

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 16, 2015 MEDIA CONTACT: Evie Turner, (916) 283-8317, <u>eturner@ucpsacto.org</u>

## UCP NAMES 2015 HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR Annual event to raise funds for people with developmental disabilities

SACRAMENTO – Garry Maisel of Western Health Advantage will be honored at UCP of Sacramento and Northern California's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Humanitarian of the Year Award Dinner 5:30-9 p.m., May 6, 2015, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Sacramento. The UCP Humanitarian of the Year Award is Sacramento's premier humanitarian award given to individuals who have displayed a passion for our region and a desire to work toward enhancing the lives of others. The event is UCP's largest fundraiser of the year and supports its programs which empower people with developmental disabilities.

"Garry Maisel has proven himself a visionary and a leader, both in business and in our community," said Doug Bergman, President and CEO, UCP of Sacramento and Northern California. "His passion for our region is obvious to anyone who knows him and we are honored to name him the 2015 Humanitarian of the Year."

As President and CEO of WHA, Garry has provided leadership at the regional HMO from the time of its start-up in 1996 to its current recorded annual revenue of more than \$600 million. WHA focuses on improving healthcare access and affordability and is known for developing innovative programs to expand coverage to the uninsured. The company's growth and quality earned it a spot on the Sacramento Business Journal's list of Top 50 Fastest-Growing Companies in 2011. Garry leads WHA's growing workforce, who provide award-winning customer service to more than 110,000 members.

More than 600 people are expected to attend Sacramento's premier humanitarian event, which has raised more than \$2 million for local children, adults, and families with developmental disabilities. Last year's event raised nearly \$300,000 through ticket sales, sponsorships, and live and silent auctions. For tickets or sponsorship opportunities, contact Evie Turner at <u>eturner@ucpsacto.org</u> or (916) 283-8317.

Each month, UCP of Sacramento and Northern California serves 4,775 children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families in Butte, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Shasta, Sutter and Yolo counties. Programs include the Saddle Pals adaptive horseback riding program, UCP's Autism Center for Excellence at Sacramento State, adult day programs, independent living services, transportation and in-home respite care for families. For more information about the organization, visit <u>www.ucpsacto.org</u>.