CCF AT 95
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE
Antonia Hernández, president & CEO of the California Community Foundation (CCF), reflects on CCF’s activities in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010 – the challenges, the accomplishments and our ongoing dedication to building a more equitable, prosperous Los Angeles.

The California Community Foundation (CCF) turns 95 this year, and we show no signs of slowing down. Donors, grantees and the L.A. community continued to address economic hardship, redefine priorities and find new ways to make the most out of every dollar. We have awarded approximately $17.3 million in discretionary grants and received $120 million in contributions. In June, our board approved a 2010-2011 budget that lowered our expenses and increased our financial commitment to our priority grantmaking.

We’ve achieved the goals of our Census Outreach Initiative, where CCF stepped up to provide support, innovation and flexibility in partnership with government and community leaders. CCF and the task force we convened found innovative ways to stretch our $1.5 million dollar investment as far as possible through partnerships, innovative grantmaking and data and technology. We used real-time data to find the holes in census participation and supported grantees to reach out in those areas. With many thanks to all of our partners and the hard work they did, we are pleased to report that L.A. County exceeded the goals of 70 percent census participation rate, outperforming New York City and Chicago.

Bill Gates and Warren Buffet Urge Wealthy to Give Now
Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffet are challenging billionaires nationwide to give at least 50 percent of their net worth while they are still alive. That amounts to $600 billion total, or $30 billion per year assuming a 5 percent payout. Several families have signed up, including Eli and Edythe Broad. Experts speculate that the challenge could create a groundswell of giving, not limited to billionaires. Get more analysis at tacticalphilanthropy.com.

Support for Critical Needs
CCF has dedicated $500,000 to support critical needs in Los Angeles, including hunger and homelessness, in the upcoming fiscal year.

As we often remind ourselves, community leadership does not require a certain pedigree or skill set – anyone with the courage to create change can do so.

We also continued our commitment to the Summer Youth Fund, to help low-income families provide enjoyable, enriching summer experiences for their kids even as money is tight and public offerings like summer school are increasingly limited. We responded to two international natural disasters, in Haiti and Chile, contributing more than $2 million to relief organizations including the Red Cross, International Medical Corps and others.

We are working hard to create the change we envision: a more equitable, prosperous Los Angeles. As we often remind ourselves, community leadership does not require a certain pedigree or skill set – anyone with the courage to create change can do so. What change do you or your clients envision? We hope that you will reach out and allow us to help you turn these ideas into action.
Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on June 11 addressed 75 CCF donors and community leaders, asking for help to meet the needs of returning veterans and military families affected by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mullen shared his concerns about the challenges that soldiers face – personally, physically and psychologically – and his desire to ensure that soldiers transition successfully into civilian life. He acknowledged the innovative work underway by nonprofits and philanthropists, including CCF’s Iraq Afghanistan Deployment Impact Fund (IADIF), which has helped an estimated 2 million service members and their families since 2006.

“I’m looking for impact,” Mullen said. “When it comes down to it, [veterans] have got to go home at night, they’ve got to put food on the table, and they’ve got 50, 60, 70 years to live and they want to make a difference. So how do we do that?

“It’s not about disability, it’s about ability. It’s not about veterans being part of the problem, it’s about veterans being part of the solution.”

To date, IADIF has contributed more than $243 million to provide assistance to the troops and veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts and their families. A November 2009 report highlighted the great strides made by this fund and the needs still unmet that the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors can fill. Read the report at myccf.org/idadf.

To learn more about IADIF, military issues and how you can make a difference with your giving, contact Terri Mosqueda at (213) 452-6298 or tmosqueda@ccf-la.org.
T rusted Advisors Inspire Clients to Philanthropic Leadership

Every year across L.A., professional advisors help their clients realize their philanthropic goals by setting up charitable funds at the California Community Foundation (CCF) and working with CCF to process bequests or complex gifts such as real estate and closely-held stock.

CCF is honored to work with these attorneys, certified public accountants, tax advisors, business managers and other trusted advisors who inspire their clients to philanthropic leadership.

To learn more about CCF and its charitable giving options, visit myccf.org/giving or call Barry Peterson, director of charitable business development, at (213) 452-6265.

Each of these accomplished advisors has referred more than one fund or a fund valued at more than $500,000 since July 2008.

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Each of these accomplished advisors has referred a Legacy Society Member since July 2008.

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Sweet Dreams by CCF Fellow Kim Abeles; It Takes a Village to Raise a Child 2, mural by CCF Fellow Noni Olabisi. See more at myccf.org/artistgallery. (Photos courtesy of Kim Abeles and Noni Olabisi)

CCF Names 18 New ARTS FELLOWS

CCF has named a record-high 18 recipients of the Fellowships for Visual Artists, including 11 mid-career artists and 7 emerging artists. The program, in its 22nd year, is funded thanks to donor funds including The J. Paul Getty Trust Fund for the Visual Arts, the Brody Arts Fund, the Atlass Fund, the Joan Palevsky Endowment for the Future of Los Angeles, and others. In May 2010, the foundation hosted a studio tour for donors to introduce them to a few CCF fellows. These efforts to spread the word about the great work of our fellows have resulted in an additional fellow this year thanks to the generosity of the Harry J. Volk Fund. Read about the artists and see their work on our online artist gallery: myccf.org/artistgallery.

Retained Life Estates:

GIVING A HOME TO CHARITY WITHOUT GIVING IT UP

Sometimes we encounter what seem like impossible compromises. For example, let’s say a client experiences a liquidity event and wants to take a tax deduction on a piece of real estate now but is not ready to give up the property. That would seem like a direct contradiction – but retained life estates allow your client to do just that. With a retained life estate with CCF, your clients can pass title to CCF and live in the property, with the proceeds of the eventual sale of the property going to establish a fund. Your clients can define the fund’s purpose as they wish, in keeping with their philanthropic interests. CCF facilitates the sale and can answer questions during set up. Here are some helpful hints that CCF has learned over the years working with retained life estates:

• Know the costs: Your client is responsible for maintenance, insurance and taxes throughout the term of the life estate.

• Pick the property: Personal residences and vacation properties can be used. CCF does not accept properties with debt.

• Meet the requirements: Retained life estates through CCF are subject to the same gift acceptance requirements as outright real estate gifts. Please contact CCF for a checklist.

• Know the options: If your client chooses to terminate the life estate early, your client may be able to claim an additional charitable deduction, and CCF could sell the property early.

• Retain the right to revoke: When giving the right to live in a property to someone your client is not married to, make sure they retain the right to revoke the gift through their estate. Otherwise, they may be subject to gift tax.

The California Community Foundation meets the most rigorous standards in philanthropy and complies with the National Standards of U.S. Community Foundations.

CCF and Donors Reach Out to L.A.’s At-risk Youth

This summer, like last year, in the face of summer school closures and major cuts to programs normally available to low-income kids, CCF and its donors are supporting organizations that offer low-income at-risk youth and their families enriching programs through CCF’s Summer Youth Fund. At press time, CCF and donors have contributed more than $146,000 for the YMCA of Metropolitan L.A. and the City of L.A.’s Summer Night Lights (SNL) program to support thousands of youth in summer camps and recreational programs.

The CCF grant will help children ages 5-18 and their families whose household income is below the L.A. County median of $53,500. The YMCA of Metropolitan L.A. runs 25 YMCA, hundreds of after school centers and three summer camps. Summer Youth Fund dollars provide scholarships for week-long summer enrichment programs such as day camp, swimming, basketball and dance through its branches located in the most underserved sections of Los Angeles. The City of L.A.’s Summer Night Lights program is a youth violence prevention program that keeps parks open in the evenings during the times in which youth are most likely to be perpetrators or victims of crime. It opened eight new sites in 2010 for a total of 24 sites across Los Angeles. CCF’s funding will help to operate sites in South Los Angeles. For more information go to myccf.org/summeoryouth.

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