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YOUNG ARTISTS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS MAKE THEIR 2010 DEBUT

Awards from Ventura County Community Foundation 'Help Send Our Best to the Best'

CAMARILLO, Calif. (Aug. 2, 2010) – College-bound performers Dana Christie, of Ventura, and Alana Grossman, of Camarillo, recently won the 2010 Young Artists Scholarship awarded by the Ventura County Community Foundation.

Christie, 17, and Grossman, 18, each received \$2,500 through a permanent endowment fund recently established at the Community Foundation that helps talented Ventura County students enroll in any artistic course of study at institutions known for excellence in teaching the arts.

Christie will attend the Boston Conservatory in Boston, Mass.; Grossman is headed for Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

“Artists are always seeking inspiration. In the case of these two young performers, they have inspired their teachers, their peers and their communities,” said Hugh Ralston, Community Foundation president and CEO, who announced the awards at the VCCF Scholarship Reception earlier this summer.

Christie, a 2010 graduate of Ventura High School, was selected for the CMEA All-State Orchestra and CODA All-State Band for three years. She participated in the Santa Barbara Youth Symphony, the Music Academy of the West’s MERIT summer program and extended year program and the Granada Music and Arts Academy Virtuoso Chamber Orchestra. Her achievements have earned her partial scholarships to the Boston Conservatory and to the Idyllwild Chamber Fest and Festival Orchestra.

“Music has healed my life and soul. If music hadn’t come into my life I might be struggling through classes with low morale and poor grades,” said Christie, who graduated with a 3.89 grade point average.

Grossman, who has been cast in major musical theater productions in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, has taken several honors for her singing. In 2009, she won first place for classical voice in the Southern California Vocal Association and for nonclassical voice in the L.A. Music Center Spotlight Awards. Selected as a 2009 Spotlight Award winner by amazingkids.org, Grossman has performed at Ventura College’s

Opera and Musical Theatre and sang with the award-winning Newbury Park High School Concert Choir.

“It’s wonderful to be recognized for what you do,” said Grossman, a 2010 graduate of Newbury Park High School. “It’s comforting to know as I go into college, there are people beyond my family and friends who believe in me and support me. That’s what receiving this honor says to me.”

The Young Artists Scholarship was launched last year as part of VCCF’s *ArtsLIVE in Ventura County* Initiative to provide annual scholarships to send Ventura County’s best arts students to the best schools in the nation. A campaign is under way to raise \$375,000 by March 2011 to permanently endow the scholarship fund.

Donors interested in contributing to the Young Artists Scholarship fund are invited to contact Ralston at VCCF, or make donations online at www.vccf.org.

VCCF is a family of charitable funds with combined assets of \$100.5 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 on VCCF’s scholarship program and the wide variety of funds distributing awards to local students, visit vccf.org or contact VCCF at (805) 988-0196.

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