



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 15, 2010

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Local Leader Wins State Position  
*Barry VanderKelen elected to serve on League of California Community Foundations*

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA—San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation Executive Director, Barry VanderKelen, has been elected to the Steering Committee of the League of California Community Foundations. Comprised of 24 community foundations across the state, members ascribe to the highest of standards for accountability, transparency, and continuous self-improvement.

“The League is an important and valuable body offering those of us who oversee our own foundations the collective wisdom and experience of so many talented people,” said VanderKelen. “I am both honored and excited to have been elected to participate in guiding the state’s charitable giving efforts.”

Together, League members have investments exceeding \$6.5 billion, VanderKelen explained, much of which has been permanently set aside by donors to generate income for annual grant-making in California’s communities. In 2008, the most recent year for which data are available, League members and their contributors have given more than \$800 million to local nonprofit organizations.

“These nonprofits are a community’s lifeblood,” said VanderKelen, “doing important work in health and human services, education, the environment, economic development, and the arts. I am so proud to now be a part of ensuring they continue to be supported.”

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