



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Hugh J. Ralston, President & CEO,  
Ventura County  
Community Foundation  
(805) 988-0196, Ext. 116**

**SMITH FOUNDATION INVITES LETTERS OF INQUIRY FROM NONPROFITS  
WITH PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE LIVES IN OXNARD**

**CAMARILLO, Calif. (Dec. 1, 2009)** – The Martin V. & Martha K. Smith Foundation, a support organization of the Ventura County Community Foundation, is accepting letters of inquiry for grants to fund programs that enhance the quality of life for residents of Ventura County with a particular focus on the Oxnard Plain – the source of the Smith family’s business interests for decades.

The grant program – administered by the Community Foundation – is open to nonprofits and public agencies. The grants will range from \$10,000 to \$50,000 per year.

The Smith Foundation has chosen to focus grantmaking for 2010-2011 in these areas of interest:

- **Basic Needs/Safety Net Services** such as food, shelter, clothing, access to health care, support for former foster youth and mental health services for homeless individuals and families;
- **Beautification of Oxnard** such as open space preservation, parks, community gardens, planting trees and community clean-up projects;

- **Practical Higher Education** including business leadership, business education, entrepreneurship and career and technical training, such as nonprofit trade schools, regional occupational programs and community college programs.

Programs should benefit residents of the Oxnard Plain region.

### **Timeline**

Applicants must submit a letter of inquiry by Jan. 13, 2010, using an application form available on [www.vccf.org](http://www.vccf.org). Those invited to submit full proposals will be notified by March 10, 2010.

Founded by the late Ventura County developer, Martin V. “Bud” Smith and his wife, Martha K. Smith, the foundation uses focused grantmaking to fulfill its mission of enhancing the quality of life for residents of Ventura County, with a preference for serving the Oxnard Plain.

For more information, download the online guidelines and letter of inquiry. Specific questions may be directed to Tina Smith, vice president of Program & Grants at VCCF, by calling (805) 988-0196, Ext. 120, or via email at [tknight@vccf.org](mailto:tknight@vccf.org).

VCCF is a family of charitable funds whose combined assets are \$95.7 million. Its mission is promote and enable philanthropy to improve our community for good for ever, which is done through grantmaking, scholarships and leadership training programs through the Center for Nonprofit Leadership. VCCF has been certified in compliance with national standards by the Council on Foundations, the highest form of peer review in the United States. For more information, please visit [www.vccf.org](http://www.vccf.org) or contact VCCF at (805) 988-0196.

###

