



United Way of Ventura County

For Immediate Release

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Local Jeweler Contributes \$60K to United Way Thomas Fire and Flood Fund



Fox Fine Jewelry presented a check to United Way of Ventura County May 3 in support of the United Way Thomas Fire and Flood Fund.

Ventura, CA, May 9, 2018 – Fox Fine Jewelry presented \$60,900 to the United Way Thomas Fire and Flood Fund that the jeweler raised through the sale of four limited-edition necklaces inspired by the impacted communities.

In response to the Thomas Fire and the following flooding, Fox Fine Jewelry designed four custom necklaces -- the Ventura Wave, the Ojai Mountains, the Montecito Islands and the Thrive 805 -- to give to anyone whose home was flooded or burned due to the disaster. Since then, husband and wife team Debbie and George Fox, owners of Fox Fine Jewelry, have given out more than 600 of the diamond necklaces.

“The Thomas Necklaces were made to give away, but people asked to buy them, so we agreed, donating half of the proceeds to the United Way’s Thomas Fire and Flood Fund,” said Debbie.

Sterling silver necklaces with a diamond were available for \$300 and without a diamond for \$100. Fox

Fine Jewelry set aside half the money from each sale for disaster relief. The jeweler presented a check to United Way of Ventura County at its Ventura store on May 3.

“Even though it has been months since these disasters, we continue to feel the impacts every day,” said Eric Harrison, President & CEO of United Way of Ventura County. “Families are still without their homes and struggling to return to a sense of normalcy. These funds are dedicating to helping them rebuild their lives. We are so thankful to Fox Fine Jewelry and our many supporters, for making this possible and also showing through such meaningful symbols, how much our community cares for one other.”

As of May 4, United Way of Ventura County had awarded more than \$400,000 to qualified individuals and families for hardship assistance related to the Thomas Fire and flooding. Among them is Stanley Levy, an Ojai resident whose family home was left uninhabitable because of fire damage. He qualified for rental assistance through the United Way Thomas Fire and Flood Fund.

“The rental assistance was a blessing because we had to move to a small apartment in Oakview waiting for the house to be fixed,” he said.

Levy hopes to move back into his Ojai home in the next few months, but for now, he’s grateful for all the help his family has received from United Way of Ventura County.

“I’m just so grateful that they were so willing to help,” said Levy. “They’re really amazing. I know they’ve helped so many people, it’s really wonderful.”

About Fox Fine Jewelry

Fox Fine Jewelry, in downtown Ventura since 1998, is owned by George and Debbie Fox. George is a Certified Gemologist who travels to Antwerp, Belgium annually for diamonds. His expertise includes custom jewelry made using computer modeling, antique restoration and advanced repairs. Debbie is a Certified Public Accountant who is responsible for the business operations and the art gallery. Debbie was a recipient of the City of Ventura Mayor’s Arts Award and the Ventura County Arts Council Award. In 2015, Fox Fine Jewelry was awarded the “Coolest Store” award, the industry’s top award in the nation bestowed upon one store each year.

Fox Fine Jewelry is located at 560 E. Main Street in downtown Ventura. Their hours are Monday – Thursday, 10:30 – 7:00pm, Friday and Saturday, 10:30 – 8:00pm and Sunday 12:00 – 6:00pm. For more information, call (805) 652-1800 or visit <http://foxfinejewelry.com>.

About United Way of Ventura County

Since 1945, United Way of Ventura County has advanced the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all. Our focus is on education, income and health, because these are the building blocks for a good quality of life. We support local services and programs that are more than just ‘stop gap’ measures, but rather solutions that help create lasting change. We invite everyone to be part of the change by giving, advocating and volunteering. When we work together in common purpose, we LIVE UNITED. For more information about United Way of Ventura County, visit www.vcunitedway.org.

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