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**NEW SCHOLARSHIPS AT THE
VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
VCCF Expands Awards by \$135,500 In Spite of Down Economy**

(CAMARILLO, CA – December 18, 2008) – New scholarship funds established this year at the Ventura County Community Foundation encourage emerging artists, future farmers, aspiring doctors and science teachers, working women re-entering college and students who are the first in their families to go to college.

These awards will provide more than \$135,500 in new and expanded scholarship opportunities to Ventura County students for the next academic year.

“I remember my stepfather’s passion for music, and what better way to honor him than by nurturing emerging artists in the music field?” said Robbie La Londe, who established the new Bob & Evie Florence Memorial Scholarship.

Her stepfather, jazz legend Bob Florence, died in May 2008 after a lifetime of making music that won him a Grammy and two Emmy awards. “This way he is always with us, through this legacy as well as his music,” La Londe said.

New scholarships established by Ventura County residents and donors to stake the next generation include:

- Two \$2,500 awards for the Emerging Artists Fund, helping talented young artists pursue their artistic training;
- Three \$2,500 awards from the Destino Scholarship Fund, which returns to awarding scholarships in 2009, to help first-generation students;
- A \$5,000 scholarship for students pursuing medical education, named in honor of the late Dr. Ralph B. Busch, Jr., a pioneering Ventura County anesthesiologist;
- The Orfaea Foundations has expanded by \$115,000 their contributions to scholarships for qualifying children of former employees of Kinko’s and the children of migrant agricultural workers; as well as expanding support to a forgivable loan program for nursing students established at VCCF with a contribution from the County Board of Supervisors;
- A \$1,000 scholarship to help women returning to school from the workforce, established in memory of former Oxnard College professor Cheryl Shearer;
- To encourage future science teachers, Barbara Rose established the \$1,000 Science Matters award in honor of her father, Robert D. Fowler, a science teacher;
- The \$1,000 Leo and Rita Vanoni Scholarship for agriculture majors was established by Vanoni family whose ancestors emigrated from Italy to farm in Saticoy in the

1800s. Leo Vanoni is the namesake for the livestock attraction at the Ventura County Fair known as Uncle Leo's Barn.

Students can learn more about how to apply, as well as the guidelines for the 80-plus scholarship funds providing \$1.38 million in awards in 2009 at the Foundation's Web site www.vccf.org/scholarships.html.

Students may apply for a maximum of five scholarships, and there is no application fee. Students should make sure that they are eligible for all scholarships they apply for. Separate, complete application packages must be submitted for each scholarship opportunity.

The Ventura County Community Foundation is a family of 500 charitable funds with total assets of \$96 million, and distributed \$6.1 million in 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 nation's 700 community foundations. For more information, visit www.vccf.org.

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