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**TWO YOUNG TALENTS WIN FIRST EMERGING ARTISTS SCHOLARSHIPS  
AT VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

**CAMARILLO, Calif. (June 18, 2009)** – Jeremy Hanna, of Newbury Park, and Elizabeth Hatakeyama, of Thousand Oaks, were honored with the inaugural Emerging Artists scholarships at the Ventura County Community Foundation.

Hanna and Hatakeyama, both 17, each received a \$2,500 award through a new fund that helps students enrolled in any artistic course of study attend institutions known for excellence in teaching the arts.

“These young artists have inspired their peers, their teachers and our community,” said Hugh Ralston, VCCF president and CEO, who announced the awards at the VCCF Scholarship Reception last month.

“Equally important, they have demonstrated skill and perseverance in their chosen field of study that will carry them forward through the years. We look forward to hearing great things from them in the coming years.”

Hanna, who was in this year’s graduating class at from Newbury Park High School, will study theater arts at California Lutheran University. An award-winning performer, he hopes to teach theater so he can help students work through their emotions

by acting, instead of acting out.

A 2009 graduate of La Reina High School in Thousand Oaks, Hatakeyama will enroll in the animation program at California State University, San Jose. She served as art editor of the school literary magazine, *The Odyssey*, and as a volunteer created posters encouraging donations of supplies to the Agoura Animal Shelter.

The Emerging Artists Scholarship comes out of the ArtsLIVE initiative – a three-year effort underwritten by the James Irvine Foundation’s Communities Advancing the Arts – to spotlight and enhance artistic expression in Ventura County. The VCCF Community Response Fund provided the seed money for this year’s inaugural awards.

The Foundation now seeks local donors to contribute to an endowment fund, which will ensure these scholarships can be distributed annually to the most talented artists in the Ventura County region.

“Part of our objective is to build an enduring source of support that will send the best talent from our county to the finest schools in the country, to give them the training they need to succeed as artists,” Ralston said.

Donors interested in contributing to the fund are invited to contact Ralston at VCCF, or make donations online at [www.vccf.org](http://www.vccf.org).

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](http://www.vccf.org).

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