

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RANCHO SANTA FE FOUNDATION**

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A feeling of Fall is in the air ... the children are back in school, the color of the leaves on some of the trees in our community are changing and soon Halloween will have passed and we will move on to Thanksgiving and the holidays. 2005 is coming to a close.

This has been a year of much tragedy as we continue to struggle with the effects of the worst hurricane season in our country's history, the tsunami in Southeast Asia, the war on terror and other global issues, less newsworthy but none the less challenging. But, ever the optimist, I chose to look at the positive things that have come out of all of this.

Philanthropy has the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people with out distinction between color, race or creed. We have seen this so poignantly this year as the world has responded generously to the devastation wrought by natural and man-made disasters. Billions of dollars have been given by individuals, corporations, foundations all over the world.

The Rancho Santa Fe Foundation, and donors throughout our community, are no different. Of the more than \$2 million that we have distributed so far this year, about \$100,000 has remained in Rancho Santa Fe. Our donors, through the Foundation, have sent several million dollars to organizations such as the American Red Cross for Hurricane Katrina Relief (\$130,000), \$15,000 to various organizations for Tsunami Relief, more than \$100,000 has been given for famine relief in Nigeria through Doctors Without Borders, thousands of dollars have gone to support colleges and universities (mostly for scholarships) all around the country, nearly \$500,000 has remained in San Diego County in support of organizations such as the San Diego Symphony, Community Resource Center in Encinitas, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, Young Life, Reality Changers and so many more ... the largest single grant this year was \$100,000 and we have approved 454 grant requests to date. We are proud of our philanthropy and that of our donors.

What does all of this mean? It means that the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation will continue to support the needs of our community – always and forever. The RSF School, Library, Community Center, Senior Center and the Historical Society, will continue to be recipients of discretionary funds.

But philanthropic donors in our community, using the Foundation as a vehicle for their charitable giving, have been quietly and consistently providing financial support to charitable causes all over the world. Significant change will occur as a result of the passion of those who believe that they can make a difference, a little bit at a time, through intelligent and strategic philanthropic support.