



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S
2009 WOMEN'S LEGACY FUND GRANT PROGRAM UNDERWAY
\$70,000 in Grants Available**

(CAMARILLO, CA – MARCH 18, 2009) – The Ventura County Community Foundation's *Women's Legacy Fund* annual grants program is underway. **The deadline to submit grant proposals is 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 15, 2009.**

The VCCF's *Women's Legacy Fund* is an endowed grantmaking fund to support nonprofit programs focused on the economic, educational, physical, emotional, social, artistic and personal growth of women and girls in Ventura County. Each year, donors to the fund review the needs of the community and vote to select issues of importance to women and girls in the county. Over the past 12 years, the Women's Legacy Fund has awarded 107 grants totaling \$775,500 to a variety of programs to improve the lives of women and girls in our community.

A total of \$70,000 is available this year and grants in any amount up to a maximum of \$10,000 will be considered. This year's two grantmaking priorities are:

- Domestic Violence Prevention and Service Programs.
- Basic Needs & Safety Net Services for Women and Their Children.

In addition to the designated support for the domestic violence prevention and service programs, which is funded by a significant bequest to the WLF, the other priority need determined by the WLF's Founders is helping women and children who are struggling with basic needs and safety net services. From September 2007 to September 2008, there was an 11% increase of women with children seeking welfare assistance and a 25% increase in the food stamp program. Homeless shelters and service provision programs are seeing dramatic increases. Single mothers now head 85% of homeless families in our county.

"The economy is at the forefront of everyone's mind these days. As we face these difficult times, the work of the *Women's Legacy Fund* is more important than ever," explained 21st Century Founder and grants committee member Virginia Weber.

The Grants Committee strongly encourages collaborative programs and those where *Women's Legacy Fund* funds can be leveraged for matching funds and in-kind services.

Nonprofit organizations and public agencies are eligible to apply. The Women's Legacy Fund does not make grants to individuals. Women in need of direct services are encouraged to call 2-1-1 to locate services in their area of need.

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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