

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CENTRAL VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HONORS LOCAL LEADERS

*Annual event acknowledges Morton G. Rosenstein with Founder's Award,
and Murray and Francine Farber with Lifetime Achievement Award*

FRESNO, CA, June 19, 2019 – Nearly 100 community leaders, donors, and guests gathered at the Central Valley Community Foundation's (CVCF) Annual Party on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at Chukchansi Park to present the organization's highest awards and to celebrate the impactful work of CVCF and its partners.

This annual event offered a recap of the previous year's accomplishments, presented a roadmap for the year ahead, and recognized outstanding contributions from CVCF stakeholders with the presentation of the Founders Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

"Each year we look forward to this event so we can share our appreciation for the people who are our partners in this work," said Ashley Swearingin, President & CEO at CVCF. "With the many challenges that our region faces, we are keenly aware of the important role that local philanthropists have in creating a bright future for our community. This event is an opportunity to express our appreciation to them."

A highlight of the event is the presentation of CVCF's Founder's Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award. Winners were selected upon recommendations from staff and board members as a way to recognize significant contributions to the community and to CVCF.

The 2019 **Founders Award** recognized Dr. Morton G. Rosenstein, who passed away last year, in celebration of his outstanding vision and unparalleled commitment to philanthropy in the Central Valley. Dr. Rosenstein was a former CVCF Board Chair, a Fresno-area OB/GYN for 40 years, and a dedicated community leader. Dr. Rosenstein's wife, Donna Rosenstein, accepted the award on his behalf.

The 2019 **Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to Francine and Murray Farber in recognition of remarkable civic and philanthropy leadership and an enduring commitment to our community. Their continued support of educational initiatives for Fresno students includes the Steve's Scholars program, which has provided scholarships to over 60 students, who in turn, have completed nearly 3,000 hours of community service work.

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CVCF Annual Event, contd.

Fresno Grizzlies General Manager Derek Franks opened the event and talked about the fund that the Grizzlies opened at CVCF in 2018 to support their existing charitable work throughout the region. Through their charity, the Grizzlies have established several successful outreach programs, including Swing for Kids, Junior Grizzlies Baseball League, and Wild About Reading, which is one of the largest educational initiatives in all of Minor League Baseball, promoting reading to over 1 million students since 2004.

New this year, CVCF held a photo contest to select a cover photo for its annual report that best depicted this year's theme, '*celebrating community intersections around technology, art, or place.*' This contest was added as an opportunity to showcase local photographic talent. The winning photograph was chosen from nearly 40 submissions and is entitled "Fall in Love and Get Lost." It was taken at Sentinel Meadows View in Mariposa County by Khonesavanh Saysamongdy, a 25-year-old amateur photographer from Fresno.

The event also included the official release of CVCF's annual report. Highlights in the 2018 report include the organization's leadership on a local ballot measure (Measure P), which brought together diverse community members from throughout Fresno in support of the arts and parks; leading local efforts as one of just ten cities in the U.S. selected by the Kresge Foundation to participate in a national effort to address economic and racial disparities; convening secondary and post-secondary leaders to develop a Fresno Region College Pipeline plan to ensure greater student success through college graduation; supporting eight local nonprofits who were successful in receiving \$1 million in grant funding from the James Irvine Foundation for neighborhood revitalization efforts; and stewardship of the Community Capital Collaborative which was launched with \$5 million from JP Morgan Chase to enhance entrepreneurship opportunities in distressed communities.

About the Central Valley Community Foundation

The Central Valley Community Foundation's mission is to cultivate smart philanthropy, lead, and invest in solutions that build stronger communities. As the only nationally accredited community foundation in the 6-county Central Valley, CVCF provides stewardship of local philanthropic dollars, support to area nonprofit organizations, and a commitment to community transformation. Founded in 1966, CVCF manages gross assets of \$98 million in 249 charitable funds and awarded \$11.7 million in grants in 2018.

ATTACHED:

- Cover art: Photograph entitled "Fall in Love and Get Lost," taken at Sentinel Meadows View in Mariposa County by Khonesavanh Saysamongdy, a 25-year-old amateur photographer from Fresno.
- Award winners Rosenstein and Farbers
- Swarengin and Thornton
- [URL for 2018 Annual Report](#)

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