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**CALOPTIMA HONORS FOUR ORGANIZATIONS
WITH SAFETY NET AWARDS**

Groups to Receive \$25,000 Each in Support of Efforts to Serve Communities in Need

ORANGE, Calif. (July 1, 2011) — Orange County seniors. Homeless adults and children. Uninsured Korean families. Kids with speech and hearing impairments. Each of these groups is served by an outstanding community-based organization being honored this month by CalOptima with a Safety Net Award. The 2011 Safety Net Award recipients are:

- Council on Aging Orange County
- Illumination Foundation
- Korean Community Services
- Providence Speech and Hearing Center

The Safety Net Award in Honor of Mary K. Dewane program distributes a total of \$100,000 to distinguished groups that support vulnerable populations and strengthen the health care safety net in Orange County. Established in 2004, the awards program was named for Mary K. Dewane, CalOptima's first Chief Executive Officer, and recognizes achievements that enhance access to quality health care.

At its Thursday, July 7, Board of Directors meeting, CalOptima will present a certificate and \$25,000 check to each 2011 Safety Net Award winner. Winners and nominees will also be honored at the CalOptima Community Alliances Conference, Thursday, July 21, at California State University, Fullerton. That event brings together more than 400 representatives from community-based organizations to discuss shared challenges and creative solutions for providing health care and social services to at-risk Orange County residents.

“Community organizations are essential partners in CalOptima’s mission to provide access to high-quality and cost-effective health care for vulnerable Orange County residents; we don’t do it alone,” says Richard Chambers, Chief Executive Officer. “CalOptima honors our partners with Safety Net Awards to acknowledge their significant efforts and abilities to help those in need. The four award winners this year are excellent examples of how life-changing services are delivered by community-based organizations.”

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About the Recipients

Council on Aging Orange County is recognized for providing a comprehensive range of services to promote independence, health and dignity for older adults and people with disabilities. In 2010, Council on Aging Orange County assisted more than 5,700 seniors and people with disabilities with its Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program. The council conducted 270 Medicare education seminars, delivered more than 2,500 donated holiday gifts to nursing home residents, provided 3,500 hours of visitation to isolated seniors and produced a resource directory distributed to more than 50,000 residents.

Illumination Foundation is recognized for its inclusive program model, which bridges gaps for the homeless by combining social services, housing, medical care and behavioral health. In 2010, the Illumination Foundation assisted more than 2,400 individuals and 240 families, and saved Orange County hospitals more than \$3 million through innovative programs. For example, the foundation's Interim Housing Program provides stabilized housing and social services for homeless families, while its Medical Outreach and Care Program provides free medical and mental health services where homeless populations congregate. The foundation's Motel Family Outreach Program reaches families with children ages 0 to 5 years, offering connections to community resources.

Korean Community Services is recognized for launching a volunteer-run health center and providing support services to address unmet health care needs of low-income and uninsured Korean Americans. Research shows that the uninsured rate among Koreans in Orange County is more than double Orange County's overall rate and higher than all other ethnic groups. In 2010, Korean Community Services provided more than 4,000 individuals with health care information and referral services; helped 350 individuals enroll in health care programs; and served 116 clients within three months of opening a free, one-day-a-week health center operated by volunteer health care providers.

Providence Speech and Hearing Center is recognized for being a safety net provider for low-income children with speech, language and hearing impairments and for finding innovative ways to continue therapies despite significant funding cuts. In 2010, Providence Speech and Hearing Center created four group therapy classes to develop language skills in pediatric patients who were no longer eligible through other programs; taught parents and children how to use hearing aids; helped toddlers overcome speech and communication delays so they could begin school without the need for special education; and facilitated group therapy for children with mild to moderate impairments who would not traditionally be served because their delays are not severe.

About CalOptima

CalOptima is a county organized health system providing publicly funded health coverage programs for low-income families, seniors and people with disabilities in Orange County, Calif. CalOptima serves its 416,000 members with a network of more than 7,000 primary care doctors and specialists, as well as 30 hospitals. CalOptima provides access to quality health care through three programs, including Medi-Cal, Healthy Families Program and OneCare (HMO SNP).

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