



For Immediate Release
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Unique Partnership Leads to July 16 Reopening of Oak Park Clinic

In a rare exception to the ailing economic climate, local nonprofit agency, The Effort, Inc. – in association with Kaiser Permanente; Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento; the County of Sacramento; and Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society – will officially reopen a shuttered neighborhood medical clinic as The Effort Oak Park Community Health Center on Thursday, July 16, at 11 a.m. at 3415 Martin Luther King Blvd.

The Oak Park clinic closed in December 2008, a victim of the economy and the county's budget woes. With the unique public-private partnership, the reopened medical clinic will offer affordable prenatal, pediatric, family practice, mental health and dental services to the underserved population of the Oak Park neighborhood.

"The board and staff of The Effort are eager to reopen a vital center of community health in Oak Park," said Robert Caulk, CEO of The Effort. "We deeply appreciate the support of our partners in this collaboration, and we will do our best to meet or exceed the quality of service provided by county staff over the years."

This unique collaboration resulted from generous donations by Kaiser Permanente (\$200,000) and Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento (\$176,000). The reopening of the clinic is also due in large part to an agreement with Sacramento County to lease the building for \$1 per year.

"Out of challenging situations often come innovative solutions. Budget realities forced the closure of the Oak Park Clinic, but through a collaborative venture, residents in this underserved community will receive quality health care with little impact on the County's bottom line," said Susan Peters, Chair of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors.

In addition, physicians from the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society will provide volunteer hours to treat patients at the clinic.

The Effort has a proven track record of providing health care and is fully accredited as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). The clinic will receive long-term funding to sustain the operation of the clinic through a FQHC 330 Grant that was facilitated by Congresswoman Doris Matsui.

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