



FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE
February 12, 2009

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Kaiser Foundation Hospital Awards Grant to HARC

Funding to Assist In Local Non-profit's Follow-up to 2007 Groundbreaking Research Study

(PALM DESERT, CA) – Impressed by the breadth and depth of its health-related data for Eastern Riverside County's population, the Kaiser Foundation Hospital of Southern California has donated \$20,000 to the Health Assessment Resource Center (HARC) in Palm Desert. The grant maker earmarked the funds to aid HARC in developing resources and tools intended to increase community use of its data and customized health research services.

HARC management plans to utilize the Kaiser gift for a variety of initiatives, including its 2010 triennial survey of regional healthcare needs. Data Collection calls, which began this month, will identify the region's most pressing health challenges and issues in an effort to help communities, medical providers, and related professionals to more effectively shape their health decisions. The sweeping program stretches along the I-10 corridor from Calimesa to Blythe.

Kaiser funding will help HARC's writers and project consultants translate data from the comprehensive study, and publish an Executive Summary, branded as the *Community Health Monitor*. The Executive Summary will highlight key categorical findings and statistical snapshots, which can be used by community-based organizations and public agencies in the Coachella Valley to support initiatives such as program development, funding, organizational learning, and advocacy.

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“We are so grateful and pleased to have the support of the Kaiser Foundation Hospital of Southern California,” said HARC Board President, Glen Grayman, MD. “Their commitment to improving public health will provide HARC with the resources necessary to reach more people and, ultimately, help the health and social well being of all individuals across the region.”

In making the contribution, the Kaiser Foundation Hospital joins a host of other major funders and foundations in supporting HARC. Contributors include: California Wellness Foundation, California Endowment, Desert Healthcare District, Desert Regional Medical Center, Eisenhower Medical Center, JFK Memorial Hospital, Regional Access Project, First Five Riverside, The Community Foundation Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, as well as the office of Riverside County Supervisor John Benoit.

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About HARC

Formed in 2006 by a consortium of more than 30 public and private healthcare agencies, the Health Assessment Resource Center (HARC) conducts a confidential community health status assessment in eastern Riverside County every 3 years to identify major health and quality of life issues. The nonprofit 501(c)3 organization is funded in part by contributions from community partners, as well as entities who contract with the agency for customized public health research. More information can be obtained by calling HARC at (760) 404-1945, or visiting the organization’s website at www.harcddata.org.

About Kaiser Permanente and The Kaiser Foundation Hospital

The Kaiser Foundation Hospital is one of three distinct groups that make up the Kaiser Permanente organization. Kaiser Permanente is an integrated managed care organization founded in 1945. It is currently based in Oakland, California. Kaiser Permanente is a consortium of three distinct groups of entities: the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and its regional operating subsidiaries, Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, and the autonomous Permanente Medical Groups. As of 2006, Kaiser Permanente operates in nine states and the District of Columbia, and is the largest managed care organization in the United States. For more information about Kaiser Permanente or The Kaiser Foundation Hospital, please visit www.kp.org.