

## **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Distribution

Oct. 29, 2008

**(540 words)**

### **LAZAREX CANCER FOUNDATION SPONSORS COMMUNITY COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING AT ALTA BATES SUMMIT MEDICAL CENTER**

DANVILLE, Calif., Oct. 29, 2008 –

On December 5, 2008, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center will hold a colorectal cancer screening at their Summit Campus (3100 Summit Street, Oakland, CA, 94609). This community cancer screening is sponsored by Lazarex Cancer Foundation, a San Francisco Bay Area nonprofit dedicated to changing the face of cancer, one life at a time. Sponsoring this screening is part of the organization's mission to revitalize cancer patients and their families with promising treatments, compassionate care, and comprehensive wellness products and services.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer in the United States. Due to a variety of factors, including the prohibitive costs, less than 40% of men and women 50 years and over living in California take advantage of colorectal screenings. In the East Bay region, there is data to suggest that less than 18% of age appropriate people are presently screened for colorectal cancers. The American Cancer Society, National Cancer Institute and the Centers for Disease Control all recommend that colorectal screening for those with normal risk begin at age 50. Early detection and removal of a precancerous polyp can prevent colorectal cancer.

“Markstein Services has a long history of providing the community with flexible video sigmoidoscopy screening services and is the only place in Northern California where a person who is underinsured or uninsured can receive discounted or no-cost services for screening sigmoidoscopy,” says Leslie Paine, manager, Markstein Cancer Education and Prevention Services, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center. “We are grateful to Lazarex Cancer Foundation for supporting this important community screening.”

This past year, Lazarex has helped end-stage patients successfully fight a variety of cancers, including breast, pancreatic and brain cancers, in addition to funding cancer screenings such as this one at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center. “Both Lazarex Cancer Foundation and Markstein Services share a common goal of stopping the enemy before it starts by preventing new cases of cancer,” said Lazarex Cancer Foundation President Dana Dornsife, “and we are proud to be sponsoring this first in a series of community cancer screenings at Markstein Cancer Education Services.

In order to participate in this community colorectal cancer screening, individuals must complete several steps, including obtaining a referral from their doctor, making an

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appointment with the Alta Bates Summit Medical Center and completing several dietary preparations prior to the procedure on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. Partial and complete funding is available for eligible individuals. For more information, please contact Leslie Paine at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, [510.869.8833](tel:510.869.8833) or [PaineL@sutterhealth.org](mailto:PaineL@sutterhealth.org).

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### **About Lazarex Cancer Foundation**

Lazarex Cancer Foundation, a volunteer-run organization, creates a lifeline—a bridge to hope, life and dignity—for cancer patients and their families. The Foundation supports cancer patients who have been failed by conventional medicine by providing financial assistance for, and access to, new and promising FDA clinical trials. We believe that together, we can change the face of cancer, one life at a time. To find out more about how you can get involved, contact Lazarex Cancer Foundation at 925.820.4517 or visit [www.lazarexfoundation.org](http://www.lazarexfoundation.org).

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