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Local Foundation's Grants Target High Risk Populations for  
Cervical Cancer Education and Outreach

**November 26, 2003** – The HealthCare Foundation for Orange County has targeted their “Gold Fund” awards to reach Hispanic and Vietnamese American women in Orange County at highest risk of developing cervical cancer. Through innovative use of health outreach workers and electronic media, the aim is to reach women who may not be aware of the importance of annual screening for cancer. Although the Papanicolaou (Pap) test has saved thousands of lives since it was first introduced in the 1950’s, the health of the nation’s women is still jeopardized by inadequate awareness and access to health care. As a result, the disease takes a disproportionate toll on women from low-income and racial- and ethnic- minority groups. Cervical cancer is most common among Hispanic and Asian women in California.

While the County Health Care Agency has received augmented funding for screening and treatment of cervical and breast cancer, some populations at risk still are unaware that help is available.

**Laguna Beach Community Clinic** has been awarded \$10,000 in support of “Women Helping Women”. This project will provide linguistically appropriate and culturally sensitive patient education through the use of a bilingual bicultural patient educator (promotora) at the Clinic and in the community through the mobile van and women’s events.

**Nhan Hoa Comprehensive Health Care Clinic, Inc.** has been awarded \$15,000 in support of a video development project aimed at improving cervical cancer screening rates among low-income Vietnamese American women. The Clinic will collect information from Vietnamese women at the clinic and elsewhere about why they have or have not had regular Pap tests. These concerns will be coupled with information regarding cervical cancer risk and screening, to develop a script for a brief video targeted to Vietnamese-speaking women. The video will be aired at least 10 times on local Vietnamese-language television and made available for use elsewhere.

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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. Organizations apply on-line through [www.GrantPartners.net](http://www.GrantPartners.net), a shared grant application website, developed in concert with the Health Funders Partnership of Orange County.