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Ventura County Community Foundation's
Destino: The Hispanic Legacy Fund
Accepting Grant Proposals for 2007

(CAMARILLO, CA – November 21, 2006) — The Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF) is accepting grant proposals for programs serving the county's Latino community, which focus on "family strengthening" and those related to the growing obesity epidemic, sexually transmitted diseases and access to higher education. The grants are offered through *Destino: The Hispanic Legacy Fund*, administered by VCCF.

Entering its 11th year, *Destino* is an endowed grantmaking fund that addresses the economic, educational, physical, emotional, social, artistic and personal growth of Latinos in Ventura County. A total of \$87,000 is available for this year's grantmaking focus, and grants in any amount up to a maximum of \$15,000 will be considered.

The focus of this year's grants reflects ongoing local Latino health needs as tracked by *Destino* and VCCF. Over 35 percent of the 44,049 Ventura County residents living with diabetes today are Latino, as are one-third of 1,300 people with HIV/AIDS.

Grant applicants in the family-strengthening area should focus on family counseling and support services for single-parent and two-parent families, mental health services, anger management, parenting skills, and care for special-needs family members and caregivers as well as on family-oriented approaches to the health issues of obesity and sexually transmitted diseases.

Applicants in the obesity area should focus on obesity-reduction as a way to reduce the incidence and prevalence of obesity-related diseases such as heart disease and diabetes. Strategies for this may include nutrition education, exercise promotion and family-oriented health programs.

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Applicants in the sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) area may focus on providing education to both youth and/or parents regarding disease transmission, strategies for prevention, and testing and treatment options for STDs, including HIV/AIDS. Nonprofit organizations that use a family strengthening, educational or activity-based approach to addressing either obesity or sexually transmitted diseases are particularly encouraged to apply.

Applicants for access to higher education funding should focus on academic and financial aid counseling for college and other post-high school certification programs and education. Organizations with such projects related to careers in the health field are particularly encouraged to apply. According to the 2000 Census, only about 11 percent of Latinos nationwide now have a college education, while the national average is over 25 percent; with the opportunities in both college track and career technical education available targeted to the Latino population, Destino hopes to strengthen skills in the current workforce and the students in the high schools.

Grant funds in all categories are to be used for programs serving the Latino residents of Ventura County.

Deadline for proposals for 2007 grants is no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 12, 2007. For more information and to view the Request for Proposals, please visit VCCF's Web site at <http://www.vccf.org/fundingcycles.html>.

Destino: The Hispanic Legacy Fund was established in 1996 by local residents in partnership with 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 84 grants totaling over \$560,000, impacting over 36 community organizations and 23,000 Latino youth and adults in Ventura County.

The Ventura County Community Foundation is a family of charitable funds whose combined assets now exceed \$90 million. Grants made in 2006 were over \$8.5 million, including over \$931,000 in scholarships to Ventura County students. Founded in 1987, the Foundation's mission is to promote and enable philanthropy to improve our community and to build long-term charitable capital to benefit Ventura County. For more information, visit www.vccf.org.

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