



**Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Foundation  
Distributes Record \$904,050  
to Local Charities**

**Proceeds from the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Sonoma Valley Harvest Wine Auction Weekend  
Divided Among Eleven Area Non Profits and Community Service Organizations**

**Sonoma, CA (December 3, 2007)** On Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, the **Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Foundation (SVVGF)** had the pleasure of awarding a record \$904,050 in proceeds from this year's Sonoma Valley Harvest Wine Auction Weekend to eleven area non profits and community service organizations. The check presentation was made by SVVGF Executive Director **Grant Raeside** and President **Charlie Tsegeletos** during the group's annual Holiday Party at the Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn and Spa. Beneficiaries of this year's proceeds include: **Friends in Sonoma Helping (FISH), Kenwood Education Foundation, La Luz, Sonoma Community Center, Sonoma Valley Community Health Center, Sonoma Valley Education Foundation, Sonoma Valley Hospital Foundation, Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance, WillMar Center for Bereaved Children, Boys & Girls Club Valley of the Moon and Vineyard Worker Services.**

In making the presentation, Raeside said "Tonight is a culmination of a full year's work by so many to ensure the ongoing funding of our community's most critical needs. Through tireless efforts on the part of our member growers, wineries and associates – and of course our charity partners themselves – we mounted our most successful Harvest Wine Auction Weekend to date; raising a record \$904,050, which I am delighted to share with you tonight."

Increased attendance, new events and an expanded Auction venue at Cline Cellars contributed to the **57% increase in proceeds** at this year's cowboy-themed fete, which took place over Labor Day Weekend. In addition, for the first time, the SVVGF invited charity partners to produce their own auction lots, which allowed them to supplement their pledged share of the auction's proceeds with 100% of the proceeds from their individual lots.

Carolyn Stone, Chair of Sonoma Valley Hospital Foundation said of this year's contribution "We have been part of this event for 15 years and in that time we have received just shy of \$2 million in

proceeds from the annual Sonoma Valley Harvest Wine Auction. Our gratitude goes out to the SVVGF and all of those who continue to make community health a funding priority.”

In addition to the Sonoma Valley Hospital Foundation, the Sonoma Valley Harvest Wine Auction has made significant contributions to local non-profits over the past 15 years; with gifts of \$705,330 to the Sonoma Valley Community Health Center; \$660,193 to the Boys & Girls Club Valley of the Moon, \$519,202 to Vineyard Worker’s Services and \$418,000 to the Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance to name just a few.

### **About the Sonoma Harvest Wine Auction**

Since its inception 15 years ago, the Sonoma Valley Harvest Wine Auction Weekend has established itself as one of the nation’s top wine auctions, drawing visitors from all over the world to the three day wine classic and fundraiser. In addition to showcasing Sonoma’s unparalleled wine quality and unrivaled hospitality, the Sonoma Valley Harvest Wine Auction has donated more than seven million dollars in vital funding to local charities serving children, vineyard and hospitality workers, their families, and community healthcare. The Sonoma Valley Harvest Wine Auction is produced by The Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Foundation (SVVGF).

### **About the Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Foundation (SVVGF)**

The Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Foundation (SVVGF) is a unique non-profit organization. Hundreds of vintners and growers share a mission to promote Sonoma Valley wines and grapes, support cooperation and collaboration among vintners and growers, and develop community awareness of the industry. For more information on the SVVGF, please call 707-935-0803 or visit [www.sonomavalleywine.com](http://www.sonomavalleywine.com).

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