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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**St. Anthony Foundation celebrates Free Medical Clinic's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by presenting community supporters with the fourth annual Fr. Alfred Award**

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**Place: St. Anthony Foundation, 109 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA**

**Date: Wednesday, September 20, 2006**

**Time: 11:30 a.m. Walking tour of St. Anthony Free Medical Clinic**  
**12:30 a.m. Fr. Alfred Boeddeker Awards Luncheon**

As the cost of health care continues to rise and local, state, and federal governments look to find solutions to providing quality health insurance to all citizens, St. Anthony Foundation celebrates 50 years of offering quality health care to the uninsured at St. Anthony Free Medical Clinic. We also use this milestone occasion as an opportunity to present the fourth annual Fr. Alfred Boeddeker Awards on Wednesday, September 20, 2006 to the **San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium** and **KQED Public Broadcasting**.

Each year, the Fr. Alfred Boeddeker Award is presented to individuals, community groups, and organizations whose work continues St. Anthony Foundation founder Fr. Alfred Boeddeker's mission to create a society in which all persons flourish. Rooted in his Catholic faith and Franciscan values, Fr. Alfred envisioned a world where each person had adequate food, clothing, health care and shelter and was treated with dignity and respect.

On October 4, 1950, Fr. Alfred opened St. Anthony Dining Room, serving 400 meals to San Francisco's hungry and homeless citizens. He soon realized that many guests who came to the Dining Room for meals also had untreated medical conditions and nowhere to get care. What began as a First Aid Station in a small space in the Dining Room has now expanded into a full service clinic, offering primary and urgent care to adults and children and providing over 12,000 patient visits annually.

**A Collective Voice for Healthcare: The San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium**

From 1956 to 1992, a number of community-based, non-profit clinics like St. Anthony Free Medical Clinic formed throughout the city in underserved neighborhoods to ensure that people who were at greatest risk for poor health outcomes – due to lack of insurance, low income or homelessness – did not continue to fall between the cracks in the health care system. Realizing that they shared values and concerns, these clinics recognized the need to pool their resources

and have a collective voice for healthcare in their community. In 1982, the San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium was born.

Over the years, the San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium (SFCCC), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, has provided a means for the partner clinics to share their wealth of experience and a medium to advocate for their patients, to local, state and national policy makers.

SFCCC promotes the health of St. Anthony Free Medical Clinic and other partner clinics- allowing them to focus on individual patient care and the well being of their communities while keeping them poised to adapt to a changing health care environment. The San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium partnership provides primary care services to nearly 65,000 San Franciscans each year – almost 10% of the City’s total population – and brings into the City and County of San Francisco more than \$33M in health care revenue annually.

### **Spreading Awareness about the Uninsured: KQED Public Broadcasting**

For over 56 years, St. Anthony Foundation has relied on telling the stories of our guests to seek support from the community. One key way we have been able to do this is through the media.

KQED Public Broadcasting contacted St. Anthony Foundation in 2005 about a documentary they were producing concerning the working uninsured. Because a large percentage of the patients seen in St. Anthony Free Medical Clinic meet this description, the Clinic was excited about the opportunity to have a way for patients to tell their stories.

What began as an initial conversation turned into interviews with Clinic Medical Director Ana Valdés and patient Ralph Boone and eventually resulted in the documentary *Working Uninsured*. *Working Uninsured* tells the stories of real people who have jobs but are still without health insurance. Through their words combined with data about the existing health care system, *Working Uninsured* spreads awareness about the struggles of the uninsured and challenges common myths about who the uninsured are. The program also sheds light on the strain that the growing number of uninsured is putting on emergency rooms and healthcare clinics, lending urgency to the problem.

Since their first broadcast in 1954, KQED Public Broadcasting has striven to not only entertain, but also to educate and inform its audience. St. Anthony Foundation honors KQED Broadcasting for taking the time and resources to bring documentaries like *Working Uninsured* to the community.

### **Keeping Fr. Boeddeker’s Legacy Alive**

“Through their work, the San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium and KQED Public Broadcasting have helped keep Fr. Alfred’s legacy alive,” says St. Anthony Foundation Executive Director Fr. John Hardin, OFM. “Both have been instrumental in bringing awareness to the health needs of the underserved in our community and in spreading word of St. Anthony Free Medical Clinic, which has provided quality healthcare to the uninsured for half a century.”

St. Anthony Foundation is funded entirely by private donations, and does not receive any funding from local, state or federal government.