



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Hugh J. Ralston, President & CEO,
Ventura County Community Foundation
(805) 988-0196, Ext. 116

VCCF PORTFOLIO BEATS TARGETS FOR FY 2010

Ten-year performance ranks in top 2 for peer U.S. community foundations, in top 11 nationwide

CAMARILLO, Calif. (Nov. 16, 2010) – The core investment portfolio of the Ventura County Community Foundation climbed to \$66.3 million, up 11 percent in the Fiscal Year ending Sept. 30, President and CEO Hugh J. Ralston reported at the annual Open Investment Meeting at VCCF headquarters on Tuesday.

The 10-year performance yielded a 5.3 percent annual gain and bested VCCF's policy index* of 3.1 percent.

The Community Foundation's 10-year investment performance ranks second in the nation in its 10-year endowment record for its peer group of community foundations with portfolios of \$50 to \$100 million, according to a recent analysis of community foundation portfolios by the Council on Foundations. This same analysis places VCCF in the top 11 among community foundations of any size in the United States.

The policy index is used to compare a fund manager's performance versus a blended benchmark of recognized indices that mirrors the portfolio's allocation of U.S. and international stocks and bonds.

* [VCCF's policy index is based on what the portfolio would have earned if it had been invested directly into market indices at 50 percent the Russell 3000, 15 percent MSCI EAFE after taxes and 35 percent Barclays Capital Aggregate Bond.]

“These results underscore the benefits that come from the consistent discipline in pursuing risk-adjusted, diversified portfolios that optimize the opportunity to achieve long-term growth,” said Robert Katch, chair of the VCCF investment committee and member of the VCCF board of directors.

The Community Foundation invests the capital of more than 300 philanthropic funds that serve Ventura County. Nonprofits depend on returns from these investments, distributed annually from VCCF,

to provide charitable services to local residents. Among its funds, VCCF manages endowments that support nearly \$1 million in annual scholarships to Ventura County students.

“Our long-term record, reflecting outperformance relative to benchmarks, means more funds are working to help local nonprofits,” Ralston said. “On a \$66 million portfolio, the 2.2 percent difference in results equals \$1.45 million more that can support local nonprofits.”

The portfolio recovered much of the ground it lost during the historic stock market reversals of late 2008 and early 2009, and Ralston attributes that to the Community Foundation’s staying the course. “We continue to pursue our strategy for diversified long-term capital growth put in place a number of years ago.”

Total assets for VCCF climbed back to \$101 million as of Sept. 30. At its peak before the market crash, the foundation’s total assets reached \$110 million, and it has continued to open funds over the past several years, with \$3.8 million in new funds donated during the past fiscal year alone.

“VCCF remains committed to its core competency: managing endowments for long-term growth so that annual distributions – after fees and inflation – still permit capital growth through market cycles,” Ralston said.

To view VCCF’s audited financial statements and Open Investment Committee presentation, go to vccf.org and click on Investments.

VCCF is a family of charitable funds with combined assets of \$101 million. In FY 2010, VCCF distributed \$5.6 million in grants, including just under \$1 million in scholarships to students going to college and seeking workforce training. Its mission is to promote and enable philanthropy to improve our community for good for ever, which it 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 Foundations, the highest form of peer review in the United States. For more information, visit vccf.org or contact VCCF at (805) 988-0196.

###

