



Contact:
Hugh Ralston,
President & CEO
(805) 988-0196
hralston@vccf.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**OXNARD BUSINESSMAN AND ACTIVIST ARMANDO LOPEZ ELECTED
TO THE VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BOARD**

(CAMARILLO, CA – January 21, 2009) – Armando J. Lopez has been elected to the board of directors of the Ventura County Community Foundation for a four year term.

A versatile community activist and proud Oxnard native, Lopez took his seat on the board earlier this month. Lopez serves as a partner in Plaza Development Partners LLP, which built the multiscreen theater and restaurant complex in downtown Oxnard. Voted Oxnard's Distinguished Citizen in 2005, he also is the president of the Downtown Center for the Arts.

"Armando's track record of building an even stronger and more vibrant Ventura County makes him a great fit for the Community Foundation," said Pierre Tada, chair of the 17-member VCCF board. "Armando has been active with so many community organizations, he is a resource we can depend on to help us deliver the best use of charitable dollars the community has entrusted to us," Tada added.

Along with spearheading the drive to revitalize downtown Oxnard, Lopez currently is president of El Concilio de Condado de Ventura – a nonprofit organization that provides mentoring and other services for at-risk youth and their families. He also serves on the boards of St. John's Healthcare Foundation, the Ventura County Fair, the Oxnard Police Chief's Advisory Board and The Wellness Community's Latino Cancer Advisory Board.

It is his service with these diverse organizations that underscores to Lopez the value of the Community Foundation. "In my lifetime, one of the biggest changes I've seen is people making the decision to channel their efforts and focus to philanthropy in Ventura County," said the 62-year-old Lopez. "VCCF has provided great leadership to bring that about," he added.

A graduate of California State University, Northridge, Lopez spent the early part of his career in education, job training and social services. He then segued into the business world, developing the Victoria Estates and the RiverPark subdivisions. In 2006, he was named Oxnard Arts Businessman of the Year.

A veteran who served in the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division, Lopez and his wife, Lourdes, live in Oxnard and have three grown daughters.

He shares his love of the cinema with the community by offering the Monday Night Foreign Film Series at the PlazaCinemas 14 in downtown Oxnard.

"The arts build a healthy community and also build a more beautiful community," he recently told a reporter interviewing him for a newspaper article on the series.

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