

News Release
For Immediate Release

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Latest Todd Trust Grants Awarded to
La Luz, the United Way and the Sonoma Valley Unified School District

(May 15, 2013) In 2011, Community Foundation Sonoma County, and its affiliate Sonoma Valley Fund, began awarding grants from the Roland and Hazel Todd Trust, a large bequest gifted to the Community Foundation to support the health and well-being of residents in Sonoma Valley and Sonoma County. At this point, the Community Foundation and Sonoma Valley Fund have awarded over half a million dollars from the Todd Trust Fund to benefit the lives of those who live in the Springs area of Sonoma Valley.

“Roland and Hazel Todd have left a remarkable legacy for Sonoma Valley and the County,” said Harriet Derwingson, Chair of the Todd Trust Committee. “The Community Foundation and Sonoma Valley Fund are working diligently to ensure that their wishes are fulfilled and that those in need are supported by these grants.”

The most recent Todd Trust grants include:

La Luz

A grant of \$92,000 has been made to La Luz Center to continue to provide English language instruction to more than 120 residents of the Sonoma Valley. This program, which replaces one formerly operated by the Sonoma Valley Adult School, will also provide the tools to develop student’s active participation in shaping the economic, social, and cultural aspects of Valley communities.

United Way

A \$41,680 grant was awarded to United Way of the Wine Country to expand the number of students served through the *Schools of Hope Literacy Initiative* in the Sonoma Valley. Schools of Hope’s goal is to increase reading proficiency rates and ultimately high school graduation rates.

Sonoma Valley Unified School District

Finally, the Sonoma Valley Education Foundation received a Todd Trust grant of \$10,000 for its Summer Reading Academy, a collaboration with the Sonoma Valley Unified School District. The goal of the Summer Reading Academy is to increase third graders’ reading engagement and motivation.

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The Todd Trust Team is a committee of Community Foundation Sonoma County and its local affiliate Sonoma Valley Fund. The committee's responsibility is to recommend how best to distribute the proceeds of an \$8.5M trust, according to the donors' wishes. Payouts are designed to be made in perpetuity from the trust, which was a bequest to the Community Foundation by Roland and Hazel Todd.