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**HARC Honored with Top Innovation Award from the Nonprofit Resource Center
*Organization Recognized for Groundbreaking Efforts in Public Health Research***

(PALM DESERT, CA) – The Nonprofit Resource Center (NRC), a program founded by the Volunteer Center of Riverside County, has named the Palm Desert-based Health Assessment Resource Center (HARC) winner of its first-ever *Award for Innovation*. HARC was recognized as part of the NRC’s 2010 Nonprofit Excellence Awards, a competition designed to recognize leading agencies and individuals in the County’s not-for-profit sector.

Judging focused primarily on creative applications and nontraditional approaches to solving community challenges. Agencies vying for awards were asked to provide examples of creative solutions, as well as the innovative strategies that supported solution development.

In support of HARC’s nomination, community leaders and nonprofit executives from statewide agencies cited factors such as the organization’s unique ability to provide highly accurate, actionable research across a broad spectrum of community health issues. Others praised the agency for delivering the type of data necessary to comply with complex grant requests and regulatory standards.

“We are understandably thrilled to be recognized as an innovator,” said HARC Board President Glen Grayman, MD. “It validates the premise on which we were founded, which was to develop and manage a deep collection of public health data that

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HARC Honored with Top Innovation Award – Page 2

could be used to facilitate better planning and decision-making on public policy issues. To have achieved that goal in just three years speaks to the vision of our board and management.”

This year marked the first in which the Nonprofit Resource Center organized an awards competition. The agency formed in 1998, when a group of representatives from regional nonprofit organizations came together with the goal of building the capacity for all nonprofit organizations. In addition to the Nonprofit Excellence Awards, the NRC provides management-training workshops, networking mixers and funder forums at locations throughout the County.

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About HARC

Formed in 2006 by a consortium of more than 30 public and private healthcare agencies, the Health Assessment Resource Center (HARC) conducts a confidential community health status assessment in eastern Riverside County every 3 years to identify major health and quality of life issues. The nonprofit 501(c)3 organization is funded in part by contributions from community partners, as well as entities that contract with the agency for customized public health research. More information can be obtained by calling HARC at (760) 404-1945, or visiting the organization’s website at www.harcddata.org.