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ANAHEIM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TO RELEASE NEW REPORT ON YOUTH SERVICES

*Assessment Calls for a Collective Vision and Multigenerational, Unified Action
to Address Service and Communication Gaps*

(Anaheim, Calif.) – The Anaheim Community Foundation (ACF) today announced the completion of its Anaheim Youth Services Assessment, a comprehensive report that explores the current landscape of Anaheim’s youth services.

The assessment identified specific gaps in service including: underserved geographic areas and age groups; the need for systemic solutions that involve youth and parents; an increased focus on prevention as well as intervention; and comprehensive engagement by all parties in fostering safe communities. The report further advocates for improved communication among all stakeholders, along with a unified vision for strategic and collective action.

"While many outstanding organizations provide programs for the city's youth, the sad reality is there are many young people in Anaheim who are still underserved," said Colleen Smagala-DeVane, president of ACF. "The great news is that this assessment will provide the blueprint for helping our community to build a strong infrastructure of services so that every child who needs support will have the access he or she deserves."

The process for a youth-specific community needs assessment began in March 2012. Through a competitive bid process that followed, The Olin Group was selected to conduct the assessment, which included demographic and geographic research, surveys, focus groups, and interviews to gain a better understanding of existing programs serving Anaheim, identify potential gaps in service, and outline possible solutions to help fill those gaps.

Acknowledging the importance of involving a diverse and broad range of stakeholders, the assessment solicited feedback from youth, parents, community leaders, service providers, educators, business leaders, and city officials.

"We wanted to make sure the process was transparent, accountable, and participatory," said Marcos Ramirez of The Olin Group. "Incorporating the opinions of all stakeholders, including community-based organizations and families, was important. Many parents and youth, in particular, were glad to have the opportunity to share their candid feedback and contribute to the process."

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This is the first detailed analysis done in Anaheim since 1989, and highlights the challenges and priorities for serving the young people in California's 10th largest city. The research and report were made possible through a donation from the Disneyland Resort to ACF. Disneyland Resort also committed an additional \$250,000 to ACF as seed money to address key findings identified in the report.

The final report will be released in print at a free public presentation at the Anaheim Convention Center on Monday, March 25, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. The full report will then be made available on the ACF website at www.anaheimcf.org.

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The Anaheim Community Foundation is nonprofit organization established in 1984. The Foundation supports a broad base of programs, services, organizations, and facilities that enrich the lives of Anaheim residents. A volunteer Board of Directors provides leadership and manages donations (property, money, or securities from individuals, organizations, and corporations) to ensure they are returned to the community to enhance programs and services that aid local groups in meeting vital community needs.