



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FERNANDO DE NECOCHEA TO DELIVER KEYNOTE ADDRESS
AT DESTINO GRANTS RECEPTION AND SCHOLARSHIP**

Camarillo, CALIF. – (APRIL 15, 2009) *Destino: The Hispanic Legacy Fund* will award eight grants – totaling \$51,000 – to programs serving Ventura County’s Latino community at its awards reception on April 16.

This year’s awards focus on the four components of *Destino’s* Latino Literacy Initiative: Health (specifically teen pregnancy and communicable diseases), Reading and Writing, Financial and Arts and Culture.

The keynote address will be made by Fernando de Necochea, a senior advisor and community partnerships director for Southern California Edison and its parent company, Edison International. He will speak on “Latinos, Philanthropy and Education.”

Grantees will receive their awards at a reception and fundraiser on Thursday, April 16, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at The Derby Club, Island View Room, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura.

In its 13th year, *Destino* is an endowed grantmaking fund at VCCF focused on strengthening organizations serving the Latino community in Ventura County. To celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2006, *Destino* established the *Destino* Scholarship Fund, which provides aid to first-generation students attending public schools in California; Southern California Edison was a major contributor to the establishment of the Fund. Proceeds from the grantee reception will go toward future *Destino* Scholarship awards.

The following organizations received *Destino* grants for 2009 and will be honored at the event:

- **United Way of Ventura County-Ventura County AIDS Partnership**
\$5,000 to leverage matching funds for the *Ventura County AIDS Partnership’s* 2010 Grant Pool.
- **El Concilio del Condado de Ventura**
\$9,000 for the *Breakthrough Youth for Success Program*, specifically to expand the Reproductive Health Care and Healthy Dating Relationships curricula to serve youth in Fillmore.
- **City Impact Inc.**
\$8,000 for the *Family Literacy Program*, providing a family approach to education and literacy services to Latino children and their families in Nyeland Acres and El Rio.

- **El Centrito Family Learning Centers**
\$9,255 to support the *Parent and Child Interactive Literacy Activities* component of the Family Literacy Program.
- **City Corps of the Central Coast**
\$3,500 for the *Enriquesca su Dinero Program*, providing financial literacy classes to low-income Latino families in Ventura and Saticoy.
- **Boys & Girls Club of Greater Oxnard & Port Hueneme**
\$5,000 to support the *Youth Choral, Orchestra and Performing Arts Programs*, serving club members and youth within the Rio School District.
- **Lucha Inc., as fiscal sponsor for Inlakech Cultural Arts Center**
\$5,700 for the *Inlakech Cultural Enrichment Literacy Project*, providing instruction on Latino performing arts, specifically mariachi music, singing and folklorico dance to Latino youth in Ventura, Oxnard and Port Hueneme.
- **Téatro de las Américas, Inc.**
\$6,800 to support the production of Spanish-language theatrical performances that engage Ventura County Latino actors and volunteers in the productions.

“We take pride in knowing these grants prove Latino philanthropy is alive and well in Ventura County,” said Hank Lacayo, chair of the *Destino* Vision Committee and a board member at the Ventura County Community Foundation.

Destino: The Hispanic Legacy Fund was established in 1996 by local residents in partnership with the VCCF and is dedicated to meeting the needs and creating philanthropic and leadership opportunities for Latinos in Ventura County. Since its founding, *Destino* has given 110 grants totaling over \$766,900, impacting over 45 community organizations and approximately 35,000 Latino youth and adults in Ventura County. For more information about *Destino: The Hispanic Legacy Fund*, please contact Heather Short at (805) 988-0196, Ext. 132.

The Ventura County Community Foundation is a family of 500 charitable funds with total assets of \$96 million, and distributed \$5.7 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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