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**SMITH FOUNDATION AWARDS \$465,500 TO NONPROFITS THAT SOLVE
COMMUNITY PROBLEMS IN VENTURA COUNTY**

CAMARILLO, Calif. (June 27, 2011) – The newest round of grants from the Martin V. and Martha K. Smith Foundation will help Ventura County nonprofits train search dogs for disaster relief, support the elderly, eradicate graffiti and shelter the homeless, to name a few.

The Smith Foundation recently awarded 10 local organizations a total of \$465,500 for projects that meet a variety of community needs, as part of its annual grantmaking program.

The Smith Foundation grant program, administered by the Ventura County Community Foundation, focuses on three primary areas: basic human needs such as food, clothing and shelter; practical higher education through business education and technical training; and the beautification of Oxnard.

Smith Foundation board chair Stacy Cannon noted these priorities supply the most benefits in the long run to Ventura County residents.

“The work of these grantees will have an impact on Ventura County for years to come,” Cannon said. With an emphasis on educating youth and improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods, the Smith Foundation continues to believe that investing in a strong community is a way to extend the legacy of our family’s philanthropy far into the future,” added Cannon, who is Bud and Martha Smith’s eldest granddaughter and serves on the board with her family.

Bud, who died in 2001, and Martha Smith, who passed away in 2003, were leaders in the community. Bud was instrumental in the growth of Oxnard during his days as restaurateur, entrepreneur, developer, banker and investor. The Smith Foundation has been affiliated with VCCF since 1995.

Here are the 2011 grantees:

Boys & Girls Club of Oxnard & Port Hueneme: for youth program operations and to assist youth in achieving their college aspirations through mentoring, workshops and college visits.

Boy Scouts of America, Ventura County Council: For the Oxnard Graffiti Abatement Program to eradicate graffiti in designated areas in and around Oxnard.

California State University Channel Islands Foundation: For the Institute for Global Economic Research to expand course offerings, hold educational forums and hire a part-time staff person to create reports on the economics of Pacific Rim countries.

Caregivers Volunteers Assisting the Elderly: For the SAFE (Supportive Assistance for Frail Elderly) Program, providing aid to over 100 homebound seniors in Oxnard.

DRAGG Inc. (Drag Racing Against Gangs & Graffiti): For the DRAGG Racing to Success: Automotive Education Program, working in conjunction with the Oxnard Police Department, to provide education regarding careers in the automotive industry and other services as an alternative to involvement in gangs and graffiti.

Laubauch Literacy: To train volunteer tutors who will provide English as a Second Language tutoring for at least 50 adults.

Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association: For the Subsidized Care Program to provide affordable home health care, hospice and in-home support to Oxnard residents in need.

Museum of Ventura County: To support the museum's exhibitions and public programs at both the Main Street location and the Ventura County Agricultural Museum in Santa Paula.

National Disaster Search Dog Foundation: To provide funding for efforts in creating search teams for deployment and responding to disasters.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Council of Los Angeles: For the West Ventura Emergency Winter Shelter on K Street in Oxnard, to provide shelter to Oxnard's homeless population from December through March annually.

Since 1996, the Martin V. & Martha K. Smith Foundation has granted over \$10 million to nonprofits around Ventura County.

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ABOUT THE SMITH FOUNDATION

The Martin V. and Martha K. Smith Foundation was established by Martin V. “Bud” Smith and his wife, Martha, with the mission “To enhance the quality of life for the residents of Ventura County.” Bud, the leading land and business developer in Ventura County for more than 50 years, and Martha hoped the Foundation would involve future generations of their family in continuing their appreciation of Ventura County and their care and concern for strengthening the community. Four of Bud and Martha Smith’s descendants serve on the board of the Foundation. Joining the Ventura County Community Foundation as a support organization in 1994, the Martin V. & Martha K. Smith Foundation funds nonprofits in Ventura County through an annual grant program, with an emphasis on organizations serving the Oxnard Plain. Further details may be found on the VCCF website at www.vccf.org.

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 \$110 million, 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.