



News Release
For Immediate Release

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**Community Foundation Sonoma County, Parent Organization of the Sonoma Valley Fund,
Announces New President and CEO**

November 8, 2012 — Community Foundation Sonoma County, parent organization of the local Sonoma Valley Fund, is pleased to announce the appointment of Elizabeth (Beth) Brown as its new President and CEO. Beth Brown, a former executive at the Marin Community Foundation, was chosen following a nationwide search and succeeds Barbara Hughes, who announced in March that she would retire at year's end. Brown will join Community Foundation Sonoma County in January.



foundations in the country.

Brown has been both the Vice President for Philanthropic Services and the Vice President for Programs at Marin Community Foundation. With over \$1 billion in assets, Marin Community Foundation is one of the largest community

Prior to her roles at Marin Community Foundation, Brown worked in private banking at Bank of America, where she introduced philanthropy to high net worth individuals. She also has served in Washington at the Council on Foundations, which represents more than 2,000 family, private, community and corporate foundations nationwide.

"Beth brings a wealth of experience to Sonoma County," said the Foundation's board chair, Pete Golis. "At Community Foundation Sonoma County, we connect people, ideas and resources to benefit the lives of those who live here. This has been Beth's life work."

"I am thrilled to be joining this dynamic organization, and deeply honored by the Board's confidence in me," said Beth Brown. "I'm greatly looking forward to building on Barbara's many accomplishments, and excited by the enormous potential for increasing philanthropy throughout Sonoma County."

As president and CEO, Hughes managed a foundation that saw its total assets grow from \$112 million to \$150 million.

Hughes shepherded the gift of Oliver Ranch, home to 18 world-class art installations. The ranch, a gift of Steve and Nancy Oliver, will be operated in perpetuity by the Oliver Ranch Foundation, the Community Foundation's newest supporting organization.

Working with philanthropists Herb and Jane Dwight, Hughes guided the creation of an ambitious new scholarship program, Scholarship Sonoma County.

And she presided over the implementation of the \$9 million legacy of Hazel and Roland Todd. The Todd Trust is already making an impact, especially in the area of access to services in Sonoma Valley

Hughes is also credited with a top-to-bottom upgrade of the foundation's business functions. "In tough economic times, Barbara provided extraordinary business and community leadership," said Golis. "From high-profile projects to the nitty-gritty of best business practices, she will leave a lasting imprint. We are so grateful for her many contributions."

"It has been an honor for me to serve our community as part of a great team devoted to Sonoma County," states Hughes. "I look forward to welcoming Beth as she writes the next chapter of the story of the Community Foundation, moving our work forward as we invest in the promise of Sonoma County."

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Community Foundation Sonoma County was founded in 1983. At the Community Foundation, we connect people, ideas and resources to benefit the lives of those who live in Sonoma County. 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

Sonoma Valley Fund, an affiliate of Community Foundation Sonoma County, 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 custom fit for specific causes, or rely on Sonoma Valley Fund's Board whose members are long-term, active residents of Sonoma Valley