



Media Contact: Gwen Kleist
Communications Lead
(909) 427-4547
gwen.h.kleist@kp.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KAISER PERMANENTE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY AREA HOLDS COMMUNITY SURGERY DAY

Four Uninsured Patients Receive Free Medical Procedures

Fontana, Calif. — October 16, 2023 – Four residents of San Bernardino County received free life-changing surgeries on Saturday, October 14, thanks to the generosity of more than 40 physicians and staff who volunteered their time for Kaiser Permanente San Bernardino County Area's Community Surgery Day.

Two surgeons, three anesthesiologists and dozens of RNs, CRNAs, EVS, Pharmacy, Periop Services, administrators and support staff volunteered to participate in the event, held at the Kaiser Permanente Ontario Vineyard Ambulatory Surgery Center.

"Kaiser Permanente has a social mission to care for the communities we serve. It is wonderful to work with community partners that share in this mission," said Georgina Garcia, Senior Vice President and Area Manager, Kaiser Foundation Hospitals/Health Plan, San Bernardino County Area. "We are so grateful to our compassionate physicians and staff who donated their talents and personal time to help improve the lives of these four patients."

The patients were referred to Kaiser Permanente by local community partners. Surgeons performed three cataract surgeries and one pterygium (a growth removed from the surface of the eye). The patients are all uninsured and were not eligible for any other assistance program that would enable them to have these much-needed procedures.

Community Surgery Day is part of a broader effort by Kaiser Permanente medical centers throughout Southern California and their community partners to provide free surgical procedures to low income, uninsured and underinsured individuals.

Community Surgery Day began in San Bernardino County in 2010, and since that time more than 140 patients in need have benefitted from receiving free surgical procedures at these events.

About Kaiser Permanente

Kaiser Permanente is committed to helping shape the future of health care. We are recognized as one of America's leading health care providers and not-for-profit health plans. Founded in 1945, Kaiser Permanente has a mission to provide high-quality, affordable health care services and to improve the health of our members and the communities we serve. We currently serve 12.7 million members in 8 states and the District of Columbia. Care for members and patients is focused on their total health and guided by their personal Permanente Medical Group physicians, specialists, and team of caregivers. Our expert and caring medical teams are empowered and supported by industry-leading technology advances and tools for health promotion, disease prevention, state-of-the-art care delivery and world-class chronic

disease management. Kaiser Permanente is dedicated to care innovations, clinical research, health education and the support of community health. For more information, go to about.kp.org

#