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VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S WOMEN'S LEGACY FUND ANNOUNCES 2008 GRANTEES

\$66,000 Awarded with Focus on Domestic Violence Prevention and Service Programs and Education, Training and Economic Opportunities for Women and Girls

Camarillo, CALIF. - (September 8, 2008) - The Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF) has announced the recipients of nine grants totaling \$66,000 to programs for women and girls in Ventura County. The grants were awarded to programs which focus on Domestic Violence Prevention and Service Programs, and programs that provide 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 \$66,000, generated from the fund's endowment, was granted to local nonprofit organizations.

The following programs received grants for 2008:

- **Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Ventura County** - \$7,500 to expand the *Girls Can and Will Program*, currently serving middle and high school aged girls in Fillmore and Piru to girls in the first two years of college.
- **City Impact** - \$8,000 to expand the *Job Shadowing Program*, which provides job readiness and communications skills, business field trips, and mentorship for at risk young women in Oxnard, Port Hueneme and Ventura.
- **Interface Children Family Services** - \$5,000 for the *Teen Dating Violence Prevention: Youth Empowerment Program* to provide five five-week multimedia interactive courses to educate female youth residing in the juvenile justice system to recognize abuse, build healthy relationships and break the cycle of violence.
- **Many Mansions** - \$8,000 for the job and career development activities at *Stoll House*, assisting homeless women and their families to transition from homelessness to permanent housing and economic self-sufficiency.

- **Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project** - \$7,000 for the *Replacing Violence with Respect: Domestic Violence and the Mixtec Community Project*, which will train health outreach workers as domestic violence peer counselors.
- **Rain Communities Inc.**, - \$10,000 for the *Moving Forward Program*, which provides crisis counseling to residents of the RAIN Transitional Living Center.
- **Rescue Mission Alliance** - \$6,000 for the *Lighthouse Women & Children's Mission* to provide emergency shelter and supportive services for women who are victims of domestic violence and for their children.
- **Westminster Free Clinic** - \$8,500 for the *Teen Healthcare Training Program*, training high-school aged girls to provide clinic outreach and direct patient services.
- **Women's Economic Venture** - \$6,000 for the *Business Readiness Workshops and Self Employment Training Programs*, providing business skills and business development training for entrepreneurial women planning to start or grow a small business.

"This year, the Women's Legacy Foundation grants committee focused on programs in Ventura County that educate women on the prevention of domestic violence and programs to educate women and girls in Ventura County," said grants committee member Rita Frayer. "The grants committee recognizes how extremely fortunate we are to support women and girls in the County with this fund."

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.

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.

The grants will be awarded at a Grants Luncheon on Thursday, September 18, 2008 at the Saticoy Country Club, which will also feature a keynote address by the Honorable Melinda A. Johnson (Ret.). Considered to be one of Ventura County's top judges for her leadership in consolidating the Ventura Superior and Municipal Courts while acting as the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in 1994-95, Judge Johnson offers wonderful insight to the growth of Ventura County philanthropy and why it is vital to support our communities.

If you would like to attend the Grantee luncheon, **please RSVP to 805-988-0196 ext. 132 or hshort@vccf.org**.

For more information about The Women's Legacy Fund, please contact Catherine Lee at VCCF, 805-988-0196 ext. 133.

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