



Strengthening the Safety Net of Specialty Care

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Medical Volunteers Team Up to Provide Surgery to Uninsured Patients

IRVINE, CA (November 3, 2007) – Nine uninsured patients will receive donated outpatient surgeries this Saturday through a partnership between St. Jude Medical Center and Access OC, a nonprofit network of medical volunteers, hospitals and community clinics to provide specialty care services to the uninsured.

The surgeries are all medically necessary procedures that will dramatically impact the patient's ability to work or care for their family. Among the procedures to be performed are hernia repairs, cyst removals, and tendon repair. In many cases, these patients have been unable to work due to their medical conditions. Providing the surgery will put them back to work and allow them to provide for their families.

St. Jude Medical Center's outpatient surgical center in Fullerton has signed on to collaborate with Access OC. More than 80 St. Jude volunteers – including surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses and other staff – will donate their time Saturday morning.

“Community clinics provide excellent primary care for patients every day, but when confronted with more complicated ailments, clinic providers have nowhere to seek coordinated specialty care,” said Access OC Executive Director Linda Haghi. “These patients being treated today may have otherwise gone months or years before receiving care, and then ending up in emergency rooms with a much more severe illness. Thanks to our volunteers, we are able to help these people get back to work and out of pain.”

“I went into medicine to help people heal,” said Dr. Stewardson, a St. Jude affiliated physician volunteering for the program. “Specialists typically have had to travel to South America or Asia to contribute their skills in a coordinated way. Now Access OC allows me to help right here close to home.”

For more information about Access OC's programs, please contact Daniela Conde, Program Coordinator at 949.553.1012.