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## Western Avenue Capital Campaign Hits Home Stretch

*Recent Fundraising Efforts Help Campaign Reach 78% of its Goal as Renovation on Recovery and Wellness Center Begins*



*Pacific Clinics recently held a groundbreaking ceremony commemorating the start of construction at the Western Avenue Recovery and Wellness Center. Left to right: Jim Balla, Dr. Susan Mandel and Ara Artinian of Pacific Clinics; Portals Foundation Trustees Mike Dunn and Bill Molinski; Pacific Clinics Board members Lary Mielke and Russ Tyner; and Albert Giacomazzi, President of contractor AMG & Associates.*

**T**he race to reach the fundraising goal of Portals' Western Avenue Renovation Project Capital Campaign is now in its final leg. The renovation project ensures the expansion of the agency's urgently needed mental health services for hundreds of individuals in South Los Angeles.

The capital campaign – launched by the Portals Foundation Board of Trustees in early 2008 – is now within \$500,000 of meeting its fundraising goal of the \$2.3 million needed to enhance Portals' program facility at the corner of 39th Street and Western Avenue.

The campaign's success can be attributed in part to the triumphant return and great success of the Portals & El Cholo Fiesta Brunch on March 29 (see page 4 for a recap of the event) and an announced financial commitment from The Kresge Foundation in June.

These achievements coincided with the start of the renovation project on March 24, 2009. Construction is expected to be completed in time for the re-opening of Portals' new Recovery and Wellness Center in the spring of 2010.

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With the renovation project underway and the capital campaign now in the home stretch, the race to raise the remaining \$500,000 in time for the Center's re-dedication next year is the capital campaign committee's top priority.

"I'm very pleased with the devotion our committee has demonstrated for this project," said Richard Dominguez, Chair of the capital campaign committee and a member of the Portals Foundation Board of Trustees, adding that his team's efforts "have put us in the position to accomplish our goal to better serve the South Los Angeles community."

Once completed, the new Western Avenue Recovery and Wellness Center will add much-needed transitional residential beds with supportive mental health services for homeless youth, adults and older adults. The Center will also offer housing services and employment programs to help our consumers reach their goals of self-determination and independent living. In the months that follow, the campaign committee will use the momentum from its recent fundraising successes to gain additional support for the renovation project.

The grant from The Kresge Foundation, a national foundation based in Michigan, was awarded based on Portals' important work assisting the mentally ill in South Los Angeles and on the agency's demonstrated progress in conducting its capital campaign. Other foundations and organizations already committed to the capital campaign include the Ahmanson Foundation, B.K. Simon Foundation, Henry L. Guenther Foundation, The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, Weingart Foundation, The Rule Group, Mutual of America, East West Bank, Washington Mutual and the California Department of Housing and Community Development. (See page 6 for a complete list of donors for the last period and page 2 for an official announcement on The Kresge Foundation grant).

Said Jim Balla, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Pacific Clinics, "It's important to keep reminding everyone that, at the end of the day, the true beneficiaries of this renovation project will be the men, women and families who will be receiving the comprehensive services that our enhanced Recovery and Wellness Center will provide for them."