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VCCF GIVES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK
Students asked to forego lattes, other luxuries to donate to new fund for future scholars

CAMARILLO, Calif. (June 19, 2009) – Believing that students who have been given help pursuing higher education should seed the next generation of scholars, the Ventura County Community Foundation board of directors has approved a new scholarship fund aimed at its former scholarship students.

Called the VCCF Alumni Scholarship Fund, it was introduced earlier this month at the community foundation’s annual scholarship awards reception in Camarillo.

“I want to challenge each of you to help support other students,” VCCF President and CEO Hugh Ralston told the more than 350 scholarship recipients for 2009. “We don’t ask very much of you because we know many of you are starting out. But we think you can do something and share the bounty,” he said.

In his remarks to the honorees and their parents, Ralston laid out concrete examples of how they could build the fund:

“For the price of a latte, you can donate online to the Scholarship Fund,”

Ralston said. “For the price of a used book, you can help someone else make it through college. For part of what it costs go on spring break or get a new outfit that looks pretty sharp, you can help open the door to someone else. For the price of your monthly Internet bill, you can expand the circle and join

those who continue one of the greatest investments possible – staking the next generation to the chance to be something substantive and real.”

Eligible students are encouraged to make a monthly pledge to the fund and can donate via the foundation’s Web site, at www.vccf.org. During start-up phase, all contributions will be split in two, with half going toward current scholarships and the other half applied to an endowment to insure the future of the fund.

VCCF has awarded \$5 million in scholarships since it founding in 1987. This year, students received more than \$1.35 million in aid for college or for vocational training for those already in the workforce. Despite the downturn in the economy, the Community Foundation handed out \$290,000 more than it did in 2008.

To donate to the Alumni Scholarship Fund, email lsmith@vccf.org or phone (805) 988-0196, ext. 115.

The Ventura County Community Foundation is a family of 500 charitable funds with total assets of \$96 million, and distributed \$5.3 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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