



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CONTACT:

Briana Pastorino  
Media Relations Specialist  
Loma Linda University Medical Center  
Phone: 909-558-3462  
E-mail: [bpastorino@llu.edu](mailto:bpastorino@llu.edu)

Jacob Coin  
Exec. Director, Office of Public Affairs  
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians  
Phone: 909-864-8933  
E-mail: [jcoin@sanmanuel-nsn.gov](mailto:jcoin@sanmanuel-nsn.gov)

### **Southern California Tribe Donates \$3 Million to Battle Cancer**

#### ***Loma Linda University Cancer Center Receives Unprecedented Gift from San Manuel Band of Mission Indians to Create a New Medical Oncology Center and Biospecimen Laboratory to Advance Cancer Care***

**LOMA LINDA, CA** – February 8, 2011– San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and Loma Linda University Medical Center are pleased to announce that a donation of \$3 million has been made to Loma Linda University Cancer Center (LLUCC) for a new Medical Oncology Center and Biospecimen Laboratory.

This major investment into improving the care delivered to patients with cancer is the first gift of its kind for the Tribe and is the product of extensive discussions between San Manuel and Loma Linda University Medical Center. This is the largest gift to date received by LLUCC.

“We are extremely grateful to San Manuel Band of Mission Indians for this generous contribution to our Cancer Center enabling us to deliver ‘whole person care’ to our cancer patients,” says Ruthita Fike, CEO of Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC). “Among many positive outcomes, this donation will allow us to take the first step towards having a fully integrated and comprehensive cancer program in one physical space. It also provides testament of San Manuel’s dedication and commitment to our community – a passion shared with LLUMC.”

“This gift is a commitment from the Tribe to the health of our community and the health of its citizens,” says James Ramos, Chairman, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. “It is our hope that this facility will one day be able to find the cures to the cancers that plague us and make treatment and technology readily accessible to those who need medical assistance.”

While half of the donation will go to naming the 10,000-square-foot Medical Oncology Center, as the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Medical Oncology Center, the other half will go to naming the 1,200-square-foot Biospecimen Laboratory, as the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Biospecimen Laboratory.

“The benefits of our Biospecimen Laboratory are far-reaching and present exciting treatment possibilities for patients with cancer,” says Dr. Mark Reeves, director of LLUCC. “These developments will allow us to provide more customized treatments that are directed at specific types of cancer and will enable us to find cancer in earlier stages.”

### **About [Loma Linda University Medical Center \(LLUMC\)](#)**

Loma Linda University Medical Center’s comprehensive health system includes the LLU Children’s Hospital, East Campus, Behavioral Medicine Center, Heart and Surgical Hospital, and physician clinics. LLUMC is the largest and only Level 1 trauma Center in the San Bernardino, Riverside, Inyo, and Mono Counties, which encompass over 40,000 square miles of land in southern California. With a total of 974 beds, the Loma Linda University health system includes the only children’s hospital in the region. Loma Linda University Medical Center averages over 30,000 inpatient discharges and roughly 500,000 outpatient visits a year.

### **About [San Manuel Band of Mission Indians](#)**

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Despite challenges and hardships, the San Manuel tribal community has continued to progressively maintain and enhance its unique form of governance - focusing all efforts on providing a better quality of life for its citizens. Through economic diversification, both on and off the reservation, the tribe has been forward thinking in its efforts to build infrastructure, maintain civil services and promote social, economic, educational and cultural development. Today, the San Manuel tribal government has created essential governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment and continues to pursue opportunities for future generations.

If you would rather not receive future communications from Loma Linda University Medical Center, let us know by clicking [here](#).  
Loma Linda University Medical Center, 11215 Mountain View Suite 165, Loma Linda, CA 92354 United States