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### S. Mark Taper Foundation: Gift Benefits Norwalk Regional Health Center

JWCH Institute is pleased to announce that the S. Mark Taper Foundation has provided a gift to the JWCH Norwalk Regional Health Center in the amount of \$300,000 to increase services to community residents from that facility. In recognition of this generous gift, the Board of Directors of JWCH re-named the building the *Norwalk Regional Health Center, S. Mark Taper Foundation Building*. The re-naming dedication and press conference was held early 2007 at the Norwalk Regional Health Center.

The gift of the S. Mark Taper Foundation will allow for the Norwalk Regional Health Center to increase hours of operation from 16 to 40 hours per week. "The S. Mark Taper Foundation's gift comes at a critical time and will help provide care to between 2,500 and 3,200 low-income residents of this community over a 24-month period," said Al Ballesteros, CEO of JWCH. "Our community's safety-net is being strengthened as a result of the S. Mark Taper Foundation's support of our mission."

The Norwalk Regional Health Center was re-opened in February 2005 through the leadership and assistance of Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe. The health center had been closed for more than three years as a result of L.A. County Department of Health Services budget shortfalls in 2002 that caused its closure along with 15 other centers like it in Los Angeles County. Since its re-opening, JWCH collaborates with community organizations co-located in the health center which include: The Oldtimers Foundation; ALMA Family Services; Whittier Rio Hondo AIDS Project; Southern California Drug and Alcohol Services; Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse; Helpline Youth Counseling; and the Inter-Community Child Guidance Center.

The S. Mark Taper Foundation, founded in 1989, is a private family foundation dedicated to enhancing the quality of people's lives by supporting nonprofit organizations and their work in our communities.