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VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION EARNS NATIONAL RECERTIFICATION

CAMARILLO, Calif. (Jan. 30, 2012) – The Ventura County Community Foundation earned recertification this month for its compliance with standards set by the Community Foundations National Standards Board.

VCCF is the only community foundation in Ventura County to earn this designation and was among the first in California to be certified when the standards program began a decade ago.

National standards were adopted by community foundations to highlight “best practices” in governance, structure, mission, fund development, community leadership, grantmaking and donor relations.



“This is similar to the Good Housekeeping Seal for community foundations,” said Diane Miller, manager of the Community Foundations National Standards Board, a supporting organization of the Council on Foundations. “It says VCCF has demonstrated a commitment to operational quality, integrity and accountability at the highest level of the field.”

With over 200 community foundations in compliance nationwide, the program is designed to assure donors, as well as to their legal and financial advisers, that the foundation is a trustworthy charitable partner.

“This is critically important to our donors and the wider communities in Ventura County we serve,” said Hugh J. Ralston, VCCF president and CEO. “When people make a charitable bequest, establish a fund or set up an annuity, they are putting their trust in us. They are counting on us to manage the investment wisely, honor their charitable wishes and, in some cases, provide lifetime income to a loved one. The National Standards reconfirmation says our house is in order,” added Ralston, who serves on the Community Foundations National Standards Board but is not involved in the confirmation process.

VCCF offers a range of charitable funds, allowing donors to set up scholarships, support a charitable cause that speaks to their heart and provide for community needs or recommend individual grants. The recertification also confirms the fairness and community vision of VCCF’s grantmaking.

“Some say it’s easier to create wealth than to give money away wisely,” said Pierre Tada, VCCF board chair. “There’s some truth in that. Grantmaking is a lot like investing. We need to assess risks, weigh potential gains, diversify assets, monitor performance and operate fairly. When you see the National Standards Seal, you can be sure we’re committed to meeting the highest standards for grantmaking as well.”

VCCF’s reconfirmation was completed in late 2011, following a process of gathering and reviewing documents to ensure that the foundation’s policies and practices matched those established by the Council on Foundations

Community foundations are the only organizations in the philanthropic sector that have clearly articulated their standards and have an ongoing commitment to sustain them, according to Miller, of the National Standards Board.

For more information, visit vccf.org or cof.org.

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ABOUT VCCF

VCCF invests the charitable capital that drives the philanthropic engines of Ventura County. Its portfolio performance ranks in the top 11 of all community foundations in the United States for long-term growth. With total assets of \$101.5 million

of Sept. 30, 2011, its mission is to promote and enable philanthropy to improve our community for good for ever, which it does through grantmaking, scholarships and training at its Center for Nonprofit Leadership. Visit vccf.org or call (805) 988-0196.



VCCF has been certified in compliance with national standards by the Council on Foundations, the highest form of peer review in the United States.