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Jewish Community Foundation Continues Strong Grant-making

Generosity and Innovation During Difficult Times

In this time of great economic challenge and uncertainty, grants from the Jewish Community Foundation are making important differences in the community and addressing critical needs. The families and individuals who partner with the Foundation for their philanthropy have recommended grants of nearly \$52 million since July 2008.

The Foundation's recent grants include every sector of the community: critical crisis needs; programs for the young and elderly; services for single parents and victims of domestic violence; education of all forms; and the arts. Two important grants recently were awarded to On the Go Senior Transportation and San Diego Food Bank's Food 4 Kids Backpack program.

On the Go Senior Transportation program has given more than 12,000 rides since its launch in September. Previously housebound seniors now enjoy safe, reliable and caring transportation to medical appointments, senior centers, grocery stores, synagogues and Jewish events. The economic downturn has created even more demand for On the Go as seniors living on fixed incomes are forced to make tough choices. On the Go is a program of Jewish Family Service and the Jewish Senior Services Council funded by a consortium of Foundation donors.

Thanks to grants from several Foundation donors, elementary school children are receiving food for the weekend through the San Diego Food Bank's innovative Food 4 Kids Backpack program. The program originated at schools where most students qualify for free or reduced lunches. Teachers observed that some children arrived hungry on Monday morning, and their performance and ability to concentrate suffered. Food packets are given to students each Friday in backpacks to preserve the students' dignity. A variety of foods are included, enough to share with family members.

Grants have also been awarded to Jewish Family Service's Hand Up Youth Food Pantry, which has experienced a quadrupling of need for food compared to last year and Interfaith Community Services, which provides food to veterans, seniors and others.

About the Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego:

Since 1967, the Jewish Community Foundation has partnered with individuals, families and community organizations to help them achieve their philanthropic goals and to increase current and future support for a vibrant and secure Jewish community in San Diego, Israel and around the world.

During fiscal year 2007-08, the Foundation awarded more than \$67 million in 5,000 grants to 1,200 Jewish and general organizations in San Diego, the United States and Israel. Since its inception, the Jewish Community Foundation has granted more than \$500 million to nonprofits. Visit the Jewish Community Foundation at www.jefsandiego.org or call 858-279-2740.

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