



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **HERITAGE FUND OFFERING \$30,000 TO PROJECTS THAT ADVANCE AWARENESS OF VENTURA COUNTY HISTORY IN YOUNG PEOPLE**

**CAMARILLO, Calif.** (Aug. 18, 2010) – The Heritage Fund at the Ventura County Community Foundation is accepting proposals to fund projects that foster a greater awareness of the history of Ventura County in students and youth.

A total of \$30,000 is available for grants over a two-year period that support efforts to translate Ventura County's heritage for a new generation. Examples may include educational programs about our agricultural heritage, creation of student materials to tell the stories of historically important people or organizations as well as projects which inform youngsters' understanding of local history.

"The Heritage Fund was established to provide opportunities for local nonprofits to have the resources and time to study and document the county's heritage, share who we are and how our county has grown and prospered," said Mary Leavens Schwabauer, chair of the Heritage Fund Steering Committee, VCCF board member and long-time local history enthusiast.

Past projects that have received funding include "Ladies of the Conejo," a book telling the stories of 17 women pioneers of the Conejo Valley; restoration of antique farm equipment at the Camarillo Ranch; documentaries on the Santa Paula Airport; and a book giving third-graders and their teachers broad exposure to the Conejo Valley from its native peoples, through its explorers and including its pioneer families.

Grants in any amount up to a maximum of \$10,000 will be considered with a grant period of 12 to 24 months.

This marks a return to grantmaking by this fund, established at VCCF by many of the county's pioneer families as a permanent source of support for preserving the region's heritage. The fund has set the goal of raising an additional \$75,000 in gifts to reach its endowment goal of \$500,000, which would enable it to distribute \$50,000 every two years.

An informational meeting for potential applicants is scheduled for 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6, in the Community Room at VCCF, 1317 Del Norte Road, Suite 150, Camarillo. To RSVP, contact LaToya Ford at (805) 988-0196, Ext. 126, or [lford@vccf.org](mailto:lford@vccf.org).

Proposals must be received in VCCF offices no later than 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 25. Proposals postmarked the day of, faxed, late or incomplete will not be accepted. To view a complete explanation of this grant along with detailed application information and a downloadable application form, go to the Heritage Fund page on [vccf.org](http://vccf.org).

Contact VCCF Program Officer Virginia Weber with questions by calling (805) 988-0196, Ext. 119, or by sending an Email to [vweber@vccf.org](mailto:vweber@vccf.org).

Established in 1999 by volunteers, the Heritage Fund's purpose is to preserve and protect the heritage and history of Ventura County and expand and celebrate knowledge of that history among residents and students. The Heritage Fund provides grants for local nonprofits to have the resources and time to study and document the county's heritage. Heritage Fund grants are important to the ongoing programs at our local museums and schools.

VCCF is a family of charitable funds whose combined assets are \$100.5 million. Its mission is promote and enable philanthropy to improve our community for good for ever, which is does through grantmaking, scholarships and leadership training programs through the Center for Nonprofit Leadership. VCCF has been certified in compliance with national standards by the Council on Foundation, the highest form of peer review in the United States. For more information, visit [www.vccf.org](http://www.vccf.org) or contact VCCF at (805) 988-0196.

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