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**"HARVEST OF HOPE" CELEBRATES PARTNERSHIP TO DEMINE
AFGHANISTAN ON MUSLIM HOLIDAY 'EID-UL-ADHA' & ST.
VALENTINE'S DAY**

Leading demining organizations join forces to turn "Mines to Vines" in Afghanistan raising over \$250,000 to replace the Scourge of Landmines with the Nectar of Grapes in War-Torn Regions of Kabul.

MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA—"Roots of Peace", the San Rafael-based organization committed to the removal of landmines in Afghanistan, announced the successful culmination of its HARVEST OF HOPE Campaign which raised \$250,000 for Demining the Shomali Valley in Afghanistan in partnership with the United Nations Association of the USA's Adopt-A-Minefield® and The HALO Trust. One of the largest private demining donations for Afghanistan, the funds will be presented to Mr. Hekmat Karzai, First Secretary of the Afghan Embassy during a series of events celebrating the 'Eid-ul-Adha'-a traditional day of peace, thanksgiving and forgiveness in the Muslim culture which coincides with St. Valentine's Day.

This year, the 'Eid-ul-Adha' at the end of Hajj, is celebrated on February 12th. Roots of Peace is partnering with Tony and Sam Abraham, owners of IMG home to benefit the group's fundraising efforts as part of this traditional Islamic holiday. The identical twin brothers are natives of Afghanistan, and are hosting the event at their store to help remove an estimated 10 million landmines from their homeland. The event will be held in their new Marin store located at 717 East Francisco Blvd. in San Rafael at 7 pm, and the evening will feature Afghan music, food, and performance by the Ballet Afsaneh. A photo exhibit by Teun Voeten featuring the lethal harvest of landmines will remind global citizens of the importance of removing these deadly seeds.

"The extent of the devastation is overwhelming, but our hearts remain filled with high hopes and love for humanity," said Nadia Tarzi, one of the event organizers, who is Vice President of the Association for the Protection of Afghan Archaeology, Inc. "We're fortunate that amazing individuals, such as Heidi Kuhn and Tony and Sam Abraham, have never shifted their focus from the urgent needs of Afghanistan."

The HARVEST OF HOPE Campaign began on September 11th to raise funds to clear the mine-infested vineyards of the Shomali Valley where grapevines have flourished for thousands of years. The vision of the Campaign is to clear the Shomali minefields and allow farmers of Afghanistan to cultivate their fields without the terror of landmines beneath their feet. Silverado Vineyards, located in the heart of the Napa Valley, will join in the celebration on February 13th by hosting a private *Mines to Vines* luncheon hosted by owners Ron and Diane Miller. The vintners are

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actively joining the international effort to help their fellow farmers cultivate the juicy nectar of grapes and raisins which were once a primary source of export prior to the planting of landmines.

"During the 'Eid-ul-Adha', every member of the Islamic society will reap some fruits or collect some revenue to benefit others," according to Mr. Hekmat Karzai who will be the featured guest of honor. Mr. Karzai will speak on "Planting the Roots of Peace in Afghanistan" at Goldman School of Public Policy, 2607 Hearst Avenue, Living Room, on February 12th at 3:00-4:30 p.m. Private press interviews are available prior to the public forum through the Executive & International Programs.

"This generous donation of \$250,000 from the heart of the Napa Valley to the heart of the Shomali Valley will greatly contribute towards the planting of the roots of peace," says Heidi Kuhn, Founder and President of Roots of Peace.

The HARVEST OF HOPE Demining Partners

A program of the United Nations Association of the USA, Adopt-A-Minefield supports the United Nations mine clearance operations in partnership with the U.S. State Department and Ted Turner's Better World Fund. The Campaign's mission is to return land to productive use by clearing landmines to allow for the rebuilding of homes and schools, safe return of refugees, and reintegration of landmine survivors into their communities. Since its launch in 1999, the Campaign has raised over \$6.3 million for mine clearance in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Mozambique, and Vietnam. www.landmines.org

The HALO Trust has been working in Afghanistan since 1988 and is dedicated to clearing landmines and other dangerous explosives in areas of highest humanitarian need. HALO specializes in clearing landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) following the end of hostilities in countries that do not have their own capacity to clear the debris of war. Working globally, HALO focuses on the poorest of the poor, people who are forced to live in and among minefields because they have no other choice. Currently, HALO employs more than 5,000 deminers and has a focused mission statement, "Getting mines out of the ground, now." HALO has over 800 deminers currently working in Shomali. www.haloussa.org

Roots of Peace is a non-profit organization dedicated to the eradication of landmines by returning demined land to productive agricultural use. The mission is to turn minefields into prosperous farmland. Silverado Vineyards joins leading California vintners Robert Mondavi, Beringer Wine Estates, Grgich Hills, Diageo, J Wine Company, Jordan, Wente, Gallo of Sonoma, Dry Creek Vineyard and The Wine Institute representing over 400 California wineries by replacing the scourge of landmines with the nectar of grapes in Croatia, Bosnia and now Afghanistan. By restoring the land's economic viability, they strengthen community values and restore the sense of peace in the age old cycle of planting, cultivating and harvesting. Roots of Peace is supported by the United Nations, the U.S. Department of State and USAID. www.rootsofpeace.org

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