



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 12, 2006

Contact: Dave Edwards, Executive Director
543-2323

**Council on Foundations Recognizes San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation
for Compliance with National Accountability Standards**

Local Community Foundation is one of the first in the Nation to be recognized

San Luis Obispo, CA – The San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation (SLOCCF) is one of the first in the United States being recognized for having organizational and financial practices that are in accordance with the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations. The Council on Foundations and leaders of the community foundation field created the National Standards in 2000 to aid community foundations in establishing legal, ethical and effective operational practices that would show the foundations' transparency and financial responsibility in light of the increased public scrutiny of foundation practices. In addition, National Standards were developed to distinguish community foundations from other philanthropic vehicles, build the capacity of community foundations to carry out their missions, and assist the field with self-regulation in a manner viewed positively by the Internal Revenue Service.

The National Standards seal, pictured here, was developed for community foundations to signify that they have been confirmed in compliance with National Standards. Professional advisors and prospective donors will recognize the seal as an indication of the integrity and demonstrated excellence of the compliant foundation.



“Adopting and adhering to high standards is the best way we can demonstrate our ongoing commitment to maintaining the trust of our donors and the entire community,” said Dave Edwards, Executive Director of SLOCCF. “We are committed to reaffirming the honesty and integrity that are a hallmark of our foundation.”

Intended both as a blueprint for internal organizational development and as a tangible set of benchmarks for external assessment of performance, the 43 National Standards address six key areas of community foundation operations:

- *Mission, Structure and Governance*
- *Resource Development*
- *Stewardship and Accountability*
- *Grantmaking and Community Leadership*
- *Donor Relations*
- *Communications*

In order to achieve Confirmation of Compliance with the National Standards, community foundations must undergo an extensive review of their organizational and financial policies and procedures. The review is performed by trained, experienced community foundation practitioners.

The Council on Foundations is a Washington, DC-based nonprofit membership association of more than 2,000 grantmaking foundations and corporations. The Council provides the opportunity, leadership and tools needed by philanthropic organizations to expand, enhance and sustain their ability to advance the common good. For more information on the Council, visit the organization's website at www.cof.org.

The SLOCCF was established in 1998 and now has over 180 endowed funds totaling more than \$20 million. In 2005, SLOCCF awarded over \$2 million in grants and scholarships to support a variety of community needs and responded to many donor interests. For more information on the SLOCCF, please call 543-2323 or visit www.slocf.org.

###