



VENTURA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE AGENCY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Ventura County Health Care Agency's Pediatric Specialists Honored at
Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation Gold Ribbon Luncheon**

(Santa Barbara, Calif.) – The Annual Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation ‘Gold Ribbon Luncheon’ was held on Thursday, October 2nd at the Four Seasons Resort, the Biltmore Santa Barbara. Its two honorees for the Humanitarian Award went to Ventura County Health Care Agency physicians, Dr. Francisco Bracho, pediatric hematologist-oncologist, and Dr. Christopher Landon, who serves as the medical director for the Pediatric Diagnostic Center. Landon also serves CareThings as its chief medical officer.

Both doctors were introduced to the Teddy Bear Foundation in 2007, and both have been instrumental to the success of the foundation; Bracho by showing his support through his position on their Advisory Council, as well as getting numerous items donated to families in need, like iPads, toys and a big screen TV; Landon by paving the way for a collaborative partnership between Ventura County Medical Center and the Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation, and being a champion and ambassador of the growing nonprofit.

The Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation was founded in 2002, and to date have assisted more than one thousand individuals and awarded over \$1 million in financial assistance to families who have a child with cancer. The organization offers financial and emotional support to these families, in addition to support groups for families and caregivers, planning social events and providing needed items such as clothing, bedding, furniture and more.

Founder Nikki Katz told the sold-out crowd at the luncheon that both Dr. Bracho and Dr. Landon had been important ambassadors for the Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation, and detailed many of the selfless hours they'd given to Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation families over the past seven years. Health Care Agency Director Barry Fisher, who attended the luncheon with both doctors and staff, said, “This is so well-deserved. It’s nice to see our neighbors in Santa Barbara show their appreciation for our pediatric specialists.”