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NEWS RELEASE
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2009 Ellman Fund Grants Announced

July 2009 — The second round of grants from the George and Phyllis Ellman Fund, under the auspices of the Sonoma Valley Fund, were awarded this year to LandPaths, Quarryhill Botanical Garden, Sonoma Ecology Center, Sonoma Land Trust, Sonoma League for Historic Preservation and Sonoma Classical Music Society. This year, \$25,500 will go to the organizations for projects in Sonoma Valley. Support is for a one-year grant period beginning July 1, 2009.

Landpaths will offer a program called *In Our Own Backyard* at Flowery elementary School for 3rd grade students which integrates lessons about nature into their broader curriculum. In a similar vein, Quarryhill Botanical Garden, which has created a world-class woodland comprised of wild-collected, species from all over Asia, will provide environmental educational tours for 4th and 5th grade students from Sonoma Valley schools. Sonoma Ecology Center will teach environmental science to high school students through its *Watershed Education Project* where the classroom is often outdoors.

Sonoma Land Trust will fund work to develop two trails on the Glen Oaks Ranch to make the property more accessible to visitors. The grant to Sonoma League for Historic Preservation will support activities around the opening of the newly-renovated Hooker House to the public. Sonoma Classical Music Society will use its support for the continued sponsorship of classical music concerts of the highest professional quality.

The Ellmans placed the stewardship of their charitable intentions with the Sonoma Valley Fund, an affiliate of Community Foundation Sonoma County, entrusting its board to keep apprised of the most important needs and opportunities in the community. "Thanks to the generosity of George and Phyllis Ellman, the Sonoma Valley Fund continues to grant some \$25,000 a year to support the environment, environmental education, historical preservation and classical music,"

said David Stollmeyer, chair of the Sonoma Valley Fund Grants Committee, “This year, we received a number of excellent grant applications and are very pleased to be able to partially fund six of them.”

The mission of the Sonoma Valley Fund is to strengthen our community through philanthropy and legacy giving. SVF is a resource for donors who wish to make charitable gifts, especially as part of their estate planning, to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Sonoma Valley. Since its inception two years ago, Sonoma Valley Fund donors have awarded over \$125,000 in grants back to the community. Donors may make gifts through a variety of programs to benefit specific causes of importance to them, or rely on the Fund’s Board of Directors who are long-term, active residents of Sonoma Valley. For more information, visit www.sonomavalleyfund.org.

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