



Contact:

Carol Stevenson
818/597-8453

**Verdugo Hills Hospital Receives Grant from the
Glendale Community Foundation for Virtual Colonoscopy Equipment**

(GLENDALE, CA – February 7, 2005) — Verdugo Hills Hospital (VHH) has received a \$9,481 grant from the Glendale Community Foundation to purchase virtual colonoscopy instrumentation. With this new equipment VHH physicians will be able to effectively and accurately diagnose early colon cancer while minimizing a patient’s pain and discomfort.

Virtual colonoscopy uses a CT scanner and computer-based virtual-reality software to look inside the body without having to insert a long tube into the colon or without having to fill the colon with liquid barium. This new equipment is part of a larger project to expand and upgrade the hospital’s gastrointestinal (GI) lab.

Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States, but it is highly curable when found in its early stages. The incidence of colorectal cancer is relatively low in individuals under age 50, after which risk increases significantly. Regular screenings are the key to detecting colorectal cancer.

“The community that Verdugo Hills Hospital serves has an older-than-average population, which means that the number of patients at risk in our service area is higher,” noted Scott Cameron, director of medical imaging. “With virtual colonoscopy we are hoping to encourage local residents to have screening exams, which provide for early detection and increase survival rate.”

The Glendale Community Foundation, which began in 1956 with one \$3,000 contribution, has now, through scores of additional gifts, grown to nearly \$7 million in assets. It typically uses the earnings from the invested contributions to make grants to nonprofit organizations that serve the communities of Glendale, La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Montrose and Verdugo City.

(More)

VHH/Glendale Community Foundation Grant

Page 2

Established in 1974, the Verdugo Hills Hospital Foundation raises funds for the hospital's current needs and long-range growth including equipment purchases, facility upgrades and community education support. All of the money raised for the hospital's \$1.3 million emergency department expansion, which opened in September 2003, came through donations raised by the foundation.

Verdugo Hills Hospital, a 158-bed nonprofit acute-care facility, features all private room accommodations, 24-hour emergency services, comprehensive inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and treatment facilities, and a family birthing center. It is the only independent, freestanding hospital in the greater foothills communities and was voted the 2004 "Foothills' Best" hospital by the readers of the *Glendale News-Press*. Further information on the hospital may be obtained at www.verdugohillshospital.org.

#