



Contact:
Ross Goldberg
(818) 597-8453

Ventura County Community Foundation Names New Director of its Resource Center for Nonprofit Management

(VENTURA, CA – August 1, 2005) — Dena C. Jenson has been named director of the Ventura County Community Foundation’s (VCCF’s) Resource Center for Nonprofit Management. With a mission to strengthen the nonprofit sector in Ventura County, particularly in management training and board leadership, the Resource Center is the only center of its kind in Ventura County.

Jenson brings to VCCF more than ten years of experience in day-to-day nonprofit management including board and fund development. With specialized training in public policy from the University of Southern California (USC), Jenson has experience directing policy and advocacy activities across a wide range of key management issues, which directly relate to challenges facing the county’s nonprofits. Prior to joining VCCF Jenson served as program and public policy director at the Perinatal Advisory Council, a nonprofit maternal and child health organization that provides education, technical assistance and support to hospitals and healthcare organizations in Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

“We are thrilled to have someone with Dena’s background, experience and enthusiasm assume the leadership of this key VCCF priority,” said VCCF President Hugh Ralston. “Ventura County’s nonprofits represent a \$1 billion business; and through the Resource Center, VCCF is able to partner with many of these organizations to strengthen their leadership, management, staff skills and long-term financial stability. We know Dena will play a key role in all of these efforts.”

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Jenson holds a master's degree in public policy from USC and an undergraduate degree in political science from California State University, Long Beach.

Since 1991, the Resource Center has provided training, research materials and technical assistance to nonprofit organizations in Ventura County with the goal of strengthening the ability of those organizations to deliver needed services in the community, giving over 60 workshops per year on various topics of management and leadership training. In August 2004 VCCF announced that the Resource Center had reached its endowment goal of \$500,000. Combining this milestone with other grant support from foundations, sponsors and friends, the center was able to create the full-time director position while expanding its programs into new and needed areas. For a list of upcoming courses, call VCCF at (805) 988-0196 or visit www.vccf.org/resourcecenter.

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 non profits, and a community leader and convener working for the common good. For more information, visit www.vccf.org.

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