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**THE WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF CALIFORNIA HONORS
WOMEN LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS AT THEIR GALA BENEFIT
HEADLINED BY SENATOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON**

LOS ANGELES, October 14, 2005 — The Women's Foundation of California will host a Gala celebration to honor women leaders and community-based organizations that have championed the human rights of California's women and girls. These GroundBreakers and DreamMakers will be recognized for their outstanding efforts on Friday, October 14, 2005 at the Beverly Hills Hotel. Proceeds from the Gala will support the Women's Foundation of California's grant-making and programs that are working to build a more just and equitable California for women, girls and their families.

The Women's Foundation will honor the 2005 GroundBreaker/DreamMaker recipients at the Gala featuring **Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton**. Senator Clinton will be joined by Emmy award-winning actress **Camryn Manheim** who will be the mistress of ceremony for the evening along with honorary hosts **Mary Steenburgen** and **Ted Danson**. The sold-out event will be attended by 550 guests from political, business and entertainment sectors.

"For over two decades the Women's Foundation has worked to build a California based on equity and inclusion. We are

pleased to be joined by Senator Clinton to celebrate the Foundation's accomplishments towards our vision and to honor individuals and organizations that are truly groundbreakers. They all play a pivotal role in creating a California where women and girls can lead and thrive," said Patti Chang, President of the Women's Foundation of California.

Four women leaders, including Senator Clinton, and 11 organizations that are blazing trails for women and girls in communities throughout California are included among the honorees. The 2005 GroundBreakers/DreamMakers are Senator Clinton, **Lateefah Simon**, McArthur Fellow and former executive director of the Center for Young Women's Development in San Francisco; **Kay Buck**, Executive Director of the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking in Los Angeles; and **Teresa DeAnda** staff for Californian's for Pesticide Reform in the San Joaquin Valley.

The 11 community-based organizations being honored for their work include:

From Los Angeles: Homeboy Industries/**Homegirl Café**, a restaurant and catering company that employs and trains young women who are transitioning out of gang life; the **Youth Justice Coalition**, which educates girls in the juvenile justice system about their legal rights and trains them to be their own advocates; **California Latinas for Reproductive Justice**, educates Latina women and girls about pregnancy prevention and advocates for Reproductive rights; and the **Labor**

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Community Strategy Center, a public health and transportation campaign expanding public transit access to millions of bus riders.

From Ventura: **Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy**, which promotes economic and social justice for people in the central coast region, as well as expands health coverage to the uninsured and works to reform public policy.

From San Francisco: the **Breast Cancer Action** program, which educates women about breast cancer prevention and treatment and helps to influence policy; the **Center for Young Women's Development**, which helps young women, ages 16-24, become voices of change in their lives and communities through personal development and civic engagement.

From Oakland: **Urban Habitat**, which is building a leadership of women of color for the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, to include comprehensive training in environmental health and justice leadership for low-income women from East San Jose.

From the Central Valley: **Nevada County Citizens for Choice**, a resource for women seeking reproductive health information and an advocate for comprehensive reproductive health care; **Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment**, works with community leaders to ensure their access to clean, safe and affordable drinking water.

As a grant-maker, the Women's Foundation of California has awarded over \$17 million to innovative community-based organizations that work to promote pay equity and economic security; advance legislative and policy efforts that benefit women, girls and their families; ensure women's and girls' leadership; advocate for reproductive health and rights; promote environmental health; and eliminate violence against women and girls. In addition to grant-making, the Women's Foundation of California runs its own programs including a Women's Policy Institute, serves as a trusted convener and provides grant partners with technical assistance in a variety of areas to build their organizational capacity. **For more information on the Women's Foundation of California visit our website at www.womensfoundca.org or call 415-837-1113 to speak with Maya Thornell-Sandifor, Senior Communications Officer.**

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