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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Santa Ynez Valley Foundation Announces Scholarship Awards
Upcoming Grant Application Deadlines Also Announced

The **Santa Ynez Valley Foundation**, a community foundation serving the Santa Ynez Valley and Los Alamos, announced that it awarded a total of \$60,000 in scholarships with \$35,500 going to 31 graduating high school seniors from the Santa Ynez Valley and Los Alamos over the summer. In addition, it awarded grants totaling \$35,400 to local community nonprofits during the July 2014 grant cycle.

“We are very pleased with our Santa Ynez Valley Foundation Senior Scholars,” said Priscilla Higgins, board president of the Valley Foundation. “These 31 students are pursuing a variety of dreams and we are so proud of their dedication and hard work towards achieving their goals. Last spring, we were also able to award \$22,500 in scholarship assistance to 21 previous Valley Foundation scholarship recipients as they prepare to pursue their second year of college studies this fall, as well as two honorarium scholarships.” The Valley Foundation’s on-going support helps to ensure sustained revenues in meeting the high costs of college tuition. “If a past recipient continues to qualify for scholarship assistance, it translates to the best outcome for the recipient, the Valley Foundation, and for our donors,” adds Higgins. “The ultimate goal is to prepare these deserving students for entering the job market, and having a college diploma in hand is a major step in that direction. We don’t want them to have to drop-out due to lack of funds.”

In addition to student scholarships, the Valley Foundation also awarded grants to local organizations in the Health & Human Services, Seniors, Education, and Youth categories. Totaling \$35,400, recipients included Atterdag Village, CASA, SYV Therapeutic Riding, Solvang Senior Center, and SYV Friends of the Library.

“We have two application paths for non-scholarship grants: Regular Grants and Express Grants,” said Higgins. Regular grants focus on improving the quality of lives throughout the community and can be submitted throughout the year by January 1st, April 1st, July 1st, or October 1st. Regular Grants typically range from \$1,000 to \$15,000.

The Express Grants, done in collaboration with the Santa Barbara Foundation, are used to advance excellence and effectiveness in the social/nonprofit sector, to help with non-deferred maintenance or emergency needs, or to encourage innovative or collaborative efforts. The last date this year to submit an Express Grant is November 3rd. Express Grants range from \$500 to \$10,000. The Valley Foundation also provides grants to every public school in the Santa Ynez Valley and Los Alamos each year through a streamlined application form. “We encourage organizations to submit their applications as soon as possible,” added Higgins. “Foundation Director Anne Christensen may be reached at (805) 688-2991 for questions regarding the application process.”

About the Santa Ynez Valley Foundation

Located at 540 Alisal Road, Suite #10, Solvang, CA, 93463, the Santa Ynez Valley Foundation was founded in 1991 by Stuart C. Gildred, as a community foundation intended as a safety net organization for the underserved in the community. It has grown through the years to become an integral part of the Santa Ynez Valley and Los Alamos. The mission of the Santa Ynez Valley Foundation is to improve the lives of people in the Santa Ynez Valley and Los Alamos by investing in programs that feed the poor, promote health, nurture seniors, challenge youth, and inspire the community to make a difference. With the help of caring supporters, the Foundation also builds the Endowment Fund to enhance the quality of life now and for the future.

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