



**For Immediate Release:**

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**San Diego Regional Disaster Fund Releases  
2007 Wildfires Final Report**

**A Snapshot of the Recovery and Rebuilding Made Possible  
by more than \$10 Million Raised by the Community**

**April 18, 2011** – The San Diego Regional Disaster Fund, a supporting organization of The San Diego Foundation, released its 2007 Wildfires Final Report. The report outlines a broad overview of how the Disaster Fund partnered with more than 2,200 donors and more than 50 local nonprofit agencies over three years to assist in the 2007 wildfires recovery and rebuilding efforts – investing more than \$10 million to rebuild the fire-stricken communities throughout the San Diego region.

According to Ted Chan, M.D., board chair of the San Diego Regional Disaster Fund, this is the third and final report on the impact of the fires and activities of the Disaster Fund organization since the fires hit in October 2007. The previous two reports, published immediately after the fires in December 2007 and a second report a year later, describe the needs created by the disaster as well as the Disaster Fund's strategies for addressing those needs. The final report illustrates how the Disaster Fund allocated \$10 million through five major grantmaking strategies from 2007 to 2010.

“The San Diego Regional Disaster Fund granted a total of \$10,105,196 in the areas of (1) Community Recovery Teams, (2) Recovering lives, (3) Rebuilding homes, (4) Restoring the environment, and (5) Preparing for future wildfires.” Collectively, grants made by these strategies provided recovery and rebuilding

assistance to more than 2,000 fire-affected families, supported nearly 1,000 educational and support events for survivors, provided scholarships to more than 100 students whose plans for higher education were derailed by the disaster, and helped thousands of households achieve new housing through case management, insurance advocacy and volunteer labor rebuilds.

The Disaster Fund also invested significantly to both environmental restoration and preparedness efforts, recognizing the need to protect and revitalize the region's natural spaces and to prepare citizens and nonprofit agencies for future wildfires.

"The most crucial investment a community can make after a disaster," said Bob Kelly, president and CEO of The San Diego Foundation, "is in its own capacity to respond, recover, rebuild and prepare. We give tremendous thanks to the donors who contributed to these efforts through the Disaster Fund and The San Diego Foundation and to the nonprofit organizations in our community that did the work to help our communities and neighbors recover."

Kelly noted that, even as the final flames of the 2007 fires were being extinguished, conversations through the region shared a similar theme: "What can we do to prevent this from happening again?" In preparation to respond to the next regional disaster, the San Diego Regional Disaster Fund has opened a new fund specifically to meet the community recovery needs of future natural and manmade disasters in the San Diego region – a nest egg for future response and recovery. To donate to this fund or for more information, contact Robyn Sharp Chatten at 619-235-2300. You may also donate online at [www.sdfoundation.org](http://www.sdfoundation.org) under How To Give.

For a full copy of the report, visit

[www.sdfoundation.org/sandiegoregionaldisasterfund](http://www.sdfoundation.org/sandiegoregionaldisasterfund).

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**About The San Diego Foundation**

Founded in 1975, The San Diego Foundation's purpose is to promote and increase effective and responsible charitable giving. The Foundation manages more than \$500 million in assets, almost half of which reside in permanent endowment funds that extend the impact of today's gifts to future generations. Since its inception, The Foundation has granted more than \$700 million to the San Diego region's nonprofit community.