division employees ensures local residents can get high quality water every time they turn on their faucets.

"It's important we don't take for granted that Water Division employees provide a vital service in making sure healthy water is available 24 hours a day, every day of the year," said Mendez, who is also a member of the Arcora Foundation Board. "I want to thank Virginia Mason Memorial for taking the time to publicly recognize their work."

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) has celebrated National Drinking Water Week for more than 40 years to recognize and help spread the word about the essential role clean, quality drinking water plays in people's daily lives.

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About Virginia Mason Memorial

Virginia Mason Memorial, part of the Virginia Mason Health System, is a 226-bed, acute-care, nonprofit, community hospital serving Central Washington's Yakima Valley. Virginia Mason Memorial includes primary care practices and specialty care services including high-quality cardiac care; cancer care through North Star Lodge; breast health at `Ohana Mammography Center; acute hospice and respite care at

Cottage in the Meadow, winner of the Circle of Life Award from the American Hospital Association for innovative palliative and end-of-life care; pain management at Water's Edge; an advanced NICU unit, the only place in Central Washington that offers specialty care for at-risk infants; advanced services for children with special health care needs at Children's Village; and The Memorial Foundation, a separate 501c(3) organization that raises funds for innovative health care programs in the Yakima Valley (www.memfound.org). As the area's largest private employer, Virginia Mason Memorial is dedicated to improving the physical, social and economic health of the region.

About Arcora Foundation

[Arcora Foundation](http://ArcoraFoundation.org) (formerly Washington Dental Service Foundation) is a nonprofit dedicated to improving health equity by partnering with communities to prevent oral disease, transform health systems, and increase access to care. Funded by nonprofit [Delta Dental of Washington](http://DeltaDentalofWashington.com), the state's largest dental benefits company, the Foundations work to ensure that all people enjoy good oral and overall health, with no one left behind. For more information, visit ArcoraFoundation.org

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