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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sonoma Valley Fund Honors Legacy Donors

June 8, 2012—Sonoma Valley Fund, an affiliate of Community Foundation Sonoma County, will host a special reception on June 29th to honor more than 150 Sonoma residents who have committed to leaving a portion of their estates to designated non-profit organizations serving the broad Sonoma Valley community.

The event will also mark the inauguration of the Sonoma Valley Legacy Circle, an honorary community of individuals and families who have made their legacy gift intentions to local charities known.

Legacy gifts and bequests have become an increasingly important source of income for Valley health, welfare, and cultural organizations in the wake of reduced public funding and lower annual charitable giving due to the current economy. “Legacy gifts come in all sizes,” says Sonoma Valley Fund’s President Barbara Young. “They can be large or relatively small donations and come from wealthy individuals and families as well as people of more modest means. What’s important is for everyone to recognize the critical need for increased financial support for our non-profits these days and to examine the current options available in providing for charitable bequests in one’s own personal estate planning.”

Current City of Sonoma Alcalde and Sonoma Valley Fund President Emeritus Whitney Evans adds, “The Sonoma Valley Legacy Circle provides an opportunity to thank the growing number of generous people in the Valley whose gift of a bequest will have an enduring impact on the quality of life in our community for many years to come.

Sonoma Valley Fund encourages anyone who has made a legacy gift—or a legacy gift commitment--to a Sonoma Valley charitable organization to attend the reception. To arrange for an invitation contact Martha Rosenblatt (zuri@vom.com).

An affiliate of Community Foundation Sonoma County, Sonoma Valley Fund was created and is managed by respected community leaders to help sustain and improve the Valley's unique socioeconomic, environmental, and cultural qualities for generations to come. Sonoma Valley Fund promotes and facilitates local philanthropy and legacy giving by serving as a bridge to the future, helping nonprofits build successful legacy and endowment programs, encouraging estate-planning professionals to discuss Sonoma Valley bequests with their clients, offering a set of prudent investment options for donors and non-profits, and providing trustworthy, responsible, and thoughtful stewardship of donor gifts. No other local organization unites all constituencies around the purpose of endowing the Sonoma Valley community as a whole. For more information visit www.sonomavalleyfund.org.