



Press Release

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United Way Gives \$10,000 Emergency Grant to Coastside RotaCare Clinic

MOSS BEACH, Calif., May 12, 2009 – United Way of the Bay Area and San Mateo County Supervisor Rich Gordon are pleased to announce that United Way has awarded a \$10,000 emergency grant to the Coastside RotaCare Clinic. The grant, part of United Way’s “Road to Recovery” campaign, will enable RotaCare to expand clinic hours and purchase supplies to serve additional patients in Half Moon Bay, where the Coastside Family Medical Center abruptly closed in early March.

Supervisor Gordon joined United Way to deliver the \$10,000 check today. The Supervisor has taken an active role in the community response to the crisis, including organizing several community meetings since the Coastside Family Medical Center closed. United Way will continue to work with the Supervisor and other community leaders to explore long-term solutions for health care access along the coast.

“When the Coastside Family Medical Center closed, the 8,000 families and individuals that it served – including many seniors, farm workers, and fishermen – had few remaining options for affordable, accessible medical care,” said United Way of the Bay Area CEO Anne Wilson. “Our grant to RotaCare, the remaining local provider for the uninsured, will enable the clinic to treat more patients in the short term, until a long-term solution is created.”

Supervisor Gordon said, “United Way is to be commended for their rapid response to the needs of coastsiders. Their grant to the Coastside RotaCare Clinic will provide the bridge from the previous health-care delivery system to a future system that is still evolving. United Way funds will support the most vulnerable coastside residents and provide the time necessary to develop new models of care.”

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Cheryl Sinclair, Manager of Community Outreach for Seton *Coastside* and Coastside RotaCare Administrative Council Member, said, “We on the coast are fortunate that the Coastside RotaCare Clinic has been here for over sixteen years to serve the uninsured. Ideally we wish everyone had medical insurance so we could be out of business. The United Way grant is very much appreciated as it will certainly help the Coastside RotaCare Clinic continue our services to those in need.” Sinclair noted the clinic is a partnership of Seton Medical Center, Seton *Coastside*, the San Mateo County Public Health Department, and the Half Moon Bay Rotary Club.

United Way created the Road to Recovery Campaign in November as a special appeal to donors to ensure Bay Area nonprofits can continue to serve low-wage, working families, who have been hardest hit by the economic crisis. United Way is actively working to quickly identify and close funding and service gaps caused by the recession. In addition to the RotaCare grant, United Way has awarded more than \$1 million in grants this year to Bay Area nonprofits that are providing essential services to residents impacted by the recession. United Way has also distributed \$400,000 this year in federal Emergency Food and Shelter funds to San Mateo County agencies that provide food, shelter and rental assistance. Donations to United Way’s Road to Recovery can be made by calling 2-1-1 or online at www.uwba.org. Nonprofit agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter funds should contact Laura Escobar at 415-808-4380.

About United Way of the Bay Area

United Way of the Bay Area is a nonprofit organization that creates pathways to prosperity for the most vulnerable in our community by focusing on the essential building blocks of education, income and health. We help children achieve their potential, promote financial stability for low-wage adults and strive to improve health for everyone. Each year, we raise more than \$40 million to support community organizations. United Way also convenes partners across sectors, advocates for policy change, runs community programs and educates residents about the issues most vital to a resilient community. Founded in 1922, United Way of the Bay Area serves Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo and Solano Counties. For more information, visit www.uwba.org.

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