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**VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S
WOMEN'S LEGACY FUND ANNOUNCES 2007 GRANTEES**

\$60,000 Awarded with Focus on Domestic Violence Prevention and Service Programs and Education, Training and Economic Opportunities for Women and Girls

Camarillo, CALIF. - (October 1, 2007) - The Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF) has announced the recipients of eight grants totaling \$60,000 to programs for women and girls in Ventura County. The grants were awarded to programs which focus on Domestic Violence (Physical, Sexual and Verbal) Prevention and Service Programs, and programs that provided Education, Training and Economic Opportunities for Women and Girls.

The Women's Legacy Fund (WLF), an endowed grantmaking fund at VCCF, has a goal of improving opportunities for women and girls in Ventura County. This year, a total of \$60,000, generated from the fund's endowment, was granted to local nonprofit organizations.

The following programs received grants for 2007:

- **Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Ventura County** - \$5,144 to the *Violence is Not for Me or My Family* program.
- **The Boys & Girls Club of Santa Clara Valley** - \$10,000 for the *Exploring Vocational Career Opportunities* module, to be added to the *GoGirlGo! Program*.
- **The Foundation for Educational and Employment Resources Development, Inc. (aka. Café on A)** - \$3,100 for the *Dirty Little Secrets Workshop Writing and Support Project*.

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- **Interface Children Family Services** - \$5,000 for the *Teen Dating Violence Prevention: Youth Empowerment Program*.
- **Many Mansions** - \$10,000 for Stoll House, assisting homeless women and their families to transition from homelessness to permanent housing and economic self-sufficiency.
- **Rain Communities, Inc.** - \$8,000 for the *Moving Forward Program*, which provides crisis counseling to residents at the RAIN Project Transitional Living Center to assist them in acquiring the confidence and emotional stability needed to regain their independence and re-enter mainstream society.
- **Rescue Mission Alliance** - \$9,756 for the *Lighthouse Women & Children's Mission-Emergency Shelter Program*, which provides emergency shelter for women who are victims of domestic violence and their children.
- **Westminster Free Clinic** - \$9,000 for the *Teen Healthcare Training Program*, training high school-aged girls to provide clinic outreach and direct patient services, and mentorship for continuing their education.

“This year, the Women’s Legacy Foundation grants committee focused on programs that educate women on how to diffuse and/or exit violent situations, programs designed to enable women to gain economic & emotional independence from perpetrators of domestic violence and programs that provide housing, food and shelter services for victims of domestic violence,” said WLF grants committee member and WLF Vision Committee Chair Roz McGrath. “In addition to prevention of domestic violence, we also focused on organizations that provide women and girls in the County with Career development, job skills training, and mentorship programs to educate women and girls on local vocational career opportunities, especially those that are nontraditionally female.”

The Women’s Legacy Fund was established in 1995 through donations to an endowment fund that would provide an enduring source of capital to provide area nonprofits with grants dollars to focus on addressing the needs of women and girls in Ventura County. Recently expanding through a significant bequest, which bolstered funds focusing on preventing domestic violence, the fund’s balance now stands at \$1.3 million.

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

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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.

The grants will be awarded at a Grants Reception/Luncheon on Tuesday, October 16, 2007 at the Saticoy Country Club, which will also feature a keynote address by noted businesswoman, philanthropist and community leader Sara Miller McCune, founder of Thousand Oaks based Sage Publications and of the McCune Foundation. If you would like to attend the annual reception/luncheon, please RSVP to Lindsay Smith at 805-988-0196 ext. 114 or lsmith@vccf.org.

For more information about The Women's Legacy Fund, please contact Hugh Ralston at VCCF, 805-988-0196 ext. 116.

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