



United Way of Ventura County

For Immediate Release

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Jack Johnson Benefit Concert Raises \$200,000 for United Way Thomas Fire and Flood Fund

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Ventura, CA, May XX, 2018 – The Jack Johnson and Friends, a Benefit for the Community, concert has raised \$200,000 for the United Way Thomas and Fire Flood Fund, with 100 percent of the donations going to support those in communities affected by the wildfires and flooding.

The inspiring, sold-out concert at the Santa Barbara Bowl on March 18 brought together Johnson, ALO, Ben Harper, David Crosby, Kenny Loggins, and other special guests for a memorable night of music in celebration of the strength and resilience of the community. In all, the concert raised more than \$500,000, which will be distributed to the primary recipient, the United Way Thomas Fire and Flood Fund, as well as other local nonprofits working on relief and recovery efforts in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

“These foothills and coastline have always held a special place in my heart. Seeing so many people come together to help their neighbors has only emphasized the strength of this community,” said Johnson. “I am inspired by the incredible efforts of our first responders and local non-profit relief organizations. We’re so proud to have been able to bring people together for a healing night of music, and to give a big thank you to everyone who has stepped up to support recovery.”

The Fund has raised more than \$4.5 million in generous community donations; 100 percent of these donations will go directly to affected individuals and families. To date, over \$2 million has been allocated from the Fund and additional distributions are forthcoming.

“The support the community and the world have shown for everyone impacted by these tragedies continues to astound us months after we established the United Way Thomas Fire and Flood Fund,” said Eric Harrison, President and CEO of United Way of Ventura County. “We are grateful to Jack Johnson and all of the performers and organizers who made this benefit concert possible. We are so proud to be able to deliver this additional support to those who need it most.”

United Way of Santa Barbara County and United Way of Ventura County established the United Way and Thomas Fire Fund in response to the destructive flooding and loss of life in the recent disasters.

Following the beginning of the Thomas Fire, local community partners determined that the United Way organizations, in both counties, are uniquely positioned and qualified to manage the disaster

fund, accept contributions, make distributions, promote the fund and provide a report to the community on how the funds were used.

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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