For immediate release December 2, 2009

Contact: Diane Vigil 209 461-7547 209 403-6121 dianevigil@mac.com

Dameron Hospital's Life Saving Presentation to Area High Schools

When sudden cardiac arrest strikes every second counts, and if not treated immediately, can be fatal. Sudden cardiac arrest is a common but often misunderstood condition in which the heart abruptly stops pumping blood, typically in response to the unexpected onset of a chaotic rhythm.

On Monday, December 7 at 5:30 p.m. Stockton high schools and their students will walk away with something that may save their life.

Dameron Hospital, Dr. Ramin Manshadi, ACC, California Chapter AED Program Management, Heart Safe Programs, St. Jude Medical and Cardiac Science/HeartSafe 180 are joining together to make student athletes' hearts safe. Dameron Hospital will donate an automated external defibrillator (AED) to Stockton high schools and Dr. Manshadi's alma mater, Elk Grove High.

"My passion is for every California High School to have an AED, if it saves one life, it will be worth the effort," Ramin Manshadi, M.D.

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is an electrical problem that prevents the heart from pumping blood to the brain and vital organs.

When SCA strikes, heart function ceases abruptly and without warning. This loss of function usually results when the electrical impulses in the heart become rapid (a condition known as ventricular tachycardia or VT) or chaotic (a condition called ventricular fibrillation or VF).

When someone collapses from SCA, a combination of external defibrillation and immediate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is the only emergency measure available to prevent death.

The automated external defibrillator (AED) will analyze the victim's heart rhythm and, if necessary, deliver a shock to restore the normal operation of the victim's heart. These failsafe devices will not cause injury to the user, nor will they deliver a shock if none is needed.

Dr. Manshadi, a respected Stockton cardiologist, will speak on sudden cardiac death and an inspiring survivor story will be told.

"We look forward to presenting this life-saving technology to our community high schools." said Christopher Arismendi, MD, CEO of Dameron Hospital.