For Immediate Release: September 24, 2019

4th Annual North County Nonprofit Forum Addresses Need for Board Education

SANTA MARIA, CA – On Thursday, September 26, 2019, roughly 150 nonprofit professionals are expected to gather at the Radisson Hotel in Santa Maria, CA for the 4th annual North County Nonprofit Forum. This year’s theme is “All Hands on Deck: Engaging the Board and Staff in Leadership & Fundraising,” and will focus on the development of effective nonprofit boards in Northern Santa Barbara County.

The event will be kicked off with a presentation from keynote speaker Robbe Healey, Co-Founder of the Pennsylvania-based Aurora Philanthropic Consulting. Healey has worked in philanthropic fundraising and nonprofit management for more than 35 years and currently teaches a course on nonprofit fundraising at Villanova University. Healey’s Keynote Address, entitled "From Average to Awesome: Shaping and Sustaining a Best Practice Board," will share strategies on how to effectively build and educate nonprofit boards, increase board engagement, and raise financial capital.

Healey’s presentation will be followed by a series of breakout sessions led by several distinguished nonprofit leaders, including Rebecca J. Merrell, Executive Vice-President & Regional Director at Netzel Grigsby Associates, Inc. and Joann Ricci, Consultant and Leadership Coach to Foundations and Nonprofits at the Ricci Group.

The Forum will also include an interactive workshop led by Healey, as well as a candid conversation with a local Board Chair and Executive Director who will share their best practices in navigating their respective roles.

“Every day, Boards of Directors are tasked with mapping the path for nonprofit organizations in our county,” said Kathy Simas, North County Director at the Santa Barbara Foundation. “Strong nonprofit boards are essential to achieving each organization’s mission. This year’s North County Nonprofit Forum will provide an opportunity for staff and board members to come together to learn about building an effective board and engaging as a team in fundraising for their organization, with an emphasis on the trends and needs in North County.”

The 4th annual North County Nonprofit Forum is sponsored by the Ann Jackson Family Foundation, Hutton Parker Foundation, McCune Foundation, Santa Barbara Foundation, Santa Ynez Band of

For media inquiries and additional information, please contact Jordan Killebrew at the Santa Barbara Foundation at jkillebrew@sbfoundation.org.

The North County Nonprofit Forum was created in 2016 by a group of foundations and nonprofits interested in building the capacity and strengthening networking among northern Santa Barbara County nonprofits and funders. The first forum was held in Santa Maria in 2016.

About Santa Barbara Foundation:

The Santa Barbara Foundation, the largest community foundation in the region and the county’s go-to resource for investment and capacity-building, strives to mobilize and elevate residents of all ages, races, genders, and socio-economic backgrounds to thrive. Nearly every Santa Barbara County nonprofit organization and essential community project has been supported by the Foundation during its 90 year history.

The Foundation is working to improve areas that affect quality of life in Santa Barbara County including childcare, workforce development, and workforce housing through connecting those who give with those in need - and all who dream of stronger communities. To learn more, please visit SBFoundation.org.

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