

## New Oro Valley Community Foundation Awards Three Grants



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April 24, 2009 (Oro Valley, Az.) Launch a community foundation during one of the worst economic downturns in American history? Who are you kidding?

It may seem absurd, but during these challenging financial times, more people of all ages can use a helping hand and the newly-formed Oro Valley Community Foundation can help.

“Is it a bad time to kick-off this Foundation?” asks General John Wickham, Foundation Board Member and President Reagan’s Army Chief of Staff.

“It’s during these times that the community’s needs are more obvious. Schools need help, the elderly need support and we’ll see people willing to dig deeper in their pockets to contribute.”

The new Foundation will not only provide funding to help food programs or transportation for the elderly; but also keep a focus on the brighter side of life through grants to art and music programs for school children.

Founder and Board President Dick Eggerding said, “Oro Valley has the potential to be one of the most dynamic communities in America. It has great natural beauty. And the people here are truly committed to creating a better quality of life for everyone.

“The Foundation can fill the voids created by funding cuts to provide grants to athletics, art, reading programs and more.”

People living in the greater Oro Valley region now have a choice when it comes to creating a bequest or monetary gift allowing them to provide for their community’s future long after they’re gone. The Foundation provides a structure that allows donor

contributions while giving maximum tax advantages.

To that end, the Foundation has just awarded three grants to local area programs: The “Teens Sew Cool” program teaches sewing skills to students from sixth to ninth grade at Catalina’s Coronado K-8 school and San Manuel Middle High School. Through a grant, the Foundation is providing money for new sewing machines and supplies.

These students live in single parent homes or are from families that have fallen on hard times because of the demise of mining in San Manuel and lost jobs. The sewing classes teach useful skills and increase the students’ self-esteem.

Boys are just as interested in these classes as the girls are. One boy got hooked on sewing through the “Teens Sew Cool” program and is now heading to New York City on a scholarship for design school.

A grant has been awarded to the Greater Oro Valley Arts Council to continue its “Musical Gold in the Mornings” program. At the beginning of the school day, an administrator reads a short summary of a classical composer’s life or works over the school intercom. Then the children listen to Mozart, Beethoven, or Haydn.

The music teaches children active listening skills as they learn about the different instruments and composition. It settles them down and helps them focus on their schoolwork.

And it introduces many children, for the first time, to the world of classical music.

GOVAC co-founder Bob Weede said, “In one Amphitheater school classroom, when the principal walked in with her team to observe the class, one of the students who was listening to the music turned around and asked the adults ‘to pipe down,’ so he could hear the music.”

The Foundation has also approved a grant for summer programs for low-income children through Interfaith Community Services.

The grant will help pay for athletic fees, summer camp or arts classes, or other activities that will provide “enriching opportunities that can be life-changing for the children,” according to ICS Executive Director Bonnie Kampa.

Originally established as the Oro Valley Community Endowment Fund in 2002, the non-profit has evolved into the Oro Valley Community Foundation moving from administering funds solely for public art into establishing grants and gifts to services that support youth programs, sports scholarships and community food programs, among other services.

The all-volunteer Board of Directors is inviting anyone interested in the Foundation to get involved through donations and time.

*The Oro Valley Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization working to enrich the community through the vision and generosity of individual, family and corporate donors. The Foundation is a philanthropic organization that supports charitable organizations including the arts, education, social services and the environment. It is devoted to the long-term commitment of building a permanent endowment of funds to improve the lives of residents of Oro Valley and the surrounding areas.*

*Oro Valley Community Foundation has been established in partnership with the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona (CFSA), which is certified under the National Standards for U. S. Community Foundations.*

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