



Our SPIRIT is Recognized

By Kristine Wallach, Program Manager

CSERF PROGRAMS

On March 27, 2002, in a crowded ballroom at the Radisson Hotel, the Sacramento Physician's Initiative to Reach Out, Innovate and Teach (SPIRIT) project was awarded the Community Services Planning Council's 2002 People Helping People Business Award in the category of Service Club and Association Achievement. The project was recognized for its outstanding service to the medically underserved.

SPIRIT recruits physicians and healthcare professionals to volunteer in county and community clinics in an effort to enhance primary care medical services. The project also offers a specialty service network of office referrals to participating SPIRIT physicians and "sub-specialty" clinics located in existing county clinics. In addition, the project has brought together surgeons and surgical teams at local hospitals to perform over 270 hernia repair surgeries.

Since SPIRIT's inception in 1996, project volunteers have: treated over 10,000 patients; donated more than 9,000 hours at clinics and in private offices; and provided over \$2.7 million in medical care and services at no charge.

The time committed by these volunteers ranges from a few hours every other month to a few hours each week. These dedicated volunteers have been providing, and will no doubt continue to provide, this wonderful gift to the community with or without recognition or thanks.

On behalf of the community members that SPIRIT volunteers serve, we thank you for your time, expertise and commitment.

To learn more about this program, or to become a SPIRIT volunteer, please call 453-0254.

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