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NEWS RELEASE
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Sonoma Valley Fund Recognizes Volunteer “Stars”

July 13, 2009 — It was a perfect summer afternoon, the cooling breeze arriving just in time to lift the heat of the day, when for the first time, special stars appeared against the Valley sky. The Sonoma Valley Fund launched its new volunteer recognition awards, *Sonoma Valley Stars*, on Sunday, at its annual celebration hosted at Quarryhill Botanical Garden. Each of SVF’s ten nonprofit organization partners selected volunteers to honor. They are:

The Special Events Leadership team: Lisa Cavalli, Marchelle Carleton, Bonnie Gemmell and Fred Schwartz - Boys and Girls Clubs of Sonoma Valley

Don Jose Fernandez - La Luz Bilingual Center

Anne Golseth - Pets Lifeline

Gaius Robinson - Quarryhill Botanical Garden

Barbara White Perry - Sonoma League for Historic Preservation

Debra Garber - Sonoma Valley Education Foundation

Sonoma Valley Hospital Auxiliary - Sonoma Valley Hospital Foundation

Jim Lamb - Sonoma Valley Museum of Art

Dinner Volunteers - Valley of the Moon Teen Center

AARP Tax Assistance Program - Vintage House Senior Center

In his opening remarks, SVF Board President Whitney Evans said, “Volunteerism is at the heart of what makes Sonoma Valley such a wonderful place to live.” The range of volunteer activities represented by the awardees covers everything from cooking meals for teens, bringing cheer and flowers to those hospitalized to helping seniors prepare tax returns and spearheading fundraising

events. Their levels of commitment and longevity of service as described by the presenting host from each organization are truly inspiring.

Also attending her first SVF celebration as the new President and CEO of Community Foundation Sonoma County (the parent organization of the SVF affiliate) was Sonoma resident Barbara Hughes. “These Stars are working for the arts and for education, encouraging understanding and fostering inclusiveness,” she said. “They are making a difference for our teens, our seniors, our animals and for nature, preserving our past and designing our future.”

This was the SVF’s third annual celebration for donors, nonprofit partners and community leaders. Over 200 guests wandered through Quarryhill’s exquisite Asian woodland gardens, learning about its unique botanical species from Executive Director Bill McNamara and docents, while enjoying refreshments prepared by board members and advisors led by Barbara Young.

Nonprofit organizations in the Valley may choose to invest funds by partnering with the SVF. Through Community Foundation Sonoma County, funds are prudently invested and managed. Partners also gain the benefit of expertise in marketing, building endowments and legacy planning. A new benefit is the opportunity to participate in *Sonoma Valley Stars*.

In encouraging everyone to think about how we can leave lasting positive effects on our community, Whitney Evans closed with a favorite quote, “Our deeds are like stones cast into the pool of time; though they themselves may disappear, their ripples extend to eternity.” In this way,” he explained, “our legacy gifts extend our philanthropy to eternity and each of us thus strengthens our community that we love.”

The mission of the Sonoma Valley Fund 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. Since its inception two years ago, Sonoma Valley Fund donors have awarded over \$125,000 in grants back to the community. 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 on becoming a Sonoma Valley Fund donor, contact SVF Board President Whitney Evans at 939-1522.

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