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SPIRIT Matters

By Kristine Wallach, Program Manager

As the Sacramento Physicians' Initiative to Reach out, Innovate and Teach (SPIRIT) Project works its way through the 17th year of providing service to the under and uninsured in Sacramento County, it is a good time to take stock and recognize the people who do all of the work!

The past eight months have seen Sacramento County healthcare system undergo devastating cuts that can't help but impact the lives of their patients.

Through all of these changes, which have included staff cuts and clinic closures, SPIRIT volunteer physicians have continued to serve, reconfirming their commitment by demonstrating flexibility in the face of volunteer sites closing and loss of their cherished support staff within the county system.

SPIRIT volunteer physicians have stepped up. In the second quarter of 2009, SPIRIT volunteer physicians treated more patients than in any of the previous nine quarters.

Please join me in recognizing and thanking the following active SPIRIT volunteers:

Ruenell Adams, MD
 Sallie Adams, MD
 Franklin Banker, MD
 Lawrence Bass, MD
 Robert Bellinoff, MD
 Joanne Berkowitz, MD
 Carol Berry, MD
 Gregory Brott, MD
 Matthew Carnahan, MD
 Donald Clutter, MD
 Ed Denz, OD
 Joyce Eaker, MD
 Guy Guilfoxy, MD

Richard Jones, MD
 Diamond Kassam, MD
 Paul Kelly, MD
 David Kissinger, MD
 Joseph Lash, MD
 Michael Lawson, MD
 Michael Leathers, MD
 Roger Lieberman, MD
 Aloysius Llaguno, MD
 Eric London, MD
 Allen Lue, MD
 Elisabeth Mathew, MD
 George Meyer, MD

Patricia Ostrander, MD
 Vicente Quan, MD
 Ivan Rarick, MD
 JaNahn Scalapino, MD
 James Sehr, MD
 Daksha Shah, MD
 Elaine Silver, MD
 Christian Swanson, MD
 Kirk Van Rooyan, MD
 Horst Weinberg, MD
 Patricia Will, MD
 Mike Wolford
 Derek Wong, MD

Andrew Hudnut, MD

Alan Mortiz, MD

John Young, MD

In addition, please join me in welcoming new SPIRIT volunteers whose volunteer applications are being processed:

Tony Cantelmi, MD

Kenneth Chan, MD

Cecelia Hernandez, MD

Lawrence Laslett, MD

John Loofbourow, MD

Robert Meagher, MD

William Pevec, MD

Gerald Rogan, MD

On a personal note, I would like to thank the members of the SPIRIT Management Committee that was created to develop and oversee the collaborative partnerships between the organizations involved in funding and in-kind support of SPIRIT.

Sr. Clair Dalton, CHW

Andrew Hudnut, MD, (chair), Sutter Medical Group

Richard Jones, MD, private practice

Charles McDonnell, MD, SSVMS

Pinky Patel, UCD Health System

Dorothy Pitman, MD, Sacramento County

Jack Rozance, MD, TPMG

Bill Sandberg, SSVMS

Carol Serre, Kaiser

Petra Stanton, The Effort

Keri Thomas-Cavner, Sutter Medical Center

Fay Young, Northern California Lions Sight Association

John Young, MD, Mercy Medical Group

Finally, I would like to recognize the community organizations that make SPIRIT possible. SPIRIT gets financial support from Blue Shield of California Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, Mercy, Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society, Sutter Medical Center Sacramento/Sutter Medical Group, and UC Davis Health System.

We also receive in-kind support from Central Anesthesia Exchange Medical Group, Diagnostic Pathology Medical Group, Northern California Lions Sight Association, Radiological Associates of Sacramento Medical Group, Sacramento Anesthesia Medical Group, and Sacramento County Dept of Health and Human Services. I would like to extend a special thank you to John Chuck, MD, and the Serotonin Surge Charities for their generosity year after year.

Without the dedication and commitment of those listed above, neither the 28,000 plus patients treated by SPIRIT volunteers to date, including 475 surgeries, nor the 24,000 hours donated or the \$6.5 million in services

donated would have been possible.

A hearty and heartfelt thank you to everyone involved!

To learn more about the SPIRIT Project or to become a volunteer, visit us at www.ssvms.org, or contact Kris Wallach at 916-453-0254 / kwallach@ssvms.org