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**KAISER PERMANENTE FRESNO HELPS THE HMONG COMMUNITY HEAL**  
*An \$80,000 Kaiser Permanente grant provides ongoing mental health support*

**Fresno, Calif., Jan. 14, 2020** – An \$80,000 Kaiser Permanente grant will provide mental health counseling and other support services to those in the Hmong community affected by last November’s mass shooting that killed four people.

The grant to The Fresno Center’s Mass Shooting Victims Support Program will provide additional hours for mental health services and counseling to the victims’ families as well as case management oversight and support. Wellness classes, meditation, yoga and other resources also will be made available to those affected by the tragedy.

“We are committed to helping the community heal from this tragedy and want to provide mental health support to those in need,” Kaiser Permanente Fresno Senior Vice President and Area Manager Wade Nogy said. “We hope this grant along with the others we’ve provided in the past to The Fresno Center will help to break down the stigma associated with mental health issues in the Southeast Asian community.”

For the past two years, Kaiser Permanente has provided a \$150,000 grant to the Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM) to help reduce barriers to treatment and increase the capacity to serve the mental health needs of southeast Asians. FIRM works in conjunction with Stone Soup Fresno and The Fresno Center to support Fresno County’s Hmong, Laotian and Cambodian communities.

The Fresno Center – a hub for the Southeast Asian community in Fresno – is grateful for the ongoing support and says the grant will provide a holistic approach to healing for the Hmong community.

“I am very appreciative of the support from Kaiser Permanente,” said Pao Yang, CEO of The Fresno Center. “We want to ensure that the residents affected from the mass shooting that happened Sunday, Nov. 17th in Fresno are supported. This grant will help us to expand our services leading to a one-stop crisis support center for incidences of disaster. Our aim is to provide relief in these unfortunate situations.”

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