



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 17, 2010

Contact: Amanda Holder,
Communications Officer
831.375.9712 x123
Email: amandah@cfmco.org

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR MONTEREY COUNTY ANNOUNCES 2010 COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP PROJECT GRANT RECIPIENTS \$360,000 to be Awarded Over Three Years to Nine Grassroots Organizations

Monterey, CA — The Community Foundation for Monterey County has announced the first round of funding of \$200,000 to five grassroots organizations led by and serving communities of color in Monterey County. Four more organizations will be selected to receive grants later this year. The nine grassroots organizations will receive a total of \$360,000 to support their efforts to improve the quality of life in their communities. The grants are part of the Community Leadership Project, a three-year initiative funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the James Irvine Foundation.

The three California foundations announced in April, 2009 their \$8 million commitment to launch the Community Leadership Project, to strengthen grassroots organizations that are led by or serve low-income people and communities of color in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area, Central Coast and San Joaquin Valley. The Community Foundation for Monterey County is one of nine intermediary organizations that distribute grants and provide technical assistance and leadership programs to organizations serving the targeted communities.

A total of \$200,000 was awarded in this first round of funding. Each of the following five grantees will receive \$40,000 over two years for capacity building activities and operating support: The Alisal Center for the Fine Arts, the Central Coast Center for Independent Living (CCCIL), Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action (COPA), the Second Chance Youth Program, and the Village Project, Inc.

(more)

Community Foundation Announces Community Leadership Project Grants, *cont.*

The **Alisal Center for the Fine Arts** provides arts instruction in East Salinas and brings cultural events to the community to stimulate and foster community pride and participation in the arts. The grant will help to increase Alisal Center's management and fundraising capacity to sustain and grow the organization.

The **Central Coast Center for Independent Living (CCCIL)** promotes the independence of people with disabilities by supporting their equal and full participation in community life. CCCIL is a grassroots organization of people working together to find solutions to problems in their own community and fostering empowerment that leads to self-reliance. The grant will support efforts to build the Board's fundraising capacity and to improve CCCIL's internal processes, systems and capabilities to deliver programs.

Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action (COPA) serves grassroots leaders who seek both local and regional solutions to the economic, social and political pressures affecting families and neighborhoods. The grant will focus on expanding COPA's fund development program and ability to use technology more effectively.

The Second Chance Youth Program serves at risk Latino youth. It is a community-based counseling and youth development agency designed to address youth violence associated with street gangs in the Salinas Valley. The grant provides management, board development and financial assistance to enable the organization to rise to the increased demand for their services and to take the lead on a number of community initiatives.

The Village Project, Inc. was formed by members of the African-American community three years ago to address the need for culturally appropriate mental health services primarily in Seaside and Marina. The grant will advance The Village Project's organizational capacity through board development, fundraising support, and strategic planning.

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. For more information, please visit www.cfmco.org or call (831) 375-9712.

###