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The American Cancer Society Awards \$5,000 to San Antonio Regional Hospital to Provide Transportation to Patients During Cancer Treatment

UPLAND, CA February 17, 2025 – The American Cancer Society recently awarded \$5,000 to San Antonio Regional Hospital (SARH) to provide transportation assistance to people with cancer during treatment. The grant is part of a nationwide investment of \$9 million that is expected to provide nearly 63,000 eligible patients with nearly 800,000 transportation and lodging services.

"San Antonio Hospital Foundation is proud to partner with the American Cancer Society to fund transportation services to Inland Empire community members in need. Doing what we can to remove barriers to healthcare access is what we're all about and securing the resources needed for San Antonio Regional Hospital to carry out its mission are critical to good patient care and outcomes," said Michelle Stoddard, San Antonio Hospital Foundation president.

SARH's unwavering mission – to improve the health and well-being of the people it serves and vision of being a leader in creating healthy futures through excellence and compassion – not only manifests through patient care but also through the services provided outside of the hospital setting and voices coming from the community. Given its broad geographic reach, and the depth and breadth of its services and programs, supported by the latest medical science and technology, SARH is a hospital of the future, offering state-of-the-art healthcare services in a healing environment focused on the patient, family and community.

Access to high-quality cancer treatment impacts cancer outcomes. A lack of the transportation and lodging needed to receive quality care can lead to missed appointments, treatment interruptions, and delays in follow up care. In a 2023 Journal of the National Cancer Institute (JNCI) <u>study</u>, American Cancer Society researchers found that delayed care due to lack of transportation is associated with increased emergency room use and mortality risk among adults with and without cancer history.

"Transportation obstacles or the cost of a hotel room should not be barriers that determine the survival of those needing cancer treatment," said Dr. Arif Kamal, chief patient officer for the American Cancer Society. "Partnering with health systems and organizations across the country to provide funding to deliver the direct assistance needed helps to fill these equity gaps and improves cancer outcomes.

The American Cancer Society believes all people should have a fair and just opportunity to live a longer, healthier life free from cancer regardless of how much money they make, skin color, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status or where they live. In addition to providing transportation and lodging funding to health systems and organizations, the American Cancer Society runs a Road To Recovery program that provides free rides to and from treatment and over 30 Hope Lodge communities that provide a free place to stay during treatment.

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About the American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society is a leading cancer-fighting organization with a vision to end cancer as we know it, for everyone. For more than 100 years, we have been improving the lives of people with cancer and their families as the only organization combating cancer through advocacy, research, and patient support. We are committed to ensuring everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer. To learn more, visit <u>cancer.org</u> or call our 24/7 helpline at 1-800-227-2345. Connect with us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and <u>Instagram</u>.

About San Antonio Regional Hospital

Founded in 1907, San Antonio Regional Hospital (SARH) is a 363-bed, non-profit, acute care hospital in Upland, California, with satellite locations across the Inland Empire. This award-winning hospital offers a comprehensive range of general medical and surgical services, along with the latest technological advances in cardiac care, cancer care, orthopedics, neurosciences, women's health, maternity and neonatal care, and emergency services.

As a regional healthcare provider, San Antonio Regional Hospital is committed to maintaining the highest quality of care for those we serve, and continually grows with its community. As a nonprofit hospital, all of our resources are devoted to providing healthcare services. For over 40 years, San Antonio Regional Hospital has been continuously accredited by the Commission on Cancer (CoC). Additionally, SARH has partnered with the City of Hope to provide specialized cancer care to our community.