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**Springs Area is Focus for Todd Trust Grants**

August 9, 2011 —Community Foundation Sonoma County and its affiliate, the Sonoma Valley Fund, have announced that the health and well-being of residents in the Springs area of Sonoma Valley will be the initial focus of upcoming grants from the Roland and Hazel Todd Trust.

Roland and Hazel Todd outlined some specific areas of interest in their Trust that helped provide a picture of their legacy goals. Working within these parameters, a team from Community Foundation Sonoma County and the Sonoma Valley Fund has convened to determine the focus of grantmaking from the Todds' \$8.5 million bequest. Part of that process included in-depth interviews with 75 community organizations, elected officials and members of the community. Additional data were provided by the Sonoma County Economic Development Board, which furnished the team with the very latest economic information, future indicators, and statistics from various Sonoma Valley communities.

It was clear from the data analyzed and the interviews conducted by the team that there is a significant opportunity to improve the health and well-being of residents of the Springs. This part of our community has a poverty rate of more than three times the rest of the Valley; adult illiteracy rates are substantially higher in the Springs, as are unemployment rates. If access to critical services such as health care, adult education, and employment training can be made more easily available to residents in this area, the impact will be significant.

“The Todds clearly wanted to provide something important and meaningful with their bequest that would positively impact the lives of people living in Sonoma Valley and, more broadly, Sonoma County,” said Harriet Derwingson, President of the Sonoma Valley Fund. “This team worked to match genuine community needs with the Todds’ compassionate intentions.”

Todd Trust Team members include Barbara Hughes, Dianne Edwards, Ted Eliot, Harriet Derwingson, Donna Halow, Dave Stollmeyer, George Rathman, Loretta Carr, Joe Valentine and Robert Judd. The team has recently been expanded for the next phase to include Camerino Hawing, Maite Iturri and Alejandra Cervantes.

With the Springs area selected as the initial center of attention, the Community Foundation and Sonoma Valley Fund will now develop a three-year plan of grantmaking designed to greatly improve overall access to community and county services for residents of the Springs area. “We are going to invest in innovative and substantial projects, which will expand over time to include broader county needs,” said Barbara Hughes, President and CEO of the Community Foundation Sonoma County. “We expect to award grants to the community in early 2012.”

A summary of the “The Todd Trust: Goals and Priorities” can be found at [www.sonomacf.org](http://www.sonomacf.org) or [www.sonomavalleyfund.org](http://www.sonomavalleyfund.org). Pertinent economic indicators included in the Economic Development Board’s *Sonoma Valley: Community Profile* can also be found at these sites.

Community Foundation Sonoma County was founded in 1983. Its mission is to strengthen communities through effective philanthropy and civic engagement. It has current assets of more than \$150 million, which are held in more than 450 charitable funds created by individuals, families, community groups and businesses.

Sonoma Valley Fund, an affiliate of Community Foundation Sonoma County, 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 custom fit for specific causes, or rely on Sonoma Valley Fund’s Board whose members are long-term, active residents of Sonoma Valley

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