



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Susan Englund at (805) 485-6288, ext. 226  
Tina Knight at (805) 988-0196, ext. 120**

## **United Way of Ventura County & Ventura County Community Foundation Establish Emergency “Freeze Fund” For Displaced Farm Workers**

[Camarillo, CA] – United Way of Ventura County and the Ventura County Community Foundation announced Thursday the establishment of an emergency fund to benefit displaced farm workers in Ventura County due to the recent freeze that damaged local crops.

According to David M. Smith, president & CEO of United Way, and Hugh Ralston, president & CEO of the Ventura County Community Foundation, each organization has agreed to contribute \$20,000 each as seed money for the “Freeze Fund.” A local grower has also contributed \$1,000 to the fund. The United Way and VCCF are jointly encouraging individuals, business and companies to contribute to the fund in support of the short-term needs of displaced farm workers. Relief includes eviction prevention, food, utility assistance, and incidentals.

“United Way and VCCF are extending our collective efforts to assist the many displaced farm workers affected by the recent freeze,” said Smith. “It is our hope that others in the Ventura County community will want to join with us in support of the financial needs of those affected by this loss.”

Contributions to this special fund can be contributed to either United Way or the Ventura County Community Foundation. All dollars contributed to this fund will be distributed to organizations in Ventura County assisting those impacted by the tragedies, with no administrative fee applied to the contributions.

“We are pleased to be taking this role in helping so many affected this week,” said Ralston. “We hope that many will join VCCF and United Way in this important effort and thank them for their contributions.”

Contributions to the fund can be made to VCCF at 1317 Del Norte Road, Suite 150, Camarillo, CA, 93010, (805) 988-0196 or United Way at 1317 Del Norte Road, Suite 100 Camarillo, 93010, (805) 485-6288. For

**United Way** of Ventura County, 1317 Del Norte Road, Suite 100, Camarillo, California 93010

more information, please contact Susan Englund at United Way at (805) 485-6288, ext. 226 or Tina Knight, at the Ventura County Community Foundation at (805) 988-0196, ext. 120.