



Local foundations merge grant process

By DAILY SOUND STAFF — March 26, 2010

A streamlined approach to handling grant requests will allow two local foundations to cut back on administrative costs and give more to the community, officials said.

Effective in April, the Hutton Foundation will redirect all standard grant requests to the Santa Barbara Foundation's grant program for processing, reducing administrative costs while maintaining its support of local nonprofits.

"In these tight economic times, it's about doing business smarter and scaling back on some things so we can give more on others," Tom Parker, president of the Hutton Foundation, said in a news release. "Under this new model, we will use the experienced leadership of both foundations to make effective countywide community funding decisions and save considerable administrative dollars that can otherwise go to nonprofit grantmaking."

Along with forwarding grant requests, the Hutton Foundation will also allocate funds historically dedicated to its standard grant program to the Santa Barbara Foundation for distribution.

Officials said the Hutton Foundation plans to focus more on its key programs, including a building acquisition and tenant management program, program-related investments, and media and marketing grant opportunities.

Ron Gallo, president and CEO of the Santa Barbara Foundation, said the two foundations have partnered in the past for more than a decade and share common grantmaking goals.

"Creating solution-oriented partnerships and sharing knowledge only further enables us to positively impact the county's most pressing needs," he said in the news release. "This collaboration is community philanthropy at its best."