



*Investing in Ventura County.
For Good. For Ever.*

Contact:
Ross Goldberg
(818) 597-8453

\$88,000 Available to Support Farmworker Housing in Ventura County

(CAMARILLO, CA – July 25, 2005) — The Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF) is now accepting applications for its third round of grants to support the development of affordable housing for local farmworkers.

Up to \$88,000 will be awarded by the Ventura County Fund for Farmworker Housing, which is seeking projects that identify and/or acquire land to be used for farmworker housing and/or support innovative solutions for attracting capital and other resources to aid farmworker housing. Projects also eligible for funding are those that initiate or enable the development of farmworker housing and those which preserve farmworker housing units while rehabilitating substandard units.

“The Ventura County Fund for Farmworker Housing supports efforts to preserve, enhance and increase the supply of decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing for agricultural workers in Ventura County,” said VCCF President and CEO Hugh Ralston. “It is important that we all work together towards this goal as agriculture is one of the county’s greatest economic assets.”

In 2004, VCCF granted more than \$200,000 for farmworker housing. Earlier this year the Foundation announced that its Merewether Community Fund awarded a \$120,000 grant to the Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation to help fund a new 24-unit housing project for low-income farmworkers that will break ground in Santa Paula in September. At that time, Mike Merewether, Ventura farmworker housing committee member said that “we have a moral obligation to provide decent housing for some of the lowest-paid and hardest-working individuals in our community.”

(More)

VCCF/Farmworker Housing 2005

Page 2

Application forms for this latest round of funding, along with details on eligibility criteria, can be downloaded at www.vccf.org/download2/2005FHFRFP. They can also be obtained by calling VCCF at (805) 988-0196, extension 21. The deadline for applications is September 15. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to attend an informational meeting from 2-4 p.m. on August 31 at the VCCF offices at 1317 Del Norte Road in Camarillo.

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. If you would like to volunteer, contribute to VCCF's general scholarship fund, or want more information on starting your own scholarship fund at VCCF, please call (805) 988-0196 or visit www.vccf.org.

#