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VCCF PORTFOLIO BEATS TARGETS FOR FY 2009 PERFORMANCE
Endowments up 5.5 percent vs. benchmark of 1.7 percent

CAMARILLO, Calif. (Nov. 17, 2009) – The investment portfolio of the Ventura County Community Foundation continued its rebound, up 12.6 percent in the Fourth Quarter of its fiscal year, President and CEO Hugh J. Ralston reported at the annual Open Investment Meeting at VCCF’s Camarillo headquarters on Tuesday.

For the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, the portfolio posted a 5.5 percent gain, up from significant losses when global financial markets hit historic lows in March 2009.

The portfolio’s fiscal year-end results are also three times greater than the policy index* of 1.7 percent, demonstrating VCCF’s long-term diversification strategies continue to provide additional value for its portfolio, Ralston noted.

The policy index is used to compare a fund manager’s performance versus a blended benchmark of recognized indices, which mirrors the portfolio’s allocation of U.S. and international stocks and bonds.

* [VCCF’s policy index is based on what the portfolio would have earned if it had been invested directly into market indices at 50 percent the Russell 3000, 15 percent MSCI EAFE after taxes and 35 percent Barclays Capital Aggregate Bond.]

“We believe risk-adjusted, diversified portfolios provide the best opportunity to achieve long-term growth over all other investment options, and the performance of this portfolio bears that out,” said Robert Katch, chair of the VCCF investment committee and member of the VCCF board of directors.

“While we are naturally pleased at the results for this immediate past – and very challenging – year, we are also pleased to share the portfolio’s long-term results,” Katch said, noting it outperformed its benchmark in every time period. This includes 3-, 5- and 10-year, as well as since inception, with the

10-year record outperforming its benchmark by 300 basis points.

The presentation to donors and funders also noted VCCF's performance in its annual, 3-, 5-, and 10-year periods ranks in the top 20 percent of U.S. endowments with assets below \$1 billion. VCCF's 10-year record finished in the eighth percentile, meaning it outperformed 92 percent of comparable endowments.

The Community Foundation invests the capital of more than 300 philanthropic funds that serve Ventura County. Nonprofits depend on returns from these investments, distributed annually from VCCF, to provide charitable services to local residents. VCCF also manages endowments that provide scholarships, donor-advised funds and community grantmaking.

“By staying with our long-term investment strategy, VCCF remains committed to its core competency: managing endowments for long-term growth so that annual distributions – after fees and inflation – still permit capital growth through market cycles,” Ralston said.

Despite the historic gains in equity markets this year, the financial markets continue to struggle along the road to recovery, Katch said at the investment meeting.

“Although we are cautiously optimistic that the market will continue to regain its losses from the historic levels in 2007, the economy is still throwing off mixed signals,” he said. “We will keep focused on our disciplined approach, which has paid such dividends for local donors and nonprofits.”

To view VCCF's audited financial statements, go to <http://vccf.org/fiscal.html>. The copy of the open investment committee presentation is also available at www.vccf.org.

VCCF is a family of charitable funds with combined assets of \$95.7 million. In FY 2009, VCCF distributed \$4.9 million in grants, including \$1.3 million in scholarships to local residents, students and workers. Its mission is to promote and enable philanthropy to improve our community for good for ever, which it does 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 vccf.org or contact VCCF at (805) 988-0196.

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