



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UNITED WAY OF THE BAY AREA AWARDS PRESTIGIOUS GRANT TO SOLANO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FAIRFIELD – The Solano Community Foundation is pleased to announce it has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the United Way of the Bay Area to support at least 25 workshops and trainings that help to foster growth and participation in the nonprofit sector of Solano County.

“We are so proud to support this program, which can help bring more funds to the nonprofits of Solano County,” said Aimee Durfee, United Way Vice President for the North Bay Region. “By providing expertise in management and fundraising, Solano Community Foundation is helping nonprofits expand, thrive and give back to our community.”

This prestigious grant helps to provide workshops that offer a wide range of approaches to creating and sustaining 501(c)(3) nonprofits and aims to increase capacity building. In addition, it presents the best opportunity for nonprofit members to succeed in their community.

“We are very pleased with United Way’s continued support of our efforts to increase the capacity of our local nonprofit agencies. With this grant, we can assure a robust schedule of workshops and trainings on topics of interest to our local community,” said Stephanie Wolf, President & CEO of the Solano Community Foundation. “We know that these sessions provide useful information for staff, volunteers, and Board members to help them operate their organizations more efficiently and effectively.”

The grant from UWBA is further intended to support the Cooperating Collection of the Foundation Center, a database of grantmakers designed for members of the nonprofit sector who want to learn about identifying and researching private foundations as potential sources of funding. The database, as well as a library of books, periodicals, and directories to assist grantseekers and nonprofit professionals, is located at the Solano Community Foundation office.

In 2007, Solano Community Foundation offered 18 workshops to the nonprofit sector, where more than 310 community members were trained on an array of topics, including “Running a Nonprofit Like a Business,” “Proposal Writing,” and “Leadership Development.”

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These workshops, held by professional speakers and staff members, have helped to make a difference for Solano County nonprofits. Dixon Family Services, for example, received an increase in their grant, from \$7,500 in 2006 to \$10,000 in 2007, after participating in workshops provided by SCF.

“I have attended several of the workshops provided by SCF, where I used some very valuable tips from these workshops when applying to the Bank of America Foundation,” said Cookie Powell, Executive Director of DFS. “In writing my proposal, I used advice from SCF, which was to stay focused on answering the questions rather than give information the grantors were not interested in reading.”

In addition to United Way, the Solano Community Foundation has collaborated with local establishments for these workshops, including First 5 Solano, the Fairfield Civic Center Library, the Solano County Government, and the Solano County Board of Education. Additionally, all workshops and trainings provide coffee donated by Starbucks Coffee.

United Way of the Bay Area (UWBA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to community impact. UWBA serves Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo and Solano Counties. Their mission is to be the catalyst that enables people to strengthen their communities by investing in one another. Through the Bay Area Community Fund, United Way supports more than 250 local programs that fight poverty and create opportunities for children, youth, families and neighborhoods to thrive. United Way also operates 2-1-1 phone service in several Bay Area Counties. 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember phone number that connects people in need — as well as individuals seeking to give — with community services. For more information, visit www.uwba.org.

The Solano Community Foundation was established in 1995, incorporated in 2000, and is dedicated to strengthening the community now and for future generations. It is a 501(c)(3) organization which provides the opportunity for donors to make a lasting contribution to causes in Solano County that are close to their hearts, and to build capacity in the nonprofit community. Stephanie Wolf, President and CEO of the Solano Community Foundation, can be reached at 707-399-3846.

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