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**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Sonoma Valley Fund Recognizes Volunteer “Stars”**

July 25, 2010 —More than two hundred guests attended the Sonoma Valley Fund’s second annual volunteer recognition awards, held this year at the Bouverie Preserve of the Audubon Canyon Ranch. Sonoma Valley Fund (SVF) hosted sixteen Sonoma Valley nonprofit partners, whose board and staff members selected their “star” volunteers.

<b>Harriette Minear and Maddy Leader for Soroptomist International of Sonoma Valley</b>	Sonoma Valley Hospital Foundation
<b>Pam Gibson and Sara Hews</b>	Vintage House
<b>Linda Higuera and Paul deBenedictis</b>	Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance
<b>Marilyn Smith</b>	Quarryhill Botanical Garden
<b>Jackie Steuer, Hope Nisson and Jack Nisson for Sonoma Overlook Trail Task Force</b>	Sonoma Ecology Center
<b>Eileen Adams</b>	Becoming Independent
<b>Jackie Lee</b>	Sonoma Valley Museum of Art
<b>Les Vadasz and Gary Nelson</b>	Hanna Boys Center
<b>Tammy Rivera</b>	Boys & Girls Clubs of Sonoma Valley
<b>Mary Carver</b>	La Luz Center
<b>Patricia Cullinan and Nancy Simpson</b>	League for Historic Preservation
<b>Rick Hicks</b>	Sonoma Valley Education Foundation
<b>Anea Kamahele</b>	Sonoma Valley Teen Services
<b>Kassandra Miller</b>	Pets Lifeline

**Marcia Nelson**

Gary & Marcia Nelson Emergency Care Fund

**Glenda Ross and Ken Ackerman  
for Bouverie Stewards of ACR**

Audubon Canyon Ranch

SVF Board President Harriet Derwingson welcomed the many guests and congratulated the volunteers for their high levels of commitment to the organizations and to their community. Barbara Hughes, President and CEO of Community Foundation Sonoma County, extended thanks to “all the Stars for showing us how we can respect our natural resources as community assets,” and gave special recognition to Marilyn Smith, “a tireless, exuberant community volunteer devoted to Quarryhill Botanical Garden,” who passed away in early July.

Dick Drew, the chair of the Coordinating Council for Youth Development in Sonoma, described the successful launch of SVF’s Youth Initiative summer program, implemented in conjunction with the Sonoma Valley unified school district. Encouraged by donor support, he emphasized the continued need for resources to address the challenges facing Sonoma Valley youth.

After the awards ceremony, Harriet Derwingson closed with words of Margaret Mead: “Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” She thanked the group for leading by example and inspiring others in the community.

Photo Caption (for attached photo)

**2010 Sonoma Valley Star Volunteers** pictured l - r are Jaye Hayes, Maddy Leader, Harriette Minear, Nancy Simpson, Pam Gibson, Jack Nisson, Jackie Steuer, Miriam Magana, Linda Higuera, Bob Smith, Hope Nisson, Eileen Adams, Jackie Lee, Les Vadasz, Tammy Rivera, and Sara Hews. Missing from the photo are Ken Ackerman, Mary Carver, Patricia Cullinan, Paul deBenedictis, Rick Hicks, Anea Kamahale, Cassandra Miller, Gary Nelson, Marcia Nelson and Glenda Ross.

\*Photo credit for attached photo: ‘Zanne Clark

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](http://www.sonomavalleyfund.org).

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