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**Sonoma Valley Fund Names New Officers**

January 2010 — Founding Board President Whitney Evans has announced a new leadership team for the Sonoma Valley Fund (SVF), effective January 1, 2010. Stepping into the role of President is Harriet Derwingson. Dave Stollmeyer will serve as Vice President and Tom Haeuser as Secretary/Treasurer. Evans will remain on the board as Past President and Chair of the Development Committee. Other board members are Peggy Bair, John Brady, Susan Cook, Tony Garcia, Steve Pease, George Rathman, Rick Wynne and Barbara Young.

The Sonoma Valley Fund 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. “These past 3 years have been the most rewarding of my life in the nonprofit world,” said Evans, who is a key founder and the linchpin of the start-up, all-volunteer organization. Among the accomplishments during his term as president include partnerships with 13 local nonprofits, over \$16 million in organizational funds, donor-advised funds and charitable legacy gifts, and awarding over \$125,000 in grants to local nonprofit organizations. Additional funds for awarding grants are anticipated later in 2010 based on a recent generous bequest.

“Whitney has set the standard for establishing and growing an incredible asset for our community,” said incoming President Harriet Derwingson. “We will continue to seek opportunities to help strengthen our Partners as they work to establish legacy programs and endowments to ensure their long-term viability. In addition, we will focus our attention in 2010 on two key civic engagement initiatives to benefit our community: the Youth Initiative, for which we are currently organizing a Coordinating Council to oversee, and the Nonprofit Services

Initiative, which will utilize the expertise of Stanford Business School Alumni to help nonprofits assess where they may save expenses in order to direct more money to their programs.”

*Sonoma Valley Fund 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. For more information, visit [www.sonomavalleyfund.org](http://www.sonomavalleyfund.org).*

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