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News

For Immediate Release

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Mary Leavens Schwabauer Named Chair-Elect of Ventura County Community Foundation Board

(VENTURA, CA – June 8, 2004) — Mary Leavens Schwabauer has been named chair-elect of the Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF) board of directors. Schwabauer has been active with the foundation for many years and is a founder of several VCCF funds.

“We are delighted that someone with Mary’s breadth of experience, commitment to the community, and long history of service to the Foundation is in a position to step up and lead our organization,” said William H. Bang, chairman of the board of VCCF, whose term ends in September. “With her leadership of several key nonprofit institutions, and her understanding of the need to build philanthropy throughout Ventura County, the Foundation’s mission will be in good hands.”

Schwabauer will succeed Bang effective October 1, 2004, upon board approval.

Since 1994, Schwabauer has been actively involved with VCCF, including becoming a founder of three endowment funds benefiting Ventura County. These include the Women’s Legacy Fund, which serves the unique needs of women and girls, the Destino Hispanic Legacy Fund, which is dedicated to meeting the needs of the Latino community, and the Heritage Fund, which preserves and honors the history of Ventura County. She is currently chairing the Scholarship and Heritage fund committees and sits on the programs and grants committee.

(More)

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Schwabauer's longstanding commitment to Ventura County is evidenced by her participation in many local nonprofit organizations. She has served as president of the Associated Historical Societies and Museums of Ventura County, the Moorpark Chamber of Commerce, the Moorpark Historical Society, Ventura County Museum of History and Art and Moorpark Women's Fortnightly Club, which awards an annual scholarship in Schwabauer's name. Schwabauer was also the recipient of the Honorary Service Award for service and commitment to community from the Moorpark School District and was recently named one of the first recipients of the Katherine Haley Hoffman Award at the Ventura County Museum of History and Art.

Born in Mexico, Schwabauer grew up in Santa Paula and is a major partner in the Leavens Ranch, a longstanding Ventura County based citrus and avocados business headquartered in Santa Paula. She is a graduate of Santa Paula High School and holds a master's degree from the University of Southern California as well as bachelor's degrees from both Whitworth College in Washington and Westminster Choir College in New Jersey.

The Ventura County Community Foundation is a family of charitable funds created in 1987 by citizens who cared deeply about strengthening the community, preserving and expanding its cultural resources, and helping those in need. The foundation works to enrich and enhance the quality of life in Ventura County and to provide leadership to residents and nonprofit organizations in building an enduring source of funds and strengthening community participation to meet the changing needs and challenges of the community. For more information, visit www.vccf.org.

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