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Los Altos Groups Fund Expansion of Avenidas Village to Bring “Aging-in-Place” Services to their Community

Palo Alto, CA (March 24, 2010) Los Altos Legacies, Los Altos Community Foundation and the City of Los Altos Hills joined together to give Avenidas, a non-profit agency serving seniors on the mid-Peninsula, a grant to further expand its Avenidas Village program into Los Altos/Los Altos Hills to help keep older residents in their own homes and out of institutions.

Paul Gonella of Los Altos Legacies and Roy Lave of Los Altos Community Foundation were among the key community organizers who worked with Avenidas President and CEO Lisa Hendrickson and Avenidas Village Director Vickie Epstein to make this program happen.

“We spent a year evaluating all the agencies that provide services to seniors, and Avenidas Village ranked the highest in our findings,” states Gonella. “Not only is Avenidas Village affordable, costing less than \$3 a day, it offers incredible support helping people maintain their independence. My wife Ellen and I have even decided to join Avenidas Village, and we’re especially looking forward to the social events lined up for folks in Los Altos,” he concludes.

“Since we launched Avenidas Village in 2007, people have really relied on us as their safety net, so we’re thrilled that this grant will allow us to expand our scope into Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, and hire a part-time Member Services Coordinator who will focus solely on these two towns,” states Hendrickson.

Avenidas Village is an annual membership program that provides support to older adults as they stay in their own homes, simplify their lives, make new friends, keep their mobility, get to know fellow neighbors who are also members, and stay connected to their community.

Members have one convenient number to call for any problem they are facing, large or small. They have access to Avenidas Village’s network of 140 vendors who have been vetted by the agency, many of whom offer discounts to Village members. Members can also receive help with medical situations, receive a reassuring daily check in phone call, and get transportation to medical appointments free of charge when a doctor says they shouldn’t drive.

Dana Rhine is the new Los Altos Member Services Coordinator. She received a BA from UCLA and since then has worked and volunteered in education and medicine. Most recently, she was the coordinator of the Connection Center at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church.

People living in Los Altos or Los Altos Hills who would like to learn how an Avenidas Village membership would help them stay active, independent and connected should contact Dana Rhine at (650) 289-5407 or visit www.avenidasvillage.org.

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