



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 1, 2010

Contact: Amanda Holder
831.375.9712 x123

Community Foundation for Monterey County Announces one of the Largest Single-Year Grants from the General Endowment: \$50,000 Awarded to Natividad Medical Foundation for The Onyx Fund

Monterey, CA. The Community Foundation for Monterey County announced today one of the largest single-year grants ever made from the General Endowment. A grant of \$50,000 was awarded to the Natividad Medical Foundation for The Onyx Fund for Women. The grant was set up as a challenge grant to help generate contributions to The Onyx Fund so working uninsured women could begin as soon as possible to undergo medically necessary gynecological procedures.

The grant is comprised of funding from the Rudy E. Futer Fund for Human and Humane Needs, the Ken and Gundy DuVall Fund, and the Dr. George and Sam Kih Thorngate Family Fund, all of the Community Foundation for Monterey County. "We are particularly proud of our partnership with Natividad to make this significant grant. It will have an immediate, direct impact on the health and economic security of these women and their families, as well as carry out in intent of donors who wished to provide critical health care and human services to the underserved," said Jackie Wendland, the Foundation's Director of Grants and Donor Advisor Services. Last year, the Community Foundation for Monterey County awarded 661 grants for just over \$5.5M.

The Onyx Fund for Women at the Natividad Medical Foundation was named after Onix, a 32-year-old Natividad patient, and one of our nation's many uninsured "working poor" women, who do not qualify for medical aid and do not earn enough to pay for private insurance.

Four years ago her doctor found moderate size fibroid tumors in her uterus which needed to be surgically removed. Onix, like many uninsured patients, had to pay 10% down, \$3000, toward the surgery cost before it could be preformed. Sadly, Onix was added to her doctor's "Disappearing Patients" list.

(more)

Community Foundation for Monterey County Awards \$50,000 to Natividad Medical Foundation, *cont.*

Four years later, Onix returned to her doctor with a mass of tumors that made her look 8 months pregnant. Still unable to qualify for assistance, it took Onix another 6 months to collect the \$3000 she needed for surgery.

The Natividad Medical Foundation is offering The Onyx Fund Necklace, designed by Linda Ford, President/CEO of Natividad Medical Foundation, to raise additional money for the Fund. “We are deeply appreciative of this challenge grant from the Community Foundation. It will allow our doctors to perform more surgeries for women in desperate need and alleviate their suffering,” says Ford. For more information, please visit www.theonyxfund.com.

For more information regarding the Community Foundation for Monterey County, please visit www.cfmco.org or call (831) 375-9712. The mission of the Community Foundation for Monterey County is to improve the quality of life in Monterey County by raising, managing, and distributing charitable funds to qualified organizations and by creating positive connections between donors and their interests.

###