

**PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PR Contact: Shelley Gesicki  
Armanasco Public Relations, Inc.  
Tel: 831.372.2259  
Email: [sgesicki@armanasco.com](mailto:sgesicki@armanasco.com)

**NATIVIDAD MEDICAL CENTER AMONG 11 HOSPITALS IN THE US TO RECEIVE GRANT FUNDING**

*Awarded \$1.1 Million Grant For Substance Abuse Treatment Training*

**SALINAS, CA – November 17, 2008** – The Natividad Medical Center has been awarded a \$1.1 million grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), a public health agency within the US Department of Health and Human Services. The grant will be used to develop and implement a formal substance abuse training program for the Natividad Family Medicine Residency Program.

“This funding represents a tremendous opportunity for our patients and the residency program,” stated Gary Gray, D.O., Director of the Natividad Family Medicine Residency Program and Chief of Staff of NMC. This forward looking proposal will insure that our physicians will have the skills to provide a higher level of care to those patients with addiction problems”.

Natividad Medical Center, along with eleven other healthcare institutions including Yale University and Boston's Children's Hospital, received funding to develop programs that will implement Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment (SBIRT) projects, to help health providers learn how to recognize patients at risk for problems related to substance abuse and how to provide timely and effective help. The Natividad SBIRT Medical Residency Program will develop and implement a cross-cultural training program to teach medical residents skills to provide evidence-based screening, brief intervention, brief treatment and referral to specialty treatment for patients who have, or are at risk for, a substance use disorder with emphasis on Latino adolescents, Latino seniors and homeless individuals.

The program will help disseminate SBIRT practices throughout Monterey County through healthcare provider and lay health educator training in community clinic settings, including Sun Street Centers, Monterey County Health Department, Salinas Adult School, Sunrise House, Center for Community Advocacy and Dorothy's Place/Franciscan Workers of Junipero Serra.

The Natividad Family Medicine Residency Program has been affiliated with the University of California at San Francisco School of Medicine since 1974. Natividad Medical Center is the only teaching hospital on the Central Coast to host a nationally recognized Family Practice Training Program, postgraduate training for physicians specializing in the board-certified specialty of Family Medicine. Residents in the program, along with faculty and a core medical staff provide Natividad Medical Center's patients 24 hour in-house physician coverage. For more information about the Natividad Medical Center please call 831-755-4111 or visit [www.natividad.com](http://www.natividad.com).

###

**About Natividad Medical Center**

Natividad Medical Center is a 172-bed acute care medical center owned and operated by Monterey County, and has been providing healthcare for more than 120 years. A public community hospital, Natividad Medical Center emphasizes the care of women, children and families and offers comprehensive inpatient, outpatient, diagnostic and specialty care. With a medical staff of more than 235 physicians, Natividad's mission is to continually improve the

health status of the people of Monterey County through access to affordable, high-quality healthcare services. Natividad is based in Salinas, California. For more information, please call 831-755-4111 or visit [www.natividad.com](http://www.natividad.com).