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For immediate release

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Major Swegles of Sunnyvale Declares January 23-27 Hepatitis B and Liver Cancer Awareness Week

Stanford, CA – Mayor Ron Swegles, on behalf of the Sunnyvale City Council, has proclaimed the week of January 23 through January 27, 2006, as Hepatitis B and Liver Cancer Awareness Week within the City of Sunnyvale. The Asian Liver Center at Stanford University (ALC) is proud of this recognition from the local community and commends the efforts of Charles Liu, a member of the 2005-2006 Jade Ribbon Youth Council, for making it possible. We are encouraged by this success and hope for many more as we continue our fight to raise awareness of this silent epidemic.

Founded in 1996 by Dr. Samuel So, a physician and surgeon at the Stanford Medical School, the ALC is entering its tenth year as the only non-profit organization in the nation to address the hepatitis B epidemic which affects 400 million people, and 1 in 10 Asians, worldwide. The ALC strongly believes in the capacity of today's youth for effecting change in both themselves and their communities. Therefore, the center has always been committed to training high school students, through its annual Youth Leadership Conference on API Health and the Jade Ribbon Youth Council, to become active leaders in the prevention and eradication of hepatitis B and liver cancer.

The Asian Liver Center's Jade Ribbon Youth Council was assembled in May of 2003 in order to mobilize and educate Asian and Pacific Islander (API) youth to effectively and efficiently spread awareness about the prevalence and dangers of hepatitis B within the API community with a focus on outreach to high school students. Selected each year, the council consists of highly dedicated and motivated high school students from the Bay Area. The ALC seeks to foster and encourage leadership as well as to equip Youth Council members with the knowledge and resources to fight hepatitis B and liver cancer.

Charles Liu, a junior at Homestead High School in Cupertino, California, has been an active member of the Jade Ribbon Youth Council. He has initiated Hepatitis B and Liver Cancer Awareness Week at his high school to educate his peers about these diseases through (list planned activities). (Ask for a quote from Charles?) In addition, he wrote to the mayors of Sunnyvale and Cupertino about his activities, and Major Swegles of Sunnyvale responded by proclaiming January 23 through 27 as Hepatitis B and Liver Cancer Awareness Week to coincide with the activities at Homestead High. We thank the mayor and city council of Sunnyvale for acknowledging the efforts of our youth and bringing our message closer to the community. The ALC sincerely hopes for continued support from the local cities for our outreach activities and future community partnerships.