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NEWS RELEASE
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Sonoma Valley Fund Announces 2010 Ellman Grants

July 2010 — The third round of grants from the George and Phyllis Ellman Fund, under the auspices of the Sonoma Valley Fund, was awarded this year to Audubon Canyon Ranch, Blue Wing Adobe Preservation Committee, LandPaths, Sonoma Community Center, Sonoma Ecology Center, Sonoma Land Trust and the Sonoma Classical Music Society. This year, \$30,500 was awarded in Sonoma Valley through this program. Support is for a one-year grant period beginning July 1, 2010.

The Ellman Fund is supporting seven projects in Sonoma Valley. Audubon Canyon Ranch seeks to restore degraded habitats at Bouverie Preserve in Glen Ellen, work which is integrated into ACR's environmental education and volunteer programs. Landpaths will continue to offer a program called *In Our Own Backyard* to connect 3rd grade students at Flowery Elementary School to Sonoma Valley through field-based activities and grassland restoration projects. Delivered to kindergarten through high school students, the *Watershed Education Project* of the Sonoma Ecology Center facilitates outdoor experiences for over 1,000 students per year.

The grant to the Sonoma Community Center will allow them to install a 5,800 gallon rainwater harvesting system and to educate the community on water supply issues and landscaping alternatives. The Blue Wing Adobe Preservation Committee will produce a coordinated strategy with California State Parks for stabilization and re-use of this historical landmark. Sonoma Land Trust is increasing awareness of Sonoma Valley's varied landscapes by developing scenic

overlooks along the Loop Trail at the Glen Oaks Ranch. Finally, reflecting a special interest of George and Phyllis Ellman, a grant was awarded to Sonoma Classical Music Society to support classical music concerts of the highest professional quality.

During their lifetimes, the Ellman's entrusted the Board of the Sonoma Valley Fund, an affiliate of Community Foundation Sonoma County, to seek out the most important needs and opportunities in the community. Now, their legacy continues through the Ellman Fund awards. Since inception three years ago, \$90,000 has been granted out to the community from their Fund and over \$185,000 in all from the Sonoma Valley Fund. Harriet Derwingson, SVF Board President said, "These grants are a wonderful tribute to the Ellman's and the many years of important voluntary service they performed in the community."

Sonoma Valley Fund (SVF) was established in December 2006 as an affiliate of Community Foundation Sonoma County. Its mission 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. Donors may make gifts through a variety of programs to benefit specific causes or rely on SVF's Board of Directors who are long-term, active residents of Sonoma Valley. Since inception, it has awarded more than \$185,000 in grants to local nonprofit organizations. For more information, visit www.sonomavalleyfund.org.

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