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**Ventura County Community Foundation's  
Community Response Fund Allots \$58,000 to Local Programs**

***VCCF Grants Support Organizations That Address Key Community Priorities  
and Strengthen Local Programs in Transition***

(VENTURA, CA – September 15, 2005) — The Ventura County Community Foundation's *Community Response Fund* has awarded \$58,000 to a number of diverse, community-oriented organizations in Ventura County who are engaged in innovative solutions to community problems. The grants are specifically directed to programs that are focused on key community priorities or those organizations that are building capacity to address such challenges in the future.

“The *Community Response Fund* has historically focused on providing support for nonprofit projects that do not fit within our other grants programs,” said Tina Knight, VCCF director of grants and scholarships. “This year, we are providing seed funding for programs in transitional and development stages which are vital to our community's future. Our goal is to help them address key needs and to build leadership in solving problems. From senior nutrition to supporting the arts, each organization is working to improve the quality of life in Ventura County.”

The United Way of Ventura County and the Ventura County Civic Alliance each received a \$12,000 grant, the largest amount rewarded. The United Way will use the grant to help develop a business plan for the Children's Health Initiative, which is exploring ways to provide access to healthcare for uninsured children. The Ventura County Civic Alliance will use its grant as it moves forward on its livable communities and workforce education initiatives, both outcomes from a two-year community-oriented process to develop strategies to address the county's growth and sustainability. Both grants will provide basic operating support as each organization seeks sustainable funding options.

*(More)*

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The Ventura County Arts Council will be granted \$11,000 to complete its strategic plan, with an emphasis on cultivating new donors to support the arts in Ventura County. Hard hit by cutbacks in state funding, the Arts Council is developing an integrated approach to build long-term funding to support artists and arts organizations in Ventura County.

Senior Nutrition providers also received a total of \$11,000 in grants to support the transition of senior nutrition programs from county management to city-based program management. Within the grant \$3,100 will go to Oxnard to purchase a refrigerator and juice for the senior nutrition program; \$3,000 to San Buenaventura to purchase a salad bar and related supplies, a water filtration system and an icemaker; \$2,600 to the Moorpark Active Adult Center to purchase new chairs; \$1,000 to the Fillmore Senior Center to purchase a copy and fax machine; and \$300 to Santa Paula to purchase a microwave oven. In addition, \$1,000 will go to the Resource Center for Nonprofit Management to create a training program for marketing the new city run nutrition programs to seniors, which will include scholarships to attend the workshops.

A \$12,000 grant was provided to support the start-up phase of the county's pioneering 2-1-1 program, split between Interface Children Family Services and the United Way of Ventura County. Launched this year as the first in California, the 2-1-1 call center provides information regarding health and human services throughout the community through a single entry point, directing callers to the resources they need – from after-school programs to securing adequate care for a child or an aging parent.

VCCF will make additional grants from the *Community Response Fund* later this year, supporting county-wide conferences that bring key issues to a county-wide audience as well as other programs that need support as it transitions to higher levels of service.

Created in 1987, the Ventura County Community Foundation is a family of charitable funds whose combined assets now exceed \$70 million. Grants made in 2005 are projected at over \$4 million, including over \$600,000 in scholarships to Ventura County students. The Foundation's mission is to promote and enable philanthropy to improve our community for good and for ever. It does this by being a careful steward of funds entrusted to it, a long-term partner dedicated to donor intent, a thoughtful grantmaker focusing on the needs of the community and nonprofits, and a community leader and convener working for the common good. For more information, visit [www.vccf.org](http://www.vccf.org).