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Saturday surgery a stunning success

Saturday, February 26, 2005, was truly a landmark day for Kaiser Permanente San Francisco and a host of volunteers who took part in a day of free outpatient surgery. In conjunction with Operation Access, a non-profit organization providing medical services to those with limited resources, KP surgeons, nurses, and support staff members teamed up to perform what turned out to be a record number of procedures for any one given session. With over 50 volunteers participating and 19 patients served, the “energy was incredible and everyone was very excited,” says Operation Access Program Coordinator **Alex Tejada**.

Several elements have to be in place to make a successful day of surgery, including the combined efforts of language interpreters (80 percent of Operation Access clients require translation services), nurses, referring doctors, intake coordinators, family counselors, and catering services. According to Tejada, “Everyone plays a key role in putting the process of the day together.” The surgery session that took place on Saturday, February 26, was the