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**VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S
HERITAGE FUND HONORS 2008 GRANTEES**

(CAMARILLO, CA – Oct. 14, 2008) -- The Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF) honored the recipients of six grants awarded to organizations that will focus on preserving the heritage and history of Ventura County at an Oct. 14 event at the historic Camarillo Ranch House.

The following nonprofits received the 2008 grants, totaling \$20,000:

Camarillo Ranch Foundation - \$4,000 for the Red Barn Renovation, Restoration and Display Project.

Conejo Valley Historical Society - \$4,000 to publish a local history book, Ladies of The Conejo, telling the stories of 17 women who made significant contributions to the Conejo Valley from 1833 to 1955.

Fillmore Historical Museum - \$2,400 for the Documenting Our History: Collecting Living Ethnographies Project.

Museum of Ventura County - \$4,000 to support the Becoming Ventura County Exhibition. This is the museum's new permanent exhibition focusing on county history, replacing the 1996 exhibition "Ventura County in the New West."

Ojai Music Festival - \$2,600 to research, write and present a comprehensive history of the Libbey Bowl in Ojai and its role in the community.

Saticoy Historical Society - \$3,000 to collect, organize and preserve historical records including narrative documentaries of individuals, communities, industries and issues related to Saticoy and elsewhere in Ventura County.

The Reception featured "Tales from the Heart," a talk by Ralph Mahan, a founder of the Heritage Fund.

"It is imperative that we share the secrets of our past with children so they can use the experiences of ancestors to weave into their own lives," said Mahan, explaining the fund's value to the community.

The Heritage Fund was established in 1999 through donations to an endowment that provides capital to area historical societies and museums with grant dollars.

The Ventura County Community Foundation is a family of 500 charitable funds with total assets of \$105 million, and distributed \$4 million grants and pledges in 2007. The Foundation's mission is to promote and enable philanthropy to improve our community for good for ever, building long-term charitable capital to benefit Ventura County. The Foundation has 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.

For more information about The Heritage Fund please contact Catherine Lee at VCCF, 805.988.0196 ext. 133.

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