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**Ventura County Community Foundation
Names Three to Board of Directors Slate**

Camarillo, Calif. – (October 5, 2007) - Three new members have been elected added to the Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF) Board of Directors. The three, each of whom are respected leaders in the community and have participated in the work of the Foundation in various ways, include are Gary E. Erickson, Roz McGrath and Michael D. Bradbury.

Combined, each brings to the board a wide range of experience to the Foundation's philanthropic work. Erickson is President and CEO of The Erickson Group, which provides consulting services to the nonprofit community. McGrath helps operate her family's farm in Camarillo after teaching kindergarten for 10 years; and Bradbury, a former district attorney, is a partner in the law firm Weston, Benshoof, Rochefort, Rubalcava, MacCuish, in Los Angeles and Ventura.

"We are delighted to welcome these three distinguished and respected leaders to the work of the Ventura County Community Foundation", noted Board Chair Mary Leavens Schwabauer. "The Board of Directors has been entrusted with fiduciary oversight and

- MORE -

responsibility of ensuring that donors' wishes are carried out, funds are wisely invested wisely over the long term and that grantmaking is done effectively and efficiently, focusing on ensuring donor intent is harnessed to meet the needs of nonprofits and the communities throughout Ventura County. With each of them having been involved in multiple facets of our works over the years, we look forward to the contributions of each to the work of the board as well. We are pleased that each has agreed to provide leadership in this important work.

“We have many responsibilities, but governance and stewardship of the community foundation is a major responsibility,” Erickson said. “We’re really are trying to create a community endowment of funds that will be there on a short- and long-term basis, providing resources to meet the needs of people in Ventura County.”

Prior to establishing The Erickson Group in 1988, Erickson was President of the California Medical Center Foundation. He also has served as Executive Vice President of United Way, Los Angeles.

Erickson’s ties to VCCF extend back to the 1970s. As head of long-range planning for United Way, creation of the Foundation was a priority at that time. The Erickson Family Fund, which Erickson established, has operated within the VCCF for many years.

“VCCF really provides a wonderful way for individuals and companies to serve their communities while having all of the management and investment resources handled by the Foundation, enabling each of them to focus on the problems and issues they face,” Erickson said. “The important role that community foundations play in developing resources in the community is essential, and I’m happy to be a part of it.”

- MORE -

McGrath retired after teaching kindergarten at Mesa Union High School in Somis, CA. She also has worked as a Child Development Instructor at Oxnard College and taught kindergarten at Santa Catalina School in Monterey, CA.

“My hope is to become closely involved with fundraising, marketing the various VCCF programs, and increasing public awareness about the good work the Foundation does,” McGrath said.

As a longtime Foundation associate, McGrath has a head start on those efforts. She has been affiliated with the Women’s Legacy Fund, a VCCF endowment fund initiated in 1995, for many years; interest from the fund is used to support different nonprofit organizations that assist women and children. She currently is heading a campaign to increase the endowment to \$2 million, serving as chair of the Fund’s Vision Committee and recently established a named fund, part of the Fund’s endowment, in honor of her mother.

“I would like to see more people from the community consider establishing endowments, through their wills, for the Foundation,” she said. “That will require considerable public awareness, but by making known the services of the Foundation I believe we can succeed.”

Bradbury has been an attorney, public official and community leader for the past three decades. Prior to joining his current law firm, he was the district District attorney in Ventura County for 24 years; in all, he has logged 33 years as a prosecutor. He also was the first attorney in Ventura district attorney in California history

- MORE -

to twice be elected President of the California District Attorneys Association, and he served many years on the Board of Directors of the National District Attorneys Association.

Recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Alliance of California Law Enforcement, Bradbury was appointed to the 31st Agricultural District Board of Directors by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

“Having seen firsthand the needs of the community during my 34 years as a prosecutor, and especially those needs facing the lower economic segment of society, I welcome the opportunity to continue to help make a difference through the good work that the Foundation does,” Bradbury said. “There is considerable potential to begin to turn things around in many important areas, and I’m looking forward to participating in that success.”

The Ventura County Community Foundation is a family of charitable funds whose combined assets now exceed \$100 million, with 2006 grants and pledges of \$8.5 million. The Foundation’s mission is to promote and enable philanthropy to improve our community and to build long-term capital to benefit Ventura County. The Foundation has recently been confirmed in compliance with national standards by the Council on Foundations, a reflection of the highest peer review across the nation’s 700 community foundations. For more information, visit www.vccf.org.

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