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CONTACT: Doris J. Flander

Chief Executive Officer
The HealthCare Foundation for Orange County
714-245-1650

Local Foundation Grants Funds in Support of Breast and Cervical Cancer Education and Outreach

September 26, 2005 – The HealthCare Foundation for Orange County has targeted their “Gold Fund” awards to reach low-income women in Orange County at highest risk of developing breast and cervical cancer. Through innovative use of collaborative community-based efforts, the aim is to reach women who may not be aware of the importance of annual screening for cancer. Due to the variation of screening, diagnostic, and treatment services available to the un- or underinsured, the diseases take a disproportionate toll on women from low-income and racial- and ethnic- minority groups. Breast and cervical cancer is most prevalent among Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander and African-American women. While the County Health Care Agency has received augmented funding for screening and treatment of breast and cervical cancer, some populations at risk still are unaware that help is available.

Community Care Health Centers has been awarded \$17,641 in support of “Breast Care Early Detection and Care Program”. This project will target underserved and low-income women under the age of 40 years, who are proven to be at the highest risk of breast-cancer. Funds will support access to breast cancer screening, appropriate diagnostics and treatments, comprehensive case management, follow-up care for uninsured cancer survivors, and prevention education and outreach.

Orange County Asian Pacific Islander Community Alliance, Inc. has been awarded \$7,359 and will target low-income women of Vietnamese descent in Orange County. Funding will support small group education workshops, outreach to church and faith-based organizations as well as project collaboration with the County and other nonprofit organizations.

These projects represent the most recent round of funding, under the Foundation's "Gold Fund for Health" grant program, which provides grants directly to community-based organizations assisting low-income families in Orange County. To learn more about funding opportunities offered by The HealthCare Foundation for Orange County, please visit: www.hfoc.org.