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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 9, 2009

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'CARING COMMUNITY' GRANTS AWARDED

BELMONT, July 7, 2009 — Community, nonprofit and political leaders gathered with Sequoia Healthcare District representatives tonight to acknowledge and award the “caring community” for its service to children, adults and seniors and to the uninsured and underinsured in central and southern San Mateo County.

More than 100 representatives of the healthcare and public service sectors celebrated a record 27 nonprofit recipients of Sequoia Healthcare District’s ninth annual cycle of Community Grant Awards, which this year totaled a record \$1.44 million. Even at that level, the district had to turn away an additional 14 grant applicants and funded less than two-thirds of amounts requested for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Community Grants are a significant portion of the district’s return of tax proceeds to cities and communities in the district; all told, Sequoia Healthcare District returns more than 100 percent of public monies to the community every year. It is able to exceed 100 percent because of a financing arrangement with Catholic Healthcare West, which operates Sequoia Hospital, and by earnings on its reserve.

This was a particularly poignant event in light of current financial circumstances locally and globally, host and Sequoia Healthcare District Board of Directors President Don Horsley said.

“Because of uncertainties in the national, state and local economies, the district broadened our outreach this year to help organizations that provide assistance to persons and families under economic distress,” he said. “We received an unprecedented number of grant applications, which validated our assumption about the local economic fallout. We are gratified that so many community organizations stepped up their efforts to help those in need.”

Horsley emphasized the fact that the district “increased our budget for the Community Grant Program by more than \$200,000 in an attempt to meet as many needs as possible.”

Comments by James Bramlett, chairman of the board of directors of the nonprofit St. Anthony’s Padua Dining Room in Menlo Park, provided details that illuminated the day-to-day realities of “economic distress.” St. Anthony’s traditionally has

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July 9, 2009

operated primarily through donations and direct contributions, he said, but the demand for its daily, free hot meals this year has far exceeded the charity's budget, which prompted the group's application for Community Grant funds.

St. Anthony's was selected to keynote the concerns of all 27 recipients.

The \$100,000 award from the Sequoia Healthcare District will enable St. Anthony's — the only provider of daily hot meals to all comers in the county — to serve an additional 20,000 meals in the coming year. Without it, thousands of St. Anthony's clients would simply have to find another way to feed themselves on a day-to-day basis.

Presenter Mark Church, President of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, pointed out that "the nonprofit organizations in our county have always been an important and valued partner in providing critical services to countless people.

"And that includes people of all socio-economic classes," he added, "but particularly those facing difficult financial circumstances...the number of people who are experiencing some sort of financial crisis has increased dramatically over the last year. And government, including San Mateo County, finds itself with fewer resources to help the growing population of those in need."

The context of his remarks reflected news announced earlier that declines in property taxes collected county-wide have opened an unexpected \$41 million shortfall in county budget revenues. The county is tapping reserves to maintain reduced services.

The generosity of Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont, which donated Ralston Hall on campus for the event, lent a special atmosphere to the proceedings.

Community grants are the product of a lengthy, thorough application and review process.

Horsley singled out the community members who assisted the district in reviewing and recommending Caring Community awards to the district board. They were Pat Brown, of Redwood City 2020; Tom Cronin, Ruth West-Gorin, LCSW and Ann Wilkerson, RN. They and a board subcommittee composed of Director Horsley and board Vice-president Kim Griffin, RN, jointly evaluated applicants and brought the final slate to the board, which approved the grants package in May.

This year's program priorities were: Healthy, Active and Engaged Youth; Healthy, Active and Engaged Older Adults and Staying Healthy in Tough Economic Times.

In approving the final list of grantees, board evaluators observed that it was difficult to tease out those meeting the "Staying Healthy in Tough Economic Times" criterion from those that did not, because almost all applicants had tales to tell and data to offer about tough times and the impact they are having on both the number of individuals served and funds available.

Caring Community grant awardees for 2009-2010 are:

Adapted Aquatic Therapy Program. Agency: Abilities United

Funding to support aquatic therapy for low income clients, mostly children under the age of 12, with developmental disabilities. Clients served by this program have orthopedic or other developmental and physical disabilities due to cerebral palsy, autism, mental retardation or arthritis. \$10,000

-more-



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July 9, 2009

Embracing Our Community. Agency: Advocates for Children (AFC)

Support effective and culturally sensitive services to African American and Hispanic/Latino children in foster care through Advocates. The majority of children served live in the District. \$100,000

Healthy Gardens Healthy People. Agency: Collective Roots

Support the Belle Haven Community Garden project to provide fresh foods and a supportive environment for multi-age, multi-cultural community. \$20,000

Crisis Intervention Services. Agency: Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA)

Meet basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing for domestic violence victims and their children. CORA serves approximately 1,300 residents of the District. \$35,000

Youth Intervention Program. Agency: El Centro de Libertad

Support a culturally competent school-based Prevention Education Program for adolescents to help individuals and families suffering from substance abuse and related issues to achieve and maintain health, strength and recovery. The Youth Intervention Program provides prevention services and treatment for at-risk adolescents. \$30,000

Wellness Initiative. Agency: Family Service Agency

Expanded nutrition and fitness opportunities and health services to improve the health and well-being of low-income older adults at Fair Oaks Intergenerational Center. \$50,000

Healthcare at the InnVision Peninsula Programs. Agency: InnVision the Way Home

Shelter and supportive services to homeless, serving approximately 1,000 residents of the District. \$50,000

Healthy Living for Seniors Program. Agency: Kainos Home and Training Center

Health and fitness for adults with developmental disabilities who reside within the District. \$31,000

Wellness Program for Extremely Low-Income, Formerly Homeless Adults with Mental Illness. Agency: Mental Health Association of San Mateo County

Support a Public Health Nurse at Belmont Apartments to provide medical case management, medical consultation, and medical liaison services, and to improve access to and use of primary care medical services. \$20,000

Transition Services for Older Adults. Agency: Mission Hospice

Case management and volunteer support for older adults with a life-limiting illness and limited access to healthcare. All clients served with this funding will be residents of the District. \$25,000

Ombudsman Services. Agency: Ombudsman Services of San Mateo County

Advocacy for 8,243 residents in long-term care (nursing home) facilities in San Mateo County. Ombudsman volunteers are trained and state-certified to monitor long-term care facilities. Historically, they investigate around 500 complaints in the District during a year. \$50,000

Parca Adult Fitness. Agency: Parca

Regular adult fitness classes for Parca's clients with developmental disabilities. The fitness classes will be held at facilities located in the District and open to other Parca clients who live in the District. \$28,000

South San Mateo County Meals on Wheels. Agency: Peninsula Volunteers

Hot, nutritious meals to qualified homebound older adults living in the District. \$80,000



'CARING COMMUNITY' GRANTS AWARDED

July 9, 2009

-more-

Multi-Cultural Community Health Connections Project. Agency: Ravenswood Family Health Center

Interdisciplinary team support of adults with diabetes and hypertension using outreach, screening, health education, case management, and training to promote behavior and lifestyle changes. \$50,000

School Nursing Services. Agency: Redwood City School District

Maintain school nursing services in Redwood City School District and add instruction on obesity prevention education for children and parents in targeted schools. \$100,000

After-School Student Fitness Program. Agency: Riekes Center for Human Enrichment

Athletic fitness, peer mentoring and nutritional counseling for at-risk, low income students from the District and their families. \$50,000

Feeding the Needy. Agency: St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

Hot, nutritious meals and related services for people of the District by the largest free dining and food service agency in San Mateo County, and the only agency offering free, hot meals daily within the District. \$100,000

Pathways to Health. Agency: Service League of San Mateo County

A program to improve women's health through nutrition, activity, and health education while undergoing drug or alcohol treatment at Hope House. The grant will directly and primarily serve residents. \$25,000

Credentialed School Nurse. Agency: Sequoia Union High School District

Funding to provide one FTE school nurse to increase the professional health care staff at the Sequoia Union High School District's five school sites. \$100,000

Fitness Leadership Experience Program (FLEX). Agency: Sequoia YMCA

Improve health of underserved teens ages 14-17 through increased levels of physical activity, increased knowledge of nutrition and healthy lifestyles, and increased self-esteem and leadership skills; meet community needs not met by schools, commercial programs or sports leagues. \$50,000

Program for Children and Families. Agency: Shelter Network

Address primary health, dental health, mental health, and behavioral health care needs of homeless children and their families; meet basic needs by providing safe living conditions, nutritious meals, quality childcare, wellness education and connections to essential health services. \$100,000

SAL Academicos Futbol Club. Agency: Sheriff's Activities League

Support a year round soccer academy for youth in the unincorporated North Fair Oaks neighborhood, providing physical activity, skill development, leadership opportunities and a supportive environment for elementary school youth who would not otherwise be able to participate. \$25,000

Life Skills Program. Agency: Training and Health Education Center for Youth

Culturally relevant, youth appropriate health education and youth development activities for low income, ethnically diverse adolescents at Sequoia High School. \$75,000

Tracey's Place of Hope. Agency: Women's Recovery Association

Health, fitness and nutrition activities for teenage girls in crisis at Tracey's Place of Hope, a residential program for adolescent girls with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders in San Mateo County. \$30,000



'CARING COMMUNITY' GRANTS AWARDED

July 9, 2009

-more-

The Children's Place Program. Agency: Youth and Family Enrichment Services

School-based alcohol and drug prevention, education and counseling services for at-risk children in Redwood City and unincorporated North Fair Oaks. The Children's Place Program provides children of addictive parents with the tools they need for healthy development and to break out of the cycle of family addiction. \$40,000

Disaster Preparedness. Agency: Thrive, the Alliance for Nonprofits

Collaboration of nonprofits, faith-based organizations and government agencies committed to working together to respond effectively to disaster for the most vulnerable populations in the county. \$100,000

Year of Active Youth. Agency: JobTrain

Creation of a new forum to recognize the positive contributions of youth, particularly at-risk youth. \$66,650

Sequoia Healthcare District supports community-based health care initiatives in Redwood City, Atherton, Belmont, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, San Carlos, Woodside and parts of San Mateo and Foster City from Skyline to the bay. It also funds Samaritan House and North Fair Oaks free clinics, a nursing education program at Cañada College, placement of automated external defibrillators in public places and the activities of the Sequoia Hospital Foundation.

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