

YOLO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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NEWS

RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YOLO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDED GRANT FOR YOLO YOUTH SERVICE AWARDS

DECEMBER, 2007 – Yolo Community Foundation, a nonprofit organization, announced today that its new Yolo Youth Service Awards Program received a grant from The California Endowment. The program is a central element in The Yolo Community Foundation's vision for Yolo County, The Leadership 2025 Plan. Yolo Youth Service Awards will support the development of youth leadership in the County through awards of innovative, paired grants to students and to the nonprofits the awardees have served.

Because the Yolo Community Foundation believes that leadership requires a commitment to service, the Yolo Youth Service Awards program will recognize youth involvement in community life. Yolo Community Foundation will seek applications from high school seniors who volunteer with Yolo County nonprofit organizations during their junior and/or senior year of high school. By recognizing a student's volunteer service, the Yolo Community Foundation seeks to nurture the future leadership of Yolo County.

Yolo Community Foundation will make grants of \$2,000 to the Yolo County nonprofit where the young person volunteers. Half of the award will support the

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work of the sponsoring nonprofit; half will be a scholarship to support the further education of the youth leader. That education need not be the customary goal of college, but might include whatever recognized post-secondary education the student would like to pursue after graduation. The grant will be made from Yolo Community Foundation's Community Development Fund. The Foundation announced the guidelines for the project at the beginning of the 2007-08 school year and will make its first awards at the end of that school year.

With their Community Impact Funds, Yolo Community Foundation raises funds in order to make grants to support local community issues, identifies organizations capable of making the greatest impact in the specific issue area, and enhances the quality of life in our community by supporting community programs through financial and community partnerships. Yolo Community Foundation encourages individuals, families, and businesses to partner with them to fulfill their financial and charitable goals in the Yolo County community.

The Community Development Fund is dedicated to promoting community building and connections and is available to address the community's most pressing needs and most important opportunities. Community development seeks to empower individuals and groups of people by supporting development of the skills they need to effect change in their own communities.

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Cath Posehn, Executive Director of Yolo Community Foundation said, “We are committed to building civic investment and community involvement. We hope to establish a tradition of generosity that has led many people to invest their time and philanthropic dollars to support the common good. Because we address local needs, we are the best source for strengthening the community through projects that encourage leadership and capacity from within, while respecting and valuing the rich heritage and diversity represented in our geographic region.”

The Yolo Youth Service Awards Program requires that the applicant has worked at least 60 hours with a recognized nonprofit in the year prior to the application. The process will begin with a joint application, submitted by the nonprofit but with a section from the young person. The application will briefly describe the nonprofit’s purpose and activities and how the young person’s services has supported its work. The nonprofit will describe how the young person has demonstrated leadership and service through volunteer work. The application will ask the youth volunteer to describe his or her experience and what volunteer service has meant to him or her. The selection panel from Yolo Community Foundation may ask the applicant to write a paragraph about how this work has benefited the people of Yolo County. The final section will require the nonprofit and the young person to describe how they will use their portions of the grant. The complete application should not exceed five pages.

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The application is due to the Foundation by February 28, 2008. The selection process will occur in March 2008 and the grants will be announced in April 30, 2008. In looking at the young person's part of the application, the selection committee will look for leadership, commitment to others, maturity, and reliability.

Formed in 2001, Yolo Community Foundation is a nonprofit public resource created by and for the people of Yolo County for community philanthropy that helps donors make a positive impact on their community. Yolo Community Foundation enables individuals of both modest means and significant wealth to support nonprofit organizations that provide vital programs and services and to contribute to a permanent endowment for the people of Yolo County. Community foundations provide a simple, powerful, and highly personal approach to giving. They offer a variety of giving tools to help people and businesses achieve their charitable goals. Donors can give cash, appreciated stocks, real estate, charitable IRA transfers, or other assets and receive maximum charitable and tax benefits.

Yolo Community Foundation is one of nearly 700 community foundations nationwide. Their mission is "To match the philanthropic interests of donors with the needs and opportunities of the Yolo County community. To learn more about Yolo Community Foundation, visit their website at www.yolocf.org or call 530-312-0593.

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