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**On Lok Lifeways Celebrates Forty Years of Quality Health Care for Seniors
at its Spring Banquet and Awards Program**

On Lok honors six distinguished pioneers whose vision, ingenuity and dedication created a nationwide model of senior care that enables frail elderly to live at home instead of institutions

San Francisco, CA, May 11, 2012 – As America ages, with an elderly population of more than 40 million on course to double by 2050, On Lok Lifeways has become one of the country’s most respected senior health plans and continues to provide quality care to Bay Area seniors. On Lok celebrated forty years of exceptional service to the frail elderly at its 2012 Spring Banquet on May 10 at the Westin St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco.

Founded in 1972 by a group of San Francisco citizens who were troubled by the lack of long term care and support options for the elderly, the celebration honored six of those esteemed “On Lok Pioneers.”

“Our founders had the innovative vision to provide for the whole individual, rather than pieces and parts of their needs,” said Wellman Tsang, M.D., FACP, Chair of the Board of Directors, On Lok, Inc. “Using this unique approach, today’s On Lok participants require fewer hospitalizations, avoid premature institutionalization, receive a more robust package of health and social services, and maintain their social and medical support networks despite having very high health needs,” added Tsang.

On Lok Lifeways’ pioneering efforts in the Bay Area led to the creation of PACE – the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly – a model of care delivery that has been replicated in 85 organizations in 29 states. Serving the nation’s most vulnerable populations, policy experts hail PACE as the “gold standard for geriatric care.” PACE provides eligible participants all the services frail seniors need to enable them to stay in their homes and avoid costly, impersonal institutional care, resulting in improved functioning and quality of life.

“On Lok has much to celebrate on this notable anniversary,” according to Robert E. Edmondson, On Lok Chief Executive Officer. “While we honor the rich contributions of our past, we continue to evolve and grow with the times. Our program has enabled thousands of seniors to age with dignity and independence, receiving quality care and support through centers in San Francisco, Fremont and San Jose. And this month we’re excited to be opening a brand new center in Fremont to serve its diverse senior population. Our PACE model has inspired programs across the nation and around the world, and we look forward to serving Bay Area seniors for the next forty years,” added Edmondson.

On Lok Pioneers honored at the Spring Banquet included:

Marie-Louise Ansak – a social worker who in 1972 became the first Executive Director of the organization that she helped name “On Lok” or “Abode of Happiness.” The forward-thinking Ansak believed that service providers should collaborate with participants to define problems, establish goals and devise strategies to achieve those goals, an approach that continues to be a hallmark of PACE programs.

William L. Gee, DDS – a public health dentist and community leader, and founding president of the Board, Dr. Gee helped incorporate the original On Lok organization and represented On Lok’s interests to policymakers in Sacramento and Washington, DC. He was named honorary president and continued to serve on the Board for many years.

Jennie Chin Hansen – On Lok’s Executive Director from 1993-2004, Hansen expanded the organization locally and shepherded replication of On Lok’s innovative care model nationwide through development of PACE. Hansen served as President of AARP and is currently CEO of the American Geriatrics Society.

Harry Lee, MD – On Lok’s first medical director, Dr. Lee also simultaneously served as Chief of Staff at Chinese Hospital. Over the years, he continued to be an active leader in the Chinese community while also serving as Senior Medical Consultant to On Lok.

Harding Leong – elected president of the board in 1976, Harding helped manage On Lok through its challenging early years. He also served as a volunteer for 22 years, providing a valuable link between On Lok and the community.

Regina Liang Muehlhauser – joining the board in 1987, Muehlhauser became board president in 1999, lending her expertise as President of Bank of America in San Francisco. She remains committed to On Lok’s core values and is currently a member of On Lok’s Campaign for the Future.

Critically acclaimed stage, film and television actor and San Francisco native B.D. Wong served as the banquet’s special Master of Ceremonies, with entertainment provided by the renowned Oakland-East Bay Gay Men’s Chorus; Bay Area traditional Chinese instrumentalist, Winnie Wong & China’s Spirit Music Ensemble; and Ultra World X-tet’s modern fusion of East and West jazz and world music.

About On Lok

For 40 years, On Lok has provided comprehensive medical and social services to frail seniors enabling them to live at home as long as possible. On Lok’s health care plan, known as On Lok Lifeways, covers the entire continuum of care for seniors including medical, hospital, home care, transportation, rehabilitation, prescription drugs, and much more. Seniors with full Medicare and Medi-Cal do not have any payments or co-pays for On Lok Lifeways services. For more information about On Lok, please visit www.onlok.org, or call (415) 292-8888.

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