

PRESS RELEASE



**Yakima Valley
Farm Workers Clinic**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yakima County Court House Recognized for Supporting Breastfeeding in the Workplace *Winner of the 2022 Employer Excellence in Breastfeeding Support Award*

YAKIMA – Breastmilk and breastfeeding have many proven health benefits for babies and mothers alike. Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic recognizes local employers who go the extra mile to support mothers in their breastfeeding journeys.

Employees at the Office of Joseph Brusic, Yakima County Court House, nominated the local employer for the 2022 Employer Excellence in Breastfeeding Support award for excellence in providing support for mothers returning to work and breastfeeding.

Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, in partnership with Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences recruited nominations, reviewed submissions and ultimately presented the Office of Joseph Brusic, Yakima County Court House with the 2022 Employer Excellence in Breastfeeding Support Award during Tuesday's August 23rd County Commission Board meeting.

Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic WIC Dietitian Gabrielle Frank says, "Employers like the Office of Joseph Brusic, Yakima County Court House are setting a model example of supporting families needs and deserve to continue to provide breastmilk for their babies once they return to work. It is an honor to acknowledge these efforts through awarding the Yakima County Court House with this award. I look forward to other area employers learning about this important topic and finding ways to innovate and help their employees and children be healthier."

"Women who want to continue breastfeeding after they return to work face major obstacles," says Frank. "However, employees at Office of Joseph Brusic, Yakima County Court House are supported with a clean and private space to express their breastmilk along with appropriate storage and hygiene facilities. These simple accommodations go a long way in helping employees feel supported with their breastfeeding efforts. These efforts paired with the state and federal lactation laws around breaks to express breastmilk for 2 years following the birth of a child are helping many families meet and exceed their breastfeeding goals."

Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic is one of the Pacific Northwest's largest community health centers, providing medical, dental, behavioral health and social services to more than 191,000 people a year. With more than 60 unique service locations across Oregon (Clatsop, Marion, Multnomah, Umatilla, and Yamhill counties) and Washington (Benton, Franklin, Spokane, Whitman, Walla Walla, and Yakima counties), we deliver affordable, comprehensive primary care for underserved populations in our communities. We also extend our network of care through our mobile health units and virtual visit technology, bringing essential care to our more remote patients. Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic employs over 1,600 staff in addition to our medical and dental residents, administrative fellows, students, and volunteers. All of whom are dedicated to bringing quality care to those in our communities who need it most. Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization recognized by HRSA, The Joint Commission, and The National Committee for Quality Assurance for our accomplishments in community health care. For more information, visit yfwc.com/press. Newsletter sign up at yfwc.com/newsletter.