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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**November 2, 2004**

**18<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Light: December 4, 2004 ~ 5:30pm–8:30pm**

**Sonoma Valley Wineries Light Up for the Holidays with a Spectacular Display of Lights!**

SONOMA VALLEY, CA – The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Lights will take place on Saturday December 4th, 2004 from 5:30pm – 8:30pm. Sponsored by Heart of Sonoma Valley Association and Star of the Valley Catholic Church, The Festival of Lights celebrates the holiday season with a spectacular display of lights and decorations at seven wineries up and down the heart of Sonoma Valley. Participating wineries will showcase food & wine pairings and live entertainment.

Wineries include: Blackstone Winery, Chateau St. Jean, Kunde Estate Winery & Vineyards, Ledson Winery, Mayo Family Winery, St. Francis Winery & Vineyards, and Simon Levi Cellars (formerly Stone Creek Wines).

Ticket price is \$25.00 (tax deductible) per person, which includes a souvenir holiday wine glass and access to all participating wineries. Tickets and additional information may be obtained online at [www.heartofsonomavalley.com](http://www.heartofsonomavalley.com) or by phone at (866) 794-9463. *Tickets are available by pre-sale only and are limited.*

Since 1986, this event has been a critical fundraiser for the needy in Sonoma Valley. The Festival of Lights is the cornerstone event for the success of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program a non-profit organization that provides broad-based assistance for over 350 families in the area. This event also funds ‘A Child’s Portion’ which is a free monthly nutritious food basket to children 5 years and under who are from low-income families.

“We are proud to be sponsors of this tremendous event and hope to garner continued support from the community!” Said Josie Gay, Executive Director of Heart of Sonoma Valley Association. The joint effort by Star of the Valley Catholic Church and the Heart of Sonoma Valley Association has provided assistance and emergency aid throughout the years from funds raised during this event.

## **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Lights (page 2)**

This unique evening captures the feelings of elegance and the closeness of family with the backdrop of a pastoral wine region during the most anticipated season. With the warm glow of each unique winery come the sounds of Victorian chorale voices and hand bells ringing. Winery chefs and restaurants add to the seasonal aromas by preparing delectable holiday nibbles lending to the cooperative effort of those in need.

### **About Heart of Sonoma Valley Association (HOSVA)**

HOSVA is an alliance of 23 wineries and tasting rooms in the environs of Glen Ellen and Kenwood in Sonoma Valley, along scenic Highway 12 mid-way between Santa Rosa and the town of Sonoma. For a century and a half many of the vintages that have made California wines world leaders in viticulture have been harvested there. Members include: Arrowood, Benziger, Blackstone, B.R. Cohn, Chateau St. Jean, Eric Ross, Family Wineries, Imagery, Kaz, Kenwood, Kunde Estate, Landmark, Ledson, Loxton, Mayo, Moon Mountain, Navillus Birney (formerly Sullivan Birney), St. Francis, Simon Levi, (formerly Stone Creek), The Wine Room, VJB, Valley of the Moon and Wellington.

### **EVENT DETAILS AT A GLANCE:**

**What:** 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Lights

**When:** Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004

**Where:** Seven Wineries throughout Sonoma Valley

**Time:** 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

**Cost:** \$25 per person for the weekend/\$15 for designated drivers. Includes a logo wine glass & access to all participating wineries. Proceeds benefit the Neighbor-To-Neighbor Program in Sonoma Valley.

**Info:** For tickets and info please visit [www.heartofsonomavalley.com](http://www.heartofsonomavalley.com) or call (866) 794-9463.

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