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## **COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND SAN MATEO COUNTY ANNOUNCE \$1 MILLION IN SAFETY NET GRANTS**

MOUNTAIN VIEW — Silicon Valley Community Foundation and San Mateo County today announced that they will distribute \$1 million to 32 nonprofit organizations as part of a unique collaboration to help residents through the economic recession.

The bulk of the grants were awarded to 27 organizations that provide food and shelter to residents throughout San Mateo County. Those organizations will receive a total of \$766,000 in grants from the community foundation and the county, with individual grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$100,000.

The remaining \$234,000 will be awarded from San Mateo County's Economic Urgency Assistance Program to five organizations that provide health and dental care, services for victims of domestic violence and employment counseling.

"We know that the need in our county is significant and growing," said San Mateo County Manager David Boesch. "We hope these grants will extend services at a time when more people are looking for help finding jobs, getting health care, putting food on the table and seeking shelter."

Nearly 50 nonprofit organizations serving San Mateo County applied for funding under the joint county-community foundation program.

"With Silicon Valley's unemployment rate at an all-time high, nonprofit organizations that serve low-income families, laid off workers, seniors and others affected by the recession are experiencing unprecedented levels of demand for food and shelter," said Emmett D. Carson, Ph.D., CEO and president of the community foundation.

The St. Francis Center of Redwood City, for example, said it has experienced a 47 percent increase in the number of requests for food from low income families and seniors. Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties said a number of the 191,000 people served every month by the 260 safety net organizations in its network are seeking



help for the first time. And at Shelter Network, at least 60 percent of the 165 families on the agency's waiting list in May had never sought help there before.

Both Boesch and Carson praised the joint relief effort, saying it is an example of the kind of creative public-private partnership that the region needs now more than ever, particularly as state legislators look for ways to close a massive budget deficit that is likely to result in significant program cuts.

"Given the economic realities, all of us must continue to look for new ways to help the people of our region who are struggling during this economy as well as the agencies that are coping with increased demands at a time when there is less money available," Carson said.

Under the joint program, which was unveiled May 1, the county and the community foundation agreed to distribute \$1.5 million to safety net programs. The community foundation said it would award \$1 million for food and shelter in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. San Mateo County said that in addition to food and shelter, it would consider funding for health services, employment counseling and other health and human services.

The community foundation expects to announce its remaining \$500,000 in grants to Santa Clara County food and shelter agencies in late July. This is the second round of safety net grants from the community foundation, which last year awarded \$3 million to 47 food and shelter providers trying to cope with increasing demand for their services.

San Mateo County's Boesch encouraged residents in his county to visit the SMC Helps website, a one-stop resource center that can be found on the county's homepage at <http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us>. The site contains information about many community-based organizations and public agencies that provide assistance, and a news section that highlights upcoming events of interest to job seekers, those seeking to avoid foreclosure or people needing legal advice.

#### **About Silicon Valley Community Foundation**

*Silicon Valley Community Foundation is a catalyst and leader for innovative solutions to our region's most challenging problems. Serving all of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, the community foundation has \$1.5 billion in assets under management and 1,500 philanthropic funds. The community foundation provides grants through donor advised and corporate funds in addition to its own Community Endowment Fund. In addition, the community foundation serves as a regional center for philanthropy, providing donors simple and effective ways to give locally and around the world. Silicon Valley Community Foundation launched in January 2007 following the landmark merger of Community Foundation Silicon Valley and Peninsula Community Foundation and is now one of the largest community foundations in the nation. Find out more at [www.siliconvalleycf.org](http://www.siliconvalleycf.org)*



**About San Mateo County**

*San Mateo County is a leader in innovative, collaborative government. Stretching from the Pacific Ocean to San Francisco Bay, the region is home to more than 700,000 people who live in 20 cities and a large unincorporated area. San Mateo County government provides vital safety-net services for all of the County's residents, operates an award-winning public hospital, San Mateo Medical Center, and provides job training and other opportunities for those in need. The County's more than 5,000 employees also provide public safety and healthcare services, operate 17 parks, conduct elections and perform many other key community services. For more information, please visit <http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us>*

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