



CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER RECEIVES KORET GRANT FOR GALAXY EXPLORER PROGRAM

5 May 2006 -- (Oakland, CA) Chabot Space & Science Center has received a \$75,000 grant from the Koret Foundation Funds that will support the Center's Galaxy Explorer program, a youth development and education program that puts 14- to 18-year old youth to work as the museum's floor staff and outreach officers. The goal of the program is to develop leadership and professional development skills, through meaningful, visible and challenging work experiences within the Science Center and in outreach presentations. More than 100 young people are engaged in a wide variety of activities that take place after school, on weekends, and weekdays during the summer.

Explorers receive training to be able to explain and demonstrate scientific concepts through hands-on activities at the Center, and participate in offsite activities that reach hundreds of younger children, peers and families at local schools, libraries and community centers. Koret Funds will provide for program coordination, training, participant stipends, materials and supplies necessary to continue the program. In addition, the grant will fund transportation to and from central Oakland locations, so that students who have no other way to get to Chabot can also participate in the program.

"We strive to help make available to low-income youth the supports and opportunities that are more readily available to young people in middle- and upper-class communities," said Gale Mondry, Koret's program office for youth development. "We are pleased to support Chabot's efforts to offer young people opportunities to engage in work-based and service-learning activities that have proven beneficial to the participants."

Galaxy Explorer team members lead a number of hands-on activities and demonstrations at the Science Center, participate in the Chabot-to-Go programs, and have fully refurbished a 16-inch Dobsonian telescope that they now use when assisting visitors on the telescope plaza. Explorers also attend personal development trainings designed to encourage responsibility, initiative and leadership. Graduates of the program are now attending colleges, such as UC Berkeley, MIT, San Francisco State University, and University of Southern California, as well as contributing to their communities through volunteer work with other nonprofit organizations. The Galaxy Explorers program will be celebrated at Chabot's Science Awards Gala on May 20.

About Koret

An entrepreneurial spirit guides Koret in addressing societal challenges and strengthening Bay Area life. Investing strategic, local solutions, we help to inspire a multiple effect-encouraging collaborative funding and developing model initiatives. In the San Francisco Bay Area, Koret adds to the region's vitality by promoting educational opportunity, contributing to a diverse cultural landscape, and bolstering organizations that are innovative in their approaches to meeting community needs. With our roots in the

Jewish community, we embrace the community of Israel, especially through Koret Israel Economic Development Funds (KIEDF); we believe that economic stability and free market expansion offer the best hope for a prosperous future. At Koret, we understand our responsibility to make an impact-to honor the legacy of our founders, and to find long-lasting solutions that improve people's lives. For more information, visit www.koretfoundation.org.

Chabot Space and Science Center, a Smithsonian affiliate, is a 501c3 nonprofit interactive science center focusing on astronomy and the inter-relationships of all the sciences. Its observatory, planetarium, exhibits, and natural park setting are a place where a diverse population of students, teachers, and the public can imagine, understand, and learn to shape their future through science. The Center is located at 10000 Skyline Blvd. in Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park.

For more information, call (510) 336-7300, or visit www.chabotspace.org

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