



250 D STREET, SUITE 205, SANTA ROSA, CA 95404-4773 • TEL: 707-579-4073 • FAX: 707-579-4801 • www.sonomacf.org For **good. For ever.**™

Community Foundation Sonoma County Announces Contract for Community Development Work in the Springs Area of Sonoma Valley

Contact: Robert Judd, rjudd@sonomacf.org, 707.303.9615

(March 9, 2012) Community Foundation Sonoma County and its local Affiliate, the Sonoma Valley Fund, announce the selection of Susan Shaw and Davin Cardenas to undertake community development work in the Springs area of Sonoma Valley to increase access to health and human services for residents. Their engagement in the Springs will help the Community Foundation move forward with its current work there, which began with a bequest from Roland and Hazel Todd in 2010.

Roland and Hazel Todd outlined several specific areas of interest in their Trust that set forth their legacy goals. Working within these parameters, a team from Community Foundation Sonoma County and the Sonoma Valley Fund undertook a process that included in-depth interviews with 75 community organizations, elected officials and members of the community. The Sonoma County Economic Development Board also provided the latest economic information, future indicators, and statistics about Sonoma Valley communities.

It was clear from the data analyzed and the interviews conducted by the Community Foundation's committee that there is a significant necessity and opportunity to improve the health and well-being of residents of the Springs. This community has a poverty rate more than three times as high as the rest of the Valley; adult illiteracy rates are substantially higher in the Springs, as are unemployment rates. Improving access to critical services such as health care, human services, and employment training to residents in this area will have a positive impact on the community

Both Susan Shaw and Davin Cardenas will work part-time under contract to improve the health and well-being of residents of the Springs area and to assist local leaders to improve their organizing skills. Ms. Shaw is the Executive Director of the North Bay Organizing Project (NBOP), and Mr. Cardenas is Lead Organizer for the NBOP. Ms. Shaw is a licensed Clinical Social Worker, having earned her Masters of Social Service Administration from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Cardenas completed his BA Degree at Sonoma State University in 2004. Both Susan and Davin were instrumental in the development of the Graton Day Labor Center and remain associated with that work.

“The knowledge that Davin and Susan bring to this project and their history of supporting people to create positive change in their own communities is precisely what we need to bring the Todds’ vision to life,” said Harriet Derwingson, Community Foundation board member and Chair of the Todd Trust Team. Other community members on the Todd Trust Team include Loretta Carr, Alejandra Cervantes, Dianne Edwards, Ted Eliot, Camarino Hawing, Maite Iturri, George Rathman and Dave Stollmeyer.

Community Foundation Sonoma County was founded in 1983. Its mission is to strengthen communities through effective philanthropy and civic engagement. It has current assets of more than \$150 million, which are held in more than 450 charitable funds created by individuals, families, community groups and businesses. An affiliate of Community Foundation Sonoma County, Sonoma Valley Fund was created and is managed by respected community leaders to help sustain and improve the Valley’s unique socioeconomic, environmental, and cultural qualities for generations to come. For more information, go to www.sonomacf.org.