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## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
December 28, 2009

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### **\$100,000 IN GRANTS AVAILABLE TO NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS THROUGH THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR MONTEREY COUNTY Information Sessions to be Held in January and February, 2010**

*Salinas, CA.* The Community Foundation for Monterey County announced today that \$100,000 will be available in 2010 through its Neighborhood Grants Program to resident and neighbor-led groups. The program offers grants and technical assistance training to residents of under-served areas of Monterey County who organize and act cooperatively to improve the well-being, safety, and overall quality of life in their neighborhoods.

In collaboration with First 5 of Monterey County, \$50,000 has been allocated for groups interested in organizing projects or activities that specifically serve children ages 0-5 and their families.

Last year the Community Foundation awarded \$112,000 in grants to 31 community groups including Youth Sports Teams, Cultural Arts & Folk Dance Groups, Neighborhood Improvement Associations, and Senior Citizen Groups. A neighborhood grant ranges between \$500 to \$4,000 per project or activity based on the group's need, and a group does not need to be recognized as a nonprofit to be eligible for funding.

"Support from the Neighborhood Grants Program has resulted in helping kids feel safer walking to and from school, parks being cleaned up, decreasing suspicious activity in local

(More)

## 2010 Neighborhood Grants Program Announced, cont.

neighborhoods, and increasing support of projects by local businesses,” said Todd Lueders, President/CEO of the Community Foundation for Monterey County. “What makes this program special is that funding and support are available for informal grassroots and volunteer groups without their nonprofit status.” stated Aurelio Salazar, Jr. Program Officer for the Neighborhood Grants Program.

Applications can be picked up in person, faxed, mailed, emailed or downloaded electronically at [www.cfmco.org](http://www.cfmco.org) beginning on Monday, January 18, 2010. Applications can be picked up at the Community Foundation’s office at 945 S. Main Street Suite 207, in Salinas. For more information or to request an application by fax or email, please contact the Neighborhood Grants Program at (831) 754-5880. Guidelines in English and Spanish are available. To be considered for a grant, a completed pre-application must be turned in by March 5, 2010.

Groups that wish to apply are encouraged, but not required, to attend one of the pre-application information sessions offered throughout Monterey County. The dates and times are as follows:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
January 26, 2010 (Tues)	6:00 – 7:30 pm	Community Foundation for Monterey County 945 S. Main St, Suite 207 Salinas, CA 93901
January 28, 2010 (Thurs)	6:00 – 7:30 pm	Monterey County Free Libraries 190 Seaside Circle Marina, CA 93933
February 2, 2010 (Tues)	6:00 – 7:30 pm	Monterey County Free Libraries 11160 Speegle Street Castroville, CA 95012
February 4, 2010 (Thurs)	6:00 – 7:30 pm	Seaside Oldemeyer Center 986 Hilby Avenue Seaside, CA 93955
February 9, 2010 (Tues)	6:00 – 7:30 pm	Monterey County Free Libraries 401 Gabilan Drive Soledad, CA 93960
February 11, 2010 (Thurs)	6:00 – 7:30 pm	Monterey County Free Libraries 402 Broadway Ave. King City, CA 93930

February 16, 2010 (Tues)	6:00 – 7:30 pm	Monterey County Free Libraries 851 Fifth Street Gonzales, CA 93926
February 18, 2010 (Thurs)	6:00 – 7:30 pm	Community Foundation for Monterey County 945 S. Main St, Suite 207 Salinas, CA 93901

The Neighborhood Grants Program evolved from the Packard Foundation’s “Communities 2000 Initiative.” The Community Foundation for Monterey County has sustained, funded and staffed the Neighborhood Grants Program as one of its core programs since 2001.

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

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