

**Summary:**

The Rotary Club of Petaluma Sunrise has partnered with The Petaluma People Services Center to host an annual Mother's Day Tea for moms in our community who do not have local family available to help celebrate the day. This event is put on in the style of a traditional English Tea. Volunteers set up and decorate the hall, prepare the food and tea, and then provide table service during the event. We provide a special day for these women to be waited on, to be appreciated, and to enjoy the company of others. We even have volunteers who provide transportation to and from the event for those that need it.

The women who participate provide great feedback on how much the event means to them. Perhaps the greatest reward goes to our volunteers. Gratitude from those they serve fills their hearts and helps them to appreciate their own families and their own mothers even more.

**The Need:**

Mother's Day is a day for families to get together to express their love to their moms. To most of us this means getting together for a nice brunch, or perhaps a leisurely afternoon lunch. This is a large family event for some of us, and a smaller, more intimate gathering for others. We bring flowers to our mothers. We tell them how much their love and support has meant to us and we do what we can to give them one special day a year in honor of the sacrifices they have made for us. So, imagine what it is like for those moms in our community who, for whatever reason are now alone. Maybe their children are grown and living far away without the means to come visit. Maybe there are other more personal reasons that they are alone on Mother's Day. For older mothers, who are now living alone without local family, this can be a particularly difficult day.

**The Solution:**

The Rotary Club of Petaluma Sunrise has partnered with The Petaluma People Services Center to host an annual Mother's Day Tea for moms in our community who do not have local family available to help celebrate the day. This event is put on in the style of a traditional English Tea. Volunteers set up and decorate the hall, prepare the food and tea, and then provide table service during the event. We provide a special day for these women to be waited on, to be appreciated, and to enjoy the company of others. We even have volunteers who provide transportation to and from the event for those that need it.

**The Results:**

With the help of approximately 20 volunteers from the Rotary Club of Petaluma Sunrise and Petaluma People Services Center we have catered the Mothers' Day Tea annually for several years. Each year this event hosts between 50 and 75 mothers who would otherwise be alone on their special day. The women who participate provide great feedback on how much the event means to them. Perhaps the greatest reward goes to our volunteers. Gratitude from those they serve fills their hearts and helps them to appreciate their own families and their own mothers even more.

**A Special event in 2020:**

Due to the Corona virus pandemic we were unable to host our normal event in 2020. So, our volunteers worked together to deliver a virtual "Mothers' Day Tea" to moms at their homes. Following guidelines for safe handling and preparing of food The Petaluma People Services Center and members of The Rotary Club of Petaluma Sunrise put together and delivered a virtual Mothers' Day Tea. A tea cup and saucer, along with tea and various goodies were packaged together and delivered to our moms so that they would not miss out entirely on their special day!

**More about Petaluma People Services Center:**

Petaluma People Services Center is dedicated to improving the social and economical health of our community by providing programs that strengthen the dignity and self-sufficiency of the individual.

[www.petalumapeople.org](http://www.petalumapeople.org) 707-765-8488.