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May 11, 2009

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SEQUOIA HEALTHCARE DISTRICT TO APPROVE GRANTS TO PENINSULA NONPROFITS 25 recommended of more than 30 applicants

REDWOOD CITY — Sequoia Healthcare District directors next week will adopt a new 2009-2010 community grants program as it considers a slate of 25 nonprofits recommended for total grants in excess of \$1.2 million.

This is the ninth cycle of community grants for Sequoia Healthcare District and the recommended slate of recipients is the largest ever.

Many recommended grantees are new to the list of programs, including aquatic therapy for low-income clients — mostly children under the age of 12 — with developmental disabilities, support for the Belle Haven area's community garden project that helps provide fresh foods and nutrition education to its diverse population, funding for Kainos' health and fitness program for the area's aging population of adults with developmental and physical disabilities, a targeted anti-obesity program for kindergarteners through first-graders in the Redwood City School District and several others.

For the first time in the nine-year history of the grants program the board's Community Grants Subcommittee sought applicants under the category "Staying Healthy in Tough Economic Times" and received a strong response.

Recommended nonprofit grantees to be considered at the board's May 13 meeting represent diverse service providers with priorities ranging from nursing education and high school nursing programs to health and fitness for Sequoia High School students to shelter and support programs for homeless children and their families.

They include Advocates for Children, Collective Roots' "Healthy Gardens Healthy People" project, crisis intervention services offered by Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA), Kainos' "Healthy Living for Seniors," PARCA Adult Fitness and South County Meals on Wheels.

The board may modify or add to the subcommittee's recommendations at its meeting Wednesday, May 13 at 4:30 p.m. in new offices at 525 Veterans Blvd.

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