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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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New Sonoma Valley Fund Awards First Grants

July 2, 2007 - The Sonoma Valley Fund, an affiliate of the Community Foundation Sonoma County, has awarded seven new grants to local Valley organizations totaling \$22,000. *Branch Out Grants* (for programs or events that help build community) were awarded to the **Boys and Girls Club Valley of the Moon, Sonoma Ecology Center and Sonoma Valley Museum of Art**. *Strong Roots Grants* (for projects to strengthen a nonprofit's organizational capabilities) were given to **La Luz Center, Sonoma Overnight Support, Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance and Valley of the Moon Natural History Association**. The grants will support a wide diversity of work including promoting and enhancing community-wide events such as a Geographic Information Systems Day, the Watershed Walk and a Dia de los Muertos celebration, and trainings to improve client services and mentoring skills and build capacity for effective strategic planning and board development. Support is for a one-year grant period beginning July 1, 2007.

"Many of the grantee organizations are current or past recipients of discretionary grants from the Community Foundation Sonoma County. The new Sonoma Valley Fund offers increased opportunity for all local nonprofits to receive additional support for specific projects or programs," said Harriet Derwingson, chair of Sonoma Valley Fund's grants committee.

The mission of the Sonoma Valley Fund is to create a permanent endowment through legacy gifts and provide 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 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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