



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

DATE: August 6, 2009

***Sequoia Healthcare District Board Awards Major Funding
to Ravenswood Family Health Center's Belle Haven Clinic***

The Sequoia Healthcare District Board of Directors has approved a \$750,000 grant – \$250,000 per year for three years – to support adding a second licensed health practitioner and related support staff at Ravenswood's Belle Haven Clinic in Menlo Park.

According to Luisa Buada, CEO of Ravenswood Family Health Center, "Sequoia Healthcare District's funding comes at time when we urgently need to be able to accommodate more patients, especially as unemployment rises and more people become uninsured. For the past six months, RFHC has had to limit new patient enrollment due to space and staffing limitations. At the same time, with State budget cuts looming, the County's safety-net clinics are hard pressed to absorb more patients. Fortunately, the District's grant award will fund additional medical staff at the Belle Haven Clinic and that will allow us to expand enrollment to new patients at that site."

By strengthening RFHC's capacity to provide primary medical services to uninsured and low-income families, the Sequoia Healthcare District grant, approved at the board's Aug. 5 meeting, is helping to increase access to primary care and in turn reduce costly emergency room visits at local hospitals.

According to Lee Michelson, newly appointed CEO of Sequoia Healthcare District, "This grant is the beginning of a significant partnership with Ravenswood Family Health Center."

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Ravenswood Family Health Center is a nonprofit community health center that provides comprehensive primary health care to uninsured and low-income residents of southeastern San Mateo County. It operates two clinics as well as a mobile clinic. To learn more, visit www.ravenswoodfhc.org

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