



NEWS - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Harold J. Miozzi Charitable Trust Contributes \$250,000 to the Octagon Barn Center

The Octagon Barn Center effort was awarded \$250,000 from the trust of the late Harold J. Miozzi, a San Luis Obispo rancher, public servant, and tireless advocate for both the environment and conservation. The Harold J. Miozzi Charitable Trust has a long and dedicated history of supporting multiple Land Conservancy projects including: \$10,000 towards permanent conservation of the 530 acre Highland Ranch, which protects prime farmland and scenic views in Los Osos Valley; \$100,000 towards the purchase of the 900-acre Pismo Preserve property which will serve as an outstanding public park open to hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians; and \$10,000 in financial support for the engineering designs and permits needed to renovate the Milking Parlor building adjacent to the Octagon Barn with sustainable design and adaptive reuse practices.

“The Harold J. Miozzi Charitable Trust’s visionary contribution to the Octagon Barn Center gets us one big step closer to opening the Barn as a cherished community gathering place. The Barn stands as a unique and iconic symbol of our County’s rich agricultural history, and reminds us of the critical role that agriculture still plays to this day. It is also a symbol of the positive impact working landscapes and natural areas have on our quality of life. Harold J. Miozzi’s passion for our local lands lives on in the legacy gifts his trust has made to our organization. I am deeply grateful for their support of the Octagon Barn Center Project.” - Kaila Dettman, Executive Director

With the Miozzi Trust award and other recent community donations, The Land Conservancy is now seeking \$583,000 by the end of Summer 2016 to complete its \$5.3 million Octagon Barn Center funding goal. Project leaders say that this gap must be filled by local community funding sources including contributions from individuals, businesses and family foundations.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

As an important historical, cultural, and architectural landmark, the Octagon Barn speaks to values dear to the San Luis Obispo community. As a cultural icon and direct link to local agricultural history, it is a symbol of our community’s critical link to productive & natural lands. As a unique architectural form, it symbolizes our community’s unique sense of place. As the future trailhead for the Bob Jones City-to-Sea Trail, it represents our community’s commitment to bike-friendly transportation and recreational trails. When open to the public, the Octagon Barn Center will serve as a community gathering place to host various events and feature historic displays that will tell the story of our region.

Targeted for completion in early 2017, the Octagon Barn Center will serve as a community gathering place for people to learn about and celebrate San Luis Obispo County landscapes. Because of its central location in the County and its proximity to the City of San Luis Obispo, the Octagon Barn Center will serve a diverse constituency including San Luis Obispo County residents, businesses, and families of varying socio-economic backgrounds. The Octagon Barn Center will be the venue for many activities from barn dances, weddings and farmer’s markets, to films and music. It will be a tourist destination that reaches thousands of visitors each year and will be ADA-designed to accommodate people with physical limitations. We especially aim for the site to serve as an educational venue and field-trip destination for students from local schools and colleges.

More information and photos are available at The Land Conservancy’s website at www.lcslo.org.

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County is a local nonprofit land trust working to protect and restore local landscapes for the benefit of people and wildlife. The land trust’s efforts help protect drinking water sources, prevent poorly planned development, restore wildlife habitat and promote family farmlands and ranches in our region. The Land Conservancy has led

collaborative efforts to permanently protect over 15,200 acres of land in San Luis Obispo County. Details at www.LCSLO.org or call **(805) 544-9096**.

The Miossi Trust is a private foundation that makes grants focused upon the City and surrounding area of San Luis Obispo, California. One of its six primary funding areas is the environment, particularly programs that focus on environmental science, green technology, promoting open spaces, sustainable agriculture, and land preservation. <http://www.miossicharitabletrust.org/>