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FIVE NONPROFITS RECEIVE GRANTS TO KEEP LOCAL HISTORY ALIVE

VCCF Heritage Fund provides \$30,000 to preserve Ventura County's past

CAMARILLO, Calif. (Jan. 20, 2011) – The Heritage Fund awarded five local nonprofits a total of \$30,000 for programs dedicated to preserving the history of Ventura County and sharing that history with the next generation.

The money will allow for the archiving of a unique historical collection, a new interactive museum display, the publication of a book, as well as an audiovisual website and a program for local art history education for youth.

“We are particularly pleased with the focus this year on the creativity and variety demonstrated in the programs recognized, each of which will share our county’s history with our students,” said Mary Leavens Schwabauer, a founder of the Heritage Fund. “We appreciate all those who participate in that vision by supporting this fund, which sustains our ongoing countywide effort to share our early years with young people of all ages.”

Each nonprofit will be recognized at an awards presentation ceremony on 3 p.m. Feb. 9 at the Olivas Adobe Historical Park, 4200 Olivas Park Drive, Ventura, CA 93001.

With the \$8,579 it has been granted, Santa Paula’s California Oil Museum will finish cataloging its large collection of artifacts, books and photos. After completion, access to the museum’s resources, including many primary sources from the county’s past, will be easier for residents.

A hands-on interpretive center will be added to Ventura’s Olivas Adobe Historical Site after receiving \$3,567 to help fund the creation of the visually enhanced exhibit. The center will feature multimedia, dioramas, murals and presentations that will change every six months to better educate youth and local residents about Ventura County’s rancho era.

The Conejo Valley Historical Society’s Stagecoach Inn Museum will receive \$7,854 to create and publish a new book about the people and places that no longer exist in the county such as long-forgotten schools and the Conejo Valley Airfields. “Tales and Voices of Old Conejo Valley” will have

firsthand accounts from the Oral History Committee and be distributed to schools, libraries and other public places around the county.

The Museum of Ventura County's new "Agriculture Grows Ventura County" website will soon be up and educating thanks to the \$5,000 grant from the Heritage Fund. The website will complement exhibitions at the Agricultural Museum in Santa Paula, scheduled to open later this year.

The Santa Paula Art Museum will develop the curriculum for its Art Education Program that will allow docents to give classroom presentations at Santa Paula elementary and middle schools before a fieldtrip to the museum. The \$5,000 grant also will help provide a Museum Discovery Kit of supplemental materials for the students to better understand the connection between local art and the history of their community.

To RSVP for the event, contact Jerusha Schmalzel at (805) 988-0196, Ext. 132, or jschmalzel@vccf.org.

About the Heritage Fund

The Heritage Fund was established in 1999 to preserve, protect and sustain the unique historical heritage of Ventura County. With an endowment managed by Ventura County Community Foundation as part of its long-term pool, the fund reached \$400,000 endowment goal in 2007 which allows it to provide grants to local nonprofits that share the Fund's mission. For more information, go online to vccf.org/funds/heritage_fund/index.shtml.

VCCF is a family of charitable funds with combined assets of \$102.6 million. 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, visit vccf.org or contact VCCF at (805) 988-0196.

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