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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Blue Shield of California Foundation Awards Samaritan House \$40,000 Grant Foundation Calls Samaritan House “a vital part of California’s safety net”**

**San Mateo, California, August 25, 2011** - Blue Shield of California Foundation (BSCF) announced this week that it was awarding Samaritan House \$40,000 in general operating support for the Samaritan House Free Medical Clinic in San Mateo, to help provide needed care to uninsured Central San Mateo County residents. The grant is part of the Foundation’s efforts to strengthen the statewide network of community clinics and health centers and helping them provide high quality health care to millions of vulnerable Californians.

“Samaritan House is a vital part of California’s safety net,” said Peter Long, Ph.D., president and CEO of BSCF. “The struggling economy and cuts to key public services make community clinics more important than ever.”

Over 200 licensed community, free, and tribal clinics provide health services to California’s most vulnerable populations at over 800 sites throughout the state. These clinics provide services to nearly 3 million patients each year, many of whom are uninsured or underinsured. Since 2003, the Foundation has invested more than \$52 million in clinics statewide.

Samaritan House Executive Director Kitty Lopez adds, “Samaritan House Free Clinic of San Mateo can continue to provide care because of the support provided by volunteers, including doctors, dentists, and nurses, and financial assistance from community partners like the Blue Shield Foundation. Their generosity helps us maintain services and care for more patients.”

Blue Shield of California Foundation ([www.blueshieldcafoundation.org](http://www.blueshieldcafoundation.org)) is one of the state’s largest healthcare grantmaking organizations. The Foundation was formed by Blue Shield of California, a not-for-profit corporation with more than 3.4 million members, 4,800 employees, and 20 offices throughout California.

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**SAMARITAN HOUSE – NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR (Tax ID 23-7416272)  
4031 Pacific Boulevard, San Mateo, CA 94403**

Since 1974, Samaritan House has been helping families regain self-sufficiency. Working with city and county governments; civic, religious and school organizations; and more than 2,000 volunteers, we provide bilingual counseling and case management, food, kids clothing, healthcare, rental assistance, shelter, worker resources and holiday assistance – all free of charge.

[www.SamaritanHouse.com](http://www.SamaritanHouse.com)