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### **Community Foundation Offers \$5,000 Match for Katrina Disaster Donations**

(CAMARILLO, CA – August 31, 2005) — The Ventura County Community Foundation has activated a *Katrina Relief Fund* in order to provide local residents a convenient way to make contributions to help victims of the recent hurricane Katrina. The Community Foundation’s *Special and Urgent Needs Fund* will make matching gifts up to \$5,000 to support relief efforts to help victims in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama rebuild their homes and their lives.

“The magnitude of the damage to communities all along the gulf coast is tremendous, and our prayers are with those whose homes have been destroyed and who have suffered injury or loss of a loved one,” said VCCF president Hugh Ralston. “Ventura County is unfortunately very familiar with natural disasters and with the enormity of what it takes to recover and get back on track. Just as we have been helped by so many in recent years as we have coped with fires, mudslides and winter storms, we want to help our fellow citizens along the gulf coast whose lives have been affected by Katrina’s wrath and power.”

Contributions may be sent to VCCF at 1317 Del Norte Road, Suite 150, Camarillo, California 93010. Please make your checks payable to VCCF, and note it is for the *Katrina Relief Fund*. Funds collected by VCCF will be sent to those nonprofit organizations that are helping residents rebuild their lives and their homes in the areas affected by the storm. Grants will be approved by VCCF’s board once the funds have been collected.

***(More)***

## **VCCF/Katrina Relief**

*Page 2*

Please check the VCCF Web site ([www.vccf.org](http://www.vccf.org)) for the most recent information about sending donations directly to the region via local community foundations, including the Greater New Orleans Community Foundation and the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, both of which have set up dedicated funds to help their neighbors and residents in the affected regions.

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).

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