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**SILICON VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES KEY POSITIONS**  
*New Community Foundation Appoints Veterans from Parent Organizations*

*MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA* –Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the \$1.5 billion foundation created through the merger of two of the Bay Area’s largest community foundations, announces the appointment of six key staff positions. Each of the appointees previously served at one of the parent foundations, either Community Foundation Silicon Valley or Peninsula Community Foundation.

The appointments include two critical roles on the leadership team under the direction of Emmett D. Carson, Ph.D., CEO and president: Erica Wood, vice president, community initiatives, convening and research; and Bert Feuss, senior director, investments. Wood previously served at PCF as executive director of the Peninsula Partnership for Children, Youth and Families. Feuss was PCF’s director of professional services.

Other appointments include:

- Catherine Gowen, director, institutional giving, former development officer and Cisco giving counselor at CFSV.
- Michelle McGurk, senior director, media and community relations, former director of communications and marketing at CFSV.
- Clint Mosso, creative director, former web designer/creative services officer at CFSV.
- Jennifer Rowe, J.D., director, planned giving, former planned giving officer at CFSV.

Additional appointments will be made during the first quarter of 2007. For more information, please visit [www.siliconvalleycf.org](http://www.siliconvalleycf.org).

**Erica Wood, Vice President, Community Initiatives, Convening and Research**

As vice president of community initiatives, convenings and research, Erica oversees Silicon Valley Community Foundation’s venture fund projects, community initiatives, regional convening and research efforts.

Erica joined Peninsula Community Foundation in 2003 as the executive director of the Peninsula Partnership for Children, Youth and Families, which connected schools, families and communities. She launched and managed the Partnership’s multi-million dollar initiatives, which made significant and measurable impacts in the lives of the children and families they touched. In this capacity, Erica served as a member of PCF’s senior leadership team.

Prior to joining the community foundation, Erica was the director of research and evaluation at Applied Survey Research, a nonprofit social research firm in Santa Cruz County. While there she led the firm’s community assessment and major evaluation projects throughout the greater Bay Area.

Erica is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Cruz. She has traveled extensively, and is fluent in Spanish, having studied in Valencia, Spain, and Morelia, Mexico. She and her husband, Jesse, are new and very proud parents of their daughter, Paloma.

### **Bert Feuss, Senior Director, Investments**

Bert Feuss is responsible for managing the Silicon Valley Community Foundation's \$1.5 billion investment management and charitable trust administration relationships.

Bert served as director of professional services for Peninsula Community Foundation from 2004 to 2006, where he was responsible for asset development through professional advisors. In this role, he served as a valuable resource to donors and their financial, tax and estate planning advisors in structuring and transacting complex gifts and trusts.

Prior to joining the community foundation, Bert served 16 years at Franklin Templeton Investments as a senior vice president, where he was Series 7 and 24 licensed, and responsible for market analysis, product development and investment performance reporting.

Bert holds a master's in business administration from Golden Gate University and a bachelor's degree from University of California at Davis in economics and animal sciences. He serves as a board member for the Northern California Planned Giving Council, a volunteer conservation easement monitor for a local open space land trust, and is a past participant of the Social Enterprise Institute's program for social entrepreneurs.

As a third generation Bay Area native, Bert has a deep appreciation and respect for the diversity of people and communities of this region. On weekends Bert and his family can be found at school events or exploring the area's beautiful mountains, beaches and local communities.

### **Catherine Gowen, Director, Institutional Giving**

As director of institutional giving, Catherine helps regional corporations, nonprofits and private foundations to make an impact through their philanthropy. She works with corporations and foundations to establish charitable funds that address critical community issues. For nonprofits, she assists in creating endowment funds, so that quality programs and services can continue for years to come.

Catherine joined Community Foundation Silicon Valley in 2000, where she served as development officer, primarily for institutional funds, and the first Cisco Giving Counselor. At Cisco she helped employees achieve their personal charitable giving goals. She managed several other Cisco programs including boardnetUSA, where she helped develop a board service e-learning for employees, and the Habitat for Humanity Build Grant program; as well as philanthropy communications.

Prior to joining CFSV, Catherine was a program manager in Hewlett Packard's corporate philanthropy group managing numerous local and national grant initiatives. Catherine began her nonprofit career with the American Red Cross, working in both the Palo Alto and San Diego chapters. She managed a variety of development projects, from outreach to special events.

Catherine has a bachelor's in journalism from San Diego State University. She enjoys taking continuing studies courses at Stanford University, and she currently serves on the board of Preservation Action Council San Jose and on the steering committee for the Entrepreneurs Foundation.

She is a graduate of Leadership Mountain View. A Bay Area native, Catherine lives in downtown Mountain View.

**Michelle McGurk, Senior Director, Media and Community Relations**

As senior director for media and community relations, Michelle assists in coordinating Silicon Valley Community Foundation’s outreach to the press, community and civic leadership.

Michelle joined Community Foundation Silicon Valley in 2000, where she served as director of communications and marketing, overseeing strategic marketing, public relations, and print and electronic publications. During her tenure, the community was featured in nearly 1,000 local and national media features, including *Fortune*, *CBS Sunday Morning*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *BusinessWeek* and *Newsweek*.

Prior to joining CFSV, Michelle served as chief of staff and legislative aide to San Jose Vice Mayor Frank Fiscalini, overseeing media relations, public policy, land use and budget issues. Before becoming involved in public policy, Michelle worked as a journalist for seven years, including serving as Bay Area editor for McClatchy’s *Senior Spectrum* division and as managing editor for *NurseWeek* magazine in Sunnyvale.

Michelle has a bachelor’s in journalism from Northwestern University. She has taken graduate coursework in urban planning at San Jose State University and continues to study Spanish. She currently serves as vice-chair of the Rotary Club of San Jose Endowment and chair of the club’s contributions committee. She serves on the steering committee for CommA (the national Communications Association for community foundations) and the marketing committee for the Entrepreneurs Foundation.

A Bay Area native, Michelle lives in San Jose’s Shasta-Hanchett Park neighborhood with her husband, Santa Clara University photographer Charles Barry.

**Clint Mosso, Creative Director**

As creative director, Clint oversees Silicon Valley Community Foundation’s visual identity, graphic design and websites.

After earning his degree in multimedia communications and freelancing as a 3D artist, graphic designer and multimedia developer, Clint began working at Community Foundation Silicon Valley in 2000. He served as web designer and creative services officer, with responsibility for the development of websites, e-newsletters and design projects.

His website design work has garnered two Council on Foundations Wilmer Shields Rich Awards, a Silver in 2001 and a Gold in 2006.

Clint was born in San Jose and grew up in Hollister – known for the Independence Biker Rally made famous by the Marlon Brando film *The Wild One*. Alongside his affinity for motocross, ice hockey and soccer are more relaxing interests such as cooking, reading and watching movies with his significant other and their adopted one-eyed ginger tabby.

**Jennifer Rowe, J.D., Director, Planned Giving**

As director of planned giving, Jennifer Rowe is responsible for helping donors support their philanthropic interests through planned gifts such as bequests, charitable remainder trusts and charitable lead trusts. Jennifer also manages gifts of real estate to the Real Estate Trust at Silicon Valley Community Foundation and works closely with its distinguished Board of Advisors.

Jennifer joined Community Foundation Silicon Valley in 2005 as a planned giving officer. During her time in this position she facilitated more than \$43 million in real estate gifts and worked with donors and their professional advisors to complete more than 50 planned gifts. Prior to her work with the

community foundation, Jennifer was a practicing attorney with a small firm in Boulder, Colorado focusing on estate planning, probate, and real estate.

Jennifer has a long-standing commitment to working in the nonprofit sector. Prior to attending law school, she worked as a policy research associate for Colorado Counties, Inc., and staffed campaigns to increase tax revenues for local school districts while working for the political consulting firm CRL Associates. She was selected for a Fellowship in Community Service by El Pomar Foundation in Colorado Springs, Colorado where she gained experience in nonprofit management, grantmaking and leadership development. During her fellowship, she was the program director for the American Council of Young Political Leaders Colorado Program, Awards for Excellence, and served as a program officer in support of the Foundation's grantmaking activities. She is glad to have found a job that combines the best aspects of her prior experiences.

Jennifer received her *Juris Doctor* from the University of Colorado School of Law and her bachelor of arts from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She serves on the board of the Silicon Valley Planned Giving Council and is actively involved in the Northern California Planned Giving Council, National Committee on Planned Giving, Financial Planning Forum and many California Bar Association activities. Jennifer lives in San Jose's Shasta-Hanchett neighborhood with her husband.

### **About Silicon Valley Community Foundation**

The merger of Community Foundation Silicon Valley and Peninsula Community Foundation took effect on January 1, 2007, creating Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a catalyst and leader for innovative solutions to the region's most challenging problems. The new community foundation is among the largest community foundations in the nation, with more than \$1.5 billion in assets under management and 1,400 philanthropic funds.

In a region known for innovation in business and technology as well as philanthropy, the new community foundation will address local needs and support Silicon Valley's charitable giving to causes locally, nationally and around the globe. The integration marks the first merger of equals involving two of the country's leading community foundations and sets new precedent in the philanthropic sector. The new regional headquarters will open in Mountain View in the summer of 2007.

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