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On Lok Celebrates 39 years of Service to Bay Area Seniors
During its Spring Banquet and Awards Program

Volunteer John Shea, Philanthropists Irene and Daniel Riley, and Veteran Affairs (VA) Palo Alto Health Care Systems honored by On Lok

San Francisco, CA, May 19, 2011 – Founded in 1972 by a group of San Francisco citizens troubled by the lack of long term care and support options for the elderly, On Lok, which has grown to become one of the country’s most respected health plans for seniors, celebrated 39 years of service to the frail elderly in Bay Area communities at its 2011 Spring Banquet. The celebration was held this evening at the Intercontinental Hotel in San Francisco.

“We are excited to celebrate 39 years of continuous service which enriches the lives of about 1,100 participants in San Francisco, Santa Clara and Alameda Counties,” said Wellman Tsang, MD, FACP, Chair of the Board of Directors, On Lok. “Compared to other similar populations, On Lok Lifeways’ seniors require fewer hospitalizations, avoid institutionalization, and receive a more robust package of health and social services. Overall, our seniors enjoy improved health,” added Wellman.

On Lok Lifeways’ pioneering efforts in the Bay Area lead to the creation of PACE – the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly – a model of care delivery which has been replicated by 79 organizations in 32 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. The result is greater independence, improved functioning and quality of life for a very high-need population.

According to Robert E. Edmondson, Chief Executive Officer, On Lok, the organization’s success with seniors over the years could not have been achieved without the help and commitment of many people and organizations. “Our dedicated supporters, staff, volunteers and partner organizations play vital roles in our growth and success. At the Spring Banquet, we honored members of the On Lok community who are especially devoted to our frail elders.”

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On Lok’s honorees included:

Outstanding Volunteer – John Shea, a former staff member from 1977 to 1993, has volunteered in many ways since his retirement including assisting more than 100 On Lok Lifeways’ seniors to attain their US citizenship through his tutoring.

Outstanding Philanthropists – Board of Directors member Irene Yee Riley and her husband Daniel P. Riley whose contributions to the organization in time, talent and donations have been an inspiration to the organization.

Outstanding Organizational Partner – Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Palo Alto Health Care System sought an affordable high-quality alternative for long term care for elder veterans and initiated a partnership with On Lok Lifeways which is honored to be selected to provide care for those who have served the nation.

Another highlight of the Banquet were tributes to two On Lok Lifeways participants including 95-year-old Lily Luke, who has been a participant at On Lok Lifeways’ Rose Center since 2004, and 81-year-old Erudita Cubinar, a participant since 2007 at the On Lok Lifeways’ Center at 30th Street.

In addition, Brook Lee, Miss USA and Miss Universe 1997, served as the Banquet’s special Mistress of Ceremonies with entertainment provided by renowned magician Tamaka, the outstanding Bay Area Instrumentalist Cheung Wa Mandy, and the high energy percussion troupe Yellow River Drummers.

About On Lok Inc.
For more than 30 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 1-888-88-ON-LOK (1-888-886-6565). For the hearing impaired, call 1-415-292-8898.

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