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\$38,500 in Scholarships Awarded to Local Students

(Camarillo, CA – August 26, 2004) — Seventy-seven recent high school graduates from 41 local high schools have each been awarded \$500 scholarships by the Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF).

The \$38,500 for the scholarships was raised by VCCF's Scholarship Fund for Ventura County in partnership with the *Ventura County Star* and more than 180 donors, including HAAS Automation which contributed \$25,000. "The Scholarship Fund for Ventura County represents an investment in our future leadership," said Mary Leavens Schwabauer, chair-elect of VCCF's board of directors and chair of the scholarship advisory committee. "We are pleased to be able to work with a large number of donors and the *Ventura County Star* to provide this opportunity for these talented and deserving students."

The scholarship winners were chosen through the *Ventura County Star Scholars* program, which honors some of the county's top students based on criteria such as grade point average, school activities and community service. The winners, listed by hometown, are:

Agoura Hills: Vamsidhar Chavakula and Mala Mandyam

Calabasas: Clarmyra Hayes

Camarillo: Ryan Gorcey, Mary Allison Kanny, Sabrina Leigh Martin, Tyler Owens, Ruchi Patel, Sarah "Sally" Roberts, Kristine Rose, Lauren Saling, and Alysia Sanchez

Fillmore: Anthony Gurrola and Margaret Ly

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- Moorpark:** Andrew Cantwell, Samantha Groden, Aubrey Guthrie, Julie Newberry, and Eric Salas Sandoval
- Newbury Park:** Kaitlin Horan, Mee Ping Ko, Matthew Stephen Lee, Jared Tapanes Perrin, and Zoe Tess Raleigh
- Oak Park:** Cary Finkelstein and Kelly Renae Gelpi
- Ojai:** Brandon Chisum, Jason Coudray, Jessica Geiser, and Katherine Parziale
- Oxnard:** Diana Ayala, Debra Fajardo, Stephen P. Gamboa, Michael Scott Kimbrell, John Le, Amy Moore, Anjelica A. Ong, Justin T. Parizo, Alejandro Perez, Lyan Pernala, Megan Plisky, Leonel Ruiz, Sandra Salas, Fatima Soloria, and Vicki Tran
- Port Hueneme:** Jonas Castaneda
- Santa Paula:** Yadira Hernandez and Edward Robles
- Simi Valley:** Karen Brown, Kyle Fitzgerald, Hayley Goerisch, Michelle Koenig, Dmitriy Kolodin, Aseem Vyas, Hillary Wilkinson, and Whitney Wirth
- Thousand Oaks:** Melody Hsiou, Melissa Lee, Kimberly Nakashima, Ozmayda Reyfa, Heather Noelle Sand, and William Wu
- Ventura:** Bret Bays, Lynnea Michelle Dally, Peter Dolton, Josh Gutierrez, Joelle Jahng, Jessica Lee, Huma Malik, Christopher Meierding, Marc Pollack, Jonathan Shih, and Cari Wagner
- Westlake Village:** Keira Hertz and Bret Perry
- Other Areas:** Heather Donckels from Tehachapi and Zachary Landrum from Woodland Hills

In June, VCCF awarded 189 scholarships totaling \$199,340 to 162 local students through its annual Community Scholarship Programs. The additional 77 scholarships awarded through the Scholarship Fund for Ventura County bring to nearly \$315,000 the amount that VCCF has invested in the youth of Ventura County in 2004 to help them pursue their educational dreams. The Scholarship Fund for Ventura County is an endowed fund that provides scholarships to students from Ventura County who are pursuing a college education and was used this year in partnering with the *Star* to ensure that every high school in Ventura County has at least one scholarship. VCCF is also pleased to acknowledge the success in meeting a challenge grant for the funds endowment, which now stands at \$50,000. This will permit future funding in perpetuity.

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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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