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**Sonoma International Film Festival
Provides \$16,030 to Combat Local Food Insecurity in Partnership with
The PG&E Corporation Foundation, KHR McNeely Family Fund**

Sonoma, CA (April 22, 2024)—For a festival known for delivering the best in film, food, wine, and fun, the Sonoma International Film Festival, held March 20-24, 2024, chose to focus on food—specifically the food insecurity some in Sonoma County experience.

In partnership with The PG&E Corporate Foundation and the KHR McNeely Family Fund, SIFF’s 27th annual festival became a pathway to generate awareness about an issue affecting thousands of people within the county and an effective means to raise funds for two nonprofits doing their part to alleviate those needs.

With matching grants provided by The PG&E Corporation Foundation, \$16,030 in donations will be split equally between the Redwood Empire Food Bank and California Restaurant Foundation and their Restaurants Care Resilience Fund, which supports locally owned independent restaurants across California.

“In an area known for its abundance, we wanted to use the festival to focus our charitable giving efforts to help those experiencing food insecurity,” said SIFF Executive Director Ginny Krieger. “We are grateful to the PG&E Corporation Foundation and the KHR McNeely Family Fund for helping us help our Sonoma County neighbors and get this important message out to the public.”

“Food insecurity affects far too many people in our communities, and we want to do our part to help,” said Stephanie Isaacson, Executive Director of The PG&E Corporation Foundation. “We’re grateful to be able to provide Redwood Empire Food Bank and the California Restaurant Foundation’s Restaurants Care program with funding that will help combat food insecurity in Sonoma County. Thanks to the Sonoma International Film Festival for providing this venue so that together we can raise awareness and make a difference.”



Festivalgoers were encouraged to give to this vital cause with every pass or ticket they purchased. Additionally, attendees could drop off non-perishable food items donated to Sonoma's F.I.S.H. (Friends in Sonoma Helping), which provides various resources to those in need.

In addition, a special screening event featuring the short documentary film *From Kitchen to Community*, which can be seen at pge.com/stories, chronicles the indomitable spirit of California restaurant owners and the vital role they play in our lives, preceded the documentary sequel *Food, Inc. 2*. A panel discussion on the issue featured: filmmaker Mark Decena (*Farming While Black*), O.Z. Kamara (Daddy O's Smokehouse, Sacramento), Nicole Hodge (Provisions, Vallejo), Romney Steel (*The Cook and Her Farmer*, Oakland), the Sonoma Catalyst Fund, Redwood Empire Food Bank, and F.I.S.H. A free community event featuring small bites from various Sonoma County purveyors and nonprofit information distribution capped off the awareness program.

About Sonoma International Film Festival

The Sonoma International Film Festival is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to promoting the best in independent film and filmmakers from around the world, inspiring savvy film lovers, and introducing the power of film to student filmmakers. Blending a program of international film, food, wine, and fun, SIFF hosts its annual festival each March and special monthly screenings.

SIFF's signature initiative--the Media Arts Program started at Sonoma Valley High School in 2002--introduces students to film by providing ongoing support so they may explore their creative pursuits. SIFF has given more than \$800,000 in resources to sustain the program and provides full college scholarships annually to deserving students.

The festival has been awarded several distinctions in its 27-year history: 25 Coolest Festivals in the World (2016, MovieMaker Magazine), 25 Coolest Festivals in the World (2018, MovieMaker Magazine), 10 Best Film Festivals in the U.S. Readers' Choice (2019, USA Today), 20 Great Film Festivals in Vacation Destinations (2023, MovieMaker Magazine), and Top Film Festivals in North America (2023, Destination Film Guide).

The Sonoma International Film Festival is supported year-round by Sustaining Sponsor KHR McNeely Family Fund, and Official Airline, Delta Air Lines.

About The PG&E Corporation Foundation

The PG&E Corporation Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, separate from PG&E and sponsored by PG&E Corporation.

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