

Dominican awards \$145,000 to local nonprofits

SANTA CRUZ -- Dominican Hospital has awarded \$145,000 in 2010 Catholic Healthcare West Community Grants to eight local nonprofits to improve community health and wellness.

■ Healthy Kids of Santa Cruz County, through the Health Improvement Partnership of Santa Cruz County, got \$25,000. The funds will be spent to cover Santa Cruz County children who are ineligible for Healthy Families and Medi-Cal, and who meet income limits. Healthy Kids has enrolled more than 15,000 children since 2004, boosting the number of insured children locally to 93 percent.

■ Homeless Services Center got \$25,000 to partner with the Homeless Persons' Health Project and the Health Improvement Partnership to open a center so homeless people discharged from the hospital receive follow-up care. Locally, 85 to 90 percent of homeless adults are uninsured, and post-discharge complications that are untreated can result in hospital readmission.

■ RotaCare Bay Area was awarded \$25,000. Funds will maintain existing clinics including one in Santa Cruz offering free care, and offset costs of programs to manage chronic diseases such as diabetes.

■ United Way of Santa Cruz County's Go for Health!'s 52-10 campaign was awarded \$20,000. The campaign aims to increase healthy eating and physical activity among youth. The numbers 52-10 stand for five fruits and vegetables a day; two hours at most of screen time a day; one hour of vigorous play a day; and zero sodas or sweetened beverages.

■ Hospice of Santa Cruz County landed \$15,000. This will fund the Transitions Program, addressing the psychosocial, emotional and practical needs of patients and their families confronted with life-limiting illnesses while a patient is in the hospital. Hospice serves an average of 130 patients per day in the county.

■ Second Harvest Food Bank's Passion for Produce landed \$15,000. This provides nutrition education classes and fresh produce for parents of the Prenatal and Pediatric Clinic patients at Dominican Hospital, with the goal to ultimately decrease childhood overweight and chronic disease.

■ Community Bridges got \$10,000. Funds will go to La Manzana Family Resource Center in Watsonville to educate people needing help with nutrition and wellness, physical activity and medical services.

■ Regional Diabetes Collaborative, under the umbrella of the Pajaro Valley Community Health Trust, got \$10,000. The Promotoras Program, grassroots health workers, will provide information about obesity and diabetes to youth, low-income individuals and farmworkers and their families.

Grant funds come from Dominican's parent, Catholic Healthcare West, with decisions made by the hospital's community advisers. Dominican has contributed more than \$1.5 million in grants toward community health and wellness.