Sonoma Valley Fund Honors Valley Volunteers

October 5, 2015 – More than 250 guests helped to celebrate 26 of the Valley’s top volunteers at Sonoma Valley Fund Annual Event on Sunday. This is the seventh year that Sonoma Valley Fund has hosted this event.

The large and enthusiastic audience cheered as each of the volunteers came up to the stage to receive a beautiful star-shaped award and a Certificate of Appreciation from County Supervisor Susan Gorin.

“I am once again reminded of the powerful tradition of volunteering we have built in our community,” said Joshua Rymer, Sonoma Valley Fund’s President. “The stories of the many and varied contributions made by each of the 26 Sonoma residents who give their time, talent and treasure to one or more of the Valley’s nonprofit organizations is simply inspiring. These are the unsung heroes who show up and work everyday for thanks, but no pay. These are the people who make nonprofits possible in our Valley possible.”

The complete list of this year’s Star Volunteer recipients includes:

• Seeds of Learning - Mark Etherington
• Teen Services Sonoma – Jerica Tercero and David Wells
• Hanna Boys Center – Thai Hoang
• Sonoma Valley Community Health Center - Jesus Aguayo-Zuniga
• Pets Lifeline - Gayle O'Hara
• Sonoma Valley Hospital Foundation – Hilda Teran-Franklin
• Boys & Girls Clubs of Sonoma Valley – Lisa Carlsson
• Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance – Voit McKarre and Stephanie Stubbs
• Vintage House - Marcie Waldron, Bill O'Neal, and Eric Peterson
• Sonoma Community Center - Corin Rasmussen
• Quarryhill Botanical Garden - Steve Corey
• Sonoma Valley Museum of Art - Stan Abercrombie and Paul Vieyera
• Sonoma League of Historic Preservation - Ginny Richardson
• Sweetwater Spectrum - Carolyn Klebanoff and Fred Cohen
• La Luz Center - Isaac Vargas
• Sonoma Valley Education Foundation - Meg Sokoloski
• Sonoma Ecology Center - Bill Myers and Linda Pavlak
• Becoming Independent - Eric Gullotta
• Friends in Sonoma Helping (FISH) – Linda Alwitt

****Note: a publication ready, higher resolution version of the photo can be downloaded at: https://www.dropbox.com/s/xeqv0x4ov1u7f6d/2015Group-2085.jpg?dl=0
Photo courtesy of Melania Mahoney Photography

Top row (left to right): Moises Farias (Stephanie Stubbs’ mentee), Stephanie Stubbs (Sonoma Mentoring Alliance), Issac Vargas (La Luz Center), Bill Myers (Sonoma Ecology Center), Corin Rasmussen (Sonoma Community Center)
2nd row (left to right): Thai Hoang (Hanna Boys Center), Eric Peterson (Vintage House), Meg Sokoloski (Sonoma Valley Education Foundation), Luis Rivera (Voit Mckarre’s mentee), Lulu Carlsson (Lisa Carlsson’s daughter), Lisa Carlsson, Steve Corey (Quarryhill), Fred Cohen (Sweetwater Spectrum), Carolyn Klebanoff Cohen (Sweetwater Spectrum), Mark Etherington (Seeds of Learning), Eric Gullotta (Becoming Independent), Bill O’Neal (Vintage House)
Front row (left to right): Hilda Teran-Franklin (Sonoma Valley Hospital Foundation), Linda Alwitt (FISH), Linda Pavlak (Sonoma Ecology Center), Ginny Richardson (Sonoma League of Historic Preservation), Jerica Tercero (Teen Services Sonoma), David Wells (Teen Services Sonoma), Gayle O’Hara (Pets Lifeline), Jesus Aguayo-Zuniga (Sonoma Valley Community Health Center)
Not pictured: Stan Abercrombie (Sonoma Valley Museum of Art), Paul Vieyera (Sonoma Valley Museum of Art), Voit Mckarre (Mentoring Alliance), Marcie Waldron (Vintage House).

An affiliate of Community Foundation Sonoma County, Sonoma Valley Fund was created and is managed by respected community leaders to help sustain and improve the Valley’s unique socioeconomic, environmental, and cultural qualities for generations to come. Sonoma Valley Fund promotes and facilitates local philanthropy and legacy giving by serving as a bridge to the future, helping nonprofits build successful legacy and endowment programs, encouraging estate-planning professionals to discuss Sonoma Valley bequests with their clients, offering a set of prudent investment options for donors and non-profits, and providing trustworthy, responsible, and thoughtful stewardship of donor gifts. No other local organization unites all constituencies around the purpose of endowing the Sonoma Valley community as a whole. For more information visit www.sonomavalleyfund.org.