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## **VCCF IMPROVES ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR 2011 SCHOLARSHIPS**

*Jan. 12 is the deadline to register on [vccf.org](http://vccf.org)*

**CAMARILLO, Calif.** (Nov. 29, 2010) – The Ventura County Community Foundation has added a financial-need screening component to its online scholarship registration to help students better determine whether they qualify for specific VCCF scholarships before they apply.

Applying for a scholarship at VCCF is a two-step process which involves an online and a paper component. Students first must register online no later than 5 p.m. Jan. 12, 2011. The online registration number must be included on the hard-copy scholarship application packets due at the VCCF offices by 5 p.m. Jan 14.

During online registration, applicants now can access a list of scholarships they may be eligible for based on financial need, after filling out a financial status form.

“A frustration for students applying for scholarship support occurs when they don’t meet the criteria established by donors, particularly in the area of financial need,” said Hugh Ralston, VCCF President and CEO. “With this tool, students get a clearer message of what they are eligible for, and thus devote their time to applying for appropriate scholarships.”

Applicants need several pieces of information on hand when filling out the financial aid section online, including their parents’ most recent income tax information, a list of major medical expenses not covered by insurance and the total current value of savings accounts, trust funds and other investments.

After analyzing the information, the website suggests scholarships for which the applicant may be eligible, permitting the student to review other criteria for these awards.

All information provided is kept strictly confidential. Members of the selection committee who choose scholarship recipients are required to sign releases to protect the confidentiality of all scholarship information.

Not all scholarships established at VCCF require applicants to demonstrate financial need. VCCF offers a wide variety of awards, including those for students majoring in specific fields, such as nursing and teaching. Awards eligible for distribution in 2011 are posted on [vccf.org](http://vccf.org).

Students may apply for up to five different scholarships.

VCCF is the largest provider of scholarships to Ventura County students, having awarded nearly \$6 million in student aid since its founding in 1987. In 2010, the community foundation granted more than \$950,000 in scholarships to 335 Ventura County students.

VCCF is a family of charitable funds with combined assets of \$101 million. 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](http://vccf.org) or contact VCCF at (805) 988-0196.

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