**Philanthropic Leaders Set To Meet On Future Of Charitable Giving In Southern Nevada**

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PHILANTHROPIC LEADERS SET TO MEET ON FUTURE OF
CHARITABLE GIVING IN SOUTHERN NEVADA

Effort lead by local philanthropic expert Julie Murray of Moonridge Group

Las Vegas, NV—February 28, 2012—An historic day for the cause of charitable giving will take place on Thursday, March 1, 2012, when local philanthropists will discuss how they might work together to improve the quality of life for all Southern Nevadans.

The Philanthropy Leaders Forum will be jointly hosted at the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health and The Smith Center, with featured guest speaker Peter Buffett, son of billionaire investor and philanthropist Warren Buffett, and author of Life Is What You Make It, which has sold nearly half a million books in 15 languages worldwide.

Additional speakers will include Larry Ruvo, chairman of Keep Memory Alive; Alexandra Epstein, executive vice president of El Cortez; Betsy Fretwell, City Manager, City of Las Vegas; Zach Ware, Campus Development Director, Zappos.com and Downtown Project; Heather duBoef, co-founder, Nevada Women’s Philanthropy; and Punam Mathur, vice president employee and community engagement, NV Energy. The forum is open to funders and grant makers only; participants will discuss how strategic philanthropy can provide a rewarding return on investment while making an indelibly positive mark on our community. Presenting sponsors include the Engelstad Family Foundation, the Bennett Family Foundation and UNLV’s Lincy Institute.

Philanthropy Leaders Forum is the brainchild of Las Vegas-based non-profit leader and strategic philanthropy expert Julie Murray.

“No one is better qualified to inspire and engage philanthropic leaders to first envision, then collaborate, to create a better community than Julie Murray, who has been setting the example for decades,” said Mathur.

Murray is president and CEO of Moonridge Group, a community development company that works with major donors to provide structure and purpose to their charitable visions. Julie is recognized for providing leadership to many of Las Vegas’ charitable institutions, which serve hundreds of thousands of local residents in need. Among these are the Three Square food bank, which has become a model for community hunger programs nationwide; the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy, a national model charter school; the “I Have a Dream” Foundation, which helps at-risk children from low-income families; the Las Vegas Fire and Rescue Foundation, which assists people who have been burned out of their homes; and Harrahs Entertainment, where she helped build a strategic charitable giving plan.

“In my work with the Las Vegas philanthropic community, I have been hearing concerns about the future of charitable giving in our city, especially since several important foundations will be sunsetting their activities over the next year,” said Murray. “We felt the time was right for our many talented, insightful local donors to come together for a day of brainstorming and reflection on the critical next steps that we must take to ensure the brightest future possible for the city that we all love.”

Attendance at the Philanthropy Leaders Forum has far exceeded Murray’s expectations, with 175 tickets reserved. Attendees range from political and public leaders to long-time Las Vegas families to corporate leaders from diverse industries.

“To the best of our knowledge, this will be the first major gathering of this type that is not a fundraiser in over 10 years,” she said. “We will be focusing on several critical aspects of community philanthropy such as enhanced giving, innovation and the construction of a strategic framework to create sustainability.”

“Our primary goal is to give attendees a renewed feeling of optimism for our community and the desire to inspire others to engage in philanthropy,” Murray explained. “Just as I have been inspired by these donors’ generosity over the years, I want these two days and ten extraordinary speakers to return the favor, empowering them to think differently about the great work that they do.”

For more information on Philanthropy Leaders Forum, please call Miles Dickson, vice president and COO of Moonridge Group at 702.580.6614.