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Tada Leads Community Foundation as Board Chair

Camarillo, CALIF. - (December 11, 2008) – Business leader and long term community volunteer Pierre Tada will serve as chairman of the Ventura County Community Foundation’s board of directors, with a term effective October 1, 2008

Tada has volunteered with the Foundation for more than fifteen years, serving on the Investment and Strategic Planning committees as well as on the board of directors since 2005. He has most recently served as vice chair of the board, and chair of the strategic planning and fund development committees as the community foundation has experienced significant growth in recent years.

Tada is a founder of the real estate investment and advisory firm Granite Peak Partners Inc., where he serves as managing partner. Prior to Granite Peak, Tada worked as chief executive officer at Limoneira Co., one of the largest agribusiness companies in the nation. He has also previously served as Vice Chairman of Sunkist Growers Inc., a billion-dollar international processor and marketer of citrus and Chairman of Mission Produce serving in key governance roles. Tada is a Certified Public Accountant and a past practicing professional for the international accounting and consulting firm Deloitte. He has also served as a past chairman of the Ventura County Economic Development Association and has served on a number of local boards for companies and nonprofits.

“Pierre’s depth of knowledge of business, investments and governance, and his depth of commitment to philanthropy to serve Ventura County make him an ideal person to guide the Foundation during these turbulent economic times,” noted Mary Leavens Schwabauer, who stepped down as chair of the board at the end of September. “As our region faces a number of challenges in a volatile economic environment, we are blessed to have someone of vision, experience and steadiness of purpose as board chair, and to work closely with our CEO to sustain and deepen our mission of promoting and enabling philanthropy to improve our community for good forever.

“Over the decade and a half of service to VCCF, I have been impressed with the dedication and commitment of its board, and its outstanding staff, to making a difference in this region of Ventura County, and of the many remarkable ways that VCCF has become an institution whose impact touches literally thousands of people. Its long term focus, its skill in stewarding millions of dollars for Ventura County and its ability to bring together partners to seed collaborations that truly make a difference are all tremendous assets for Ventura County. I look forward to strengthening this work, particularly as we move through these troubled times for local nonprofits, donors and our communities” said Tada.

Tada’s service extends beyond Ventura County. He served as an appointee at the federal level serving on a federal panel that advised the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture on complex international trade agreements. He also previously founded a trade association that successfully passed federal legislation, and reversed major trade agreements that negatively impacted U.S. agriculture.

Tada was born in Seattle Washington, and graduated high school in St. Regis Montana, earned his MBA from the Anderson Graduate School of Management at UCLA. He is a long time resident of the Ventura County.

The Ventura County Community Foundation is a family of 500 charitable funds with total assets of \$96 million, and distributed \$6.1 million grants and pledges in 2008. 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 nations 700 community foundations. For more information, visit www.vccf.org.

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