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**VOLUNTEER LEADERS HONORED WITH PRESIDENT'S AWARD  
FROM VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

*CEO notes volunteered labor would equal \$202,000*

**CAMARILLO, Calif. (Aug. 15, 2011)** – Thirteen volunteers received the Ventura County Community Foundation's President's Award for their unpaid and often unsung efforts.

Presented at the community foundation's biannual volunteer reception last month, the honor recognizes community volunteers whose commitment has furthered the success of VCCF's programs and services. Recipients were chosen for their outstanding service on committees, as unpaid faculty for the Community Foundation's Center for Nonprofit Leadership or as volunteers for the Ventura County Civic Alliance, a VCCF initiative. One even won for learning salsa steps to participate in a dance contest to benefit the Social Justice Fund for Ventura County at VCCF.

"Our purpose tonight is simple," said President and CEO Hugh Ralston at the recent tribute dinner. "That is to say that we could not do this important work without you and to say 'thank you.'"

The 2011 President's Award honorees are Rich Burlingham of Moorpark, Stan Carmichael of Thousand Oaks, Betsy Chess of Ventura, Dao Minh Doan of Newbury Park, Douglas H. Green of Santa Paula, Mary Ann Krause of Santa Paula, Susan Lacey of Ventura, Risa Littman of Oak Park, Rebecca J. Merrell of Moorpark, Kerry Roscoe of Ventura, Dave Shearer of Ventura, Sandy Smith of Ventura and Nicole Tanner of Ventura.

"Government figures show more than 62 million adults volunteer across the country. It is no stretch to say some of the best and most dedicated are here in Ventura County," Ralston said.

Using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics figure of \$21.36 per hour for the value of donated time, VCCF volunteers give the equivalent of more than \$202,279 annually when all their hours are tallied, Ralston noted.

Along with the President's Award honorees, some of the most dedicated behind-the-scenes volunteers assist the Community Foundation's scholarship program, which awarded \$830,000 to more than 319 students

this year. A team of 16 processed the more than 2,600 applications, 19 screened the applications to make sure they complied with the guidelines set by donors. A committee of 29 volunteers reviewed and rated the almost 1,200 eligible applications.

“These volunteers give every student’s application personal attention so our donors know the scholarships they fund go to the most deserving applicants,” Ralston said.

#### **Winners of 2010-2011 President’s Award**

**Rich Burlingham** served on the Advisory Council and the Visibility Committee for the ArtsLIVE in Ventura County initiative at VCCF and created videos showcasing the work of ArtsLIVE grantees for 2009 and 2010;

**Stan Carmichael**, a planned-giving adviser, served on VCCF’s Planned Giving Advisory Committee and has worked to build long-term charitable capital through the Charitable Gift Annuity program;

**Betsy Chess** served on the ArtsLIVE in Ventura County Advisory Council. As chair of the ArtsLIVE Resource Committee, she helped launch and continues to help develop the Young Artists Scholarship Fund endowment;

**Dao Minh Doan** served as chair of the Ventura County Civic Alliance at VCCF from 2009 to 2010. Doan guided the Alliance while working full time and earning his master’s in planning at UCLA.

**Douglas H. Green** serves as chair of the Steering Committee for the Social Justice Fund for Ventura County and in 2010 put in long hours learning dance steps so he could represent the SJF in the Dancing With Your Community Stars charity dance at the Oxnard Salsa Festival;

**Mary Ann Krause** serves as co-chair of the Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County at VCCF. She has dedicated five years to furthering the Compact, a set of principles drafted to guide the county to prosperity while keeping a balance of economy, environment and social equity;

**Susan Lacey** served as chair for the Workforce Education initiative of the Ventura County Civic Alliance at VCCF from 2008-2010. Her dedication has been to improve career opportunities for Ventura County residents while engaging civic and educational leaders;

**Risa Littman** serves on the faculty of the Center for Nonprofit Leadership at VCCF and as a member of the Center’s Advisory Committee to strengthen the Center’s programming to train representatives of local nonprofit organizations;

**Rebecca J. Merrell** is a faculty member in both the ArtsLIVE training program and the Board Leadership Institute module on the board’s role in fund-raising;

**Kerry Roscoe** has been involved with VCCF’s scholarship program since its inception on the Selection Committee and as a member of the Scholarship Advisory Committee. She reads the approximately more than 1,200 eligible applications every year;

**Dave Shearer** established a scholarship fund in December 2008 at VCCF in memory of his wife, and then volunteered to help process the 2,600 total applications VCCF receives;

**Sandy Smith** is the current chair of the Ventura County Civic Alliance at VCCF and serves as co-chair of the VCCA Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County. He teaches at California Lutheran University and applies his expertise to bring citizen participation on local issues with a focus on a sustainable economy;

**Nicole Tanner** volunteered to provide content and marketing assistance for the redesign of the Ventura County Together website. VCCF is one of the founders of the nonprofit collaborative directed at helping local residents recovering from the recession.

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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 \$108 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](http://vccf.org) or call (805) 988-0196.



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