

california wine grape growers foundation



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Scholarship Fund Grows by \$25,000 Thanks to Support from the California Wine Grape Industry

Sacramento, Calif., March 26, 2009 – Attendees enjoyed laughter and great conversation over gourmet food and wine at the Capitol Wine Dinner, all for a good cause. The seventh annual fundraising event held by the California Wine Grape Growers Foundation (CWGGF) on March 4, 2009 raised over \$25,000 for the group’s scholarship fund.

“Today’s difficult economic times make it even tougher for deserving students to go to college. Thanks to the generosity of dinner attendees, we’ll be able to provide more scholarships for graduating seniors whose parents or legal guardians are vineyard employees,” said Ben Drake, CWGGF’s chairman.

The annual event has become a tradition for the California wine community; more than 80 people from around the state attended this year’s dinner. The event is also an opportunity for the state’s wine grape growers and representatives from state government to network and discuss issues facing the industry.

This year’s dinner was sponsored by Pan American Underwriters, California Association of Wine Grape Growers, E&J Gallo Winery, Trinchero Family Estates, Dow AgroSciences, F&M Bank, Vino Farms, Inc., Tri-Cal, Inc., Allied Grape Growers, Mary Roach Insurance Agency and Scheid Vineyards. Wine was generously provided by associations from around the state, including: Amador Vintners Association, Lake County Winegrape Commission, Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape Commission, Mendocino Winegrape & Wine Commission, Monterey County Vintners & Growers Association, Napa Valley Grape Growers, Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance, Santa Barbara County

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Independent Growers, Sonoma County Winegrape Commission, Suisun Valley Grape Growers Association and Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association.

The scholarship program was created by CAWG in 1998 to promote education for the children of vineyard employees. One year later, CWGGF, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization, was created to support and maintain the scholarship program in perpetuity. The Foundation now awards at least six scholarships annually, two scholarships of \$1,000 per year for four years to any campus in the UC or CSU system, and four scholarships of \$500 per year for two years to any California community college.

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