

**SANTA ANA COUPLE DONATE HALF A MILLION DOLLARS TO FUND
GROWTH OF COMMUNITY CLINICS FOR ORANGE COUNTY'S UNDERSERVED**

ORANGE, Calif. (Dec. 2010) – Christmas is coming early for those in Orange County who rely on neighborhood community clinics for their medical care, thanks to a generous donation of \$500,000 from a Santa Ana family to the St. Joseph Hospital “Care for the Poor” endowment.

The \$500,000 gift from Bill and Pat Podlich of Santa Ana will support the hospital’s La Amistad de Jose Family Health Center and the Puente a La Salud Mobile Community Clinics in the coming years. These community health clinics focus their services on treating the medically underserved in Orange County and provide care regardless of patients’ ability to pay.

“We are pleased and thankful that current Care for the Poor committee members Bill and Pat Podlich have established the foundation for our permanent endowment,” said Ruth Seigle, incoming chair of the Care for the Poor fund, and a clinic volunteer. “This incredible gift from the Podlich family will provide a fund for the long-term support of the community clinics.”

The Care for the Poor Committee works closely with the St. Joseph Hospital Foundation to meet the increasing demand for services for the most vulnerable members of the community.

“The Care for the Poor committee has struggled with how to allocate available income to best serve the community. There are always more worthwhile requests than there are funds to address the needs—so my husband and I wanted to step in and help,” said Pat Podlich. “We are very involved in the Care for the Poor fund and we are very passionate about health care-- so it was a natural decision for us to support it.”

Some of the services the La Amistad de Jose Family Health Center provides include public insurance enrollment assistance, comprehensive acute and chronic care for persons of all ages, physicals, immunizations, and diagnostic tests, including laboratory and x-ray, medications and diabetic supplies, women’s health services, registered nurse case management for patients with chronic conditions, health promotion and education classes in English and Spanish, comprehensive basic and restorative dental services for adults and children.

“The future of healthcare is very uncertain, but the permanent endowment gives us a sense of security and will allow physicians and our clinic staff to continue serving the medically underserved,” said Julia Motherway, M.D, an internist at the La Amistad de Jose Health Center and member of the Care For the Poor committee. “The Podlich family saw a great need in the community and their gift means we will continue our efforts for many years to come.”

Caron Riggs of Yorba Linda, is a long time patient at the La Amistad Clinic. Riggs quit her job after to raise her nephews after her sister-in-law was diagnosed with terminal

melanoma cancer. Riggs, a diabetic, lost her health insurance and depends on the services of the clinic.

“I was terrified when I had no medical insurance and felt like I had no place to go,” said Riggs. “I quit my job to help take care of my family and could not afford to take care of myself, but the clinic was there to educate me and help me control my diabetes.”

Many patients served by La Amistad de Jose Family Health Center and Puente a La Salud Community Mobile Clinics have diabetes—which requires vigilant medical management. Riggs is one of hundreds of patients that have benefitted from the efforts from the clinics programs.

“Without proper medical attention, diabetic patients can suffer from heart disease, high blood pressure, loss of vision and potential blindness, among other disorders,” adds Dr. Motherway. “The Podlichs serve as an example of family who understands both the value of supporting their community and the entry points that make such an act of philanthropy possible.”

To make donations or to learn more about the Care for the Poor Fund, contact the St. Joseph Hospital Foundation by visiting their website at www.sjo.org or e-mailing foundation@stjoe.org.

###