



PRESS RELEASE

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Documentary Screening and Q&A with Movie’s Director this Thursday, December 14

The Provident Health Foundation and collaborating sponsors are hosting a screening of *Join or Die* this Thursday, December 14, 2023 at Theatre on the Bay. *Join or Die* is a documentary about how joining a club will decrease your risk of premature death, improve our democracy, decrease crime, and more. The film’s director, Pete Davis, will be coming in from Virginia to conduct a Q&A with audience members.

“I saw this film at the Milwaukee Film Festival earlier this year and they literally had to clear people out of the theatre to show the next movie because everyone couldn’t stop talking about it,” Provident Health Foundation Executive Director John Hofer said. “I want to bring that conversation here, to get people talking about how to improve our social connectedness and belonging so our health and community benefit.”

Join or Die is a documentary based on the book *Bowling Alone* written by Robert Putnam and published in 2000. Over 20 years later, his cry about the dangers of isolation and the disintegration of social cohesion have proven true. From the documentary – from 1970 – 1990 there was a 40% decline in the number of Americans who attended even one public meeting on town or school affairs in the previous year. There was a 50% decline in the number of times Americans attended a club meeting from 1970-1990. And there was a 60% decline in the amount of picnics Americans held annually. Putnam’s book gives us the tools to improve our health, our democracy and

“Putnam’s book and *Join or Die* gives us the tools to improve our health, our democracy, and our social cohesion.” Aurora Medical Center – Bay Area President Ed Harding said. “Our community has the potential to implement the solutions in *Join or Die* and see a direct and positive impact within a relatively short timeframe. We’re big enough to effectively carry out the solution and small enough to see its effect quickly.”

Aurora Medical Center – Bay Area joins the Provident Health Foundation, the Stephenson National Bank & Trust, the M&M Area Community Foundation, the Marinette Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce, and the WAVE Young Professionals in sponsoring this movie screening and Director’s Q&A.



The Director, Pete Davis, is a writer and civic advocate — and a former student of Robert Putnam's. He is the author of *Dedicated: The Case for Commitment in An Age of Infinite Browsing*. He will be at the film screening and will answer questions from the audience immediately following the movie.

Those interested in attending can reserve their tickets by emailing their name, title, and organization (if applicable) to the Provident Health Foundation at contact@providenthealth.org.

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