

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**CON ALMA HEALTH FOUNDATION INVESTS \$1.4 MILLION
IN IMPROVING HEALTH IN NEW MEXICO**

50 New Mexico Nonprofit Organizations to receive 2008 grants

CON ALMA HEALTH FOUNDATION, the largest foundation in New Mexico solely dedicated to health, will award \$1.4 million in grants to 50 nonprofit programs throughout New Mexico that address health disparities and fundamentally improve health systems.

These grants bring the Foundation's grantmaking total to more than \$8 million since inception in late 2001.

2008 Con Alma Health Foundation grants will help:

1. Increase access to health care;
2. Promote culturally appropriate health care services;
3. Expand health promotion;
4. Strengthen New Mexico's health workforce;
5. Improve health policy; and
6. Support evaluation and research.

"We are proud to support and partner with these organizations to transform New Mexico communities and remove barriers to good health," said Dolores E. Roybal, Executive Director, Con Alma Health Foundation. "This funding is a significant investment in health, not just health care."

Nine of the 50 grant awards are Multi-Year Grants. Eleven grants have a statewide impact. Grant awards were distributed regionally as follows throughout New Mexico:

- 24% Statewide
- 17% Northwest Quadrant
(San Juan, McKinley, Cibola, Sandoval and Valencia Counties)
- 21% Northeast Quadrant
(Rio Arriba, Taos, Colfax, Union, Mora, Los Alamos, Santa Fe, San Miguel and Guadalupe Counties)
- 14% Bernalillo County
- 9% Southeast Quadrant
(Harding, Quay, De Baca, Curry, Roosevelt, Chaves, Lea, and Eddy Counties)
- 15% Southwest Quadrant
(Catron, Socorro, Torrance, Lincoln, Grant, Sierra, Hidalgo, Luna, Doña Ana, and Otero Counties)

Con Alma Health Foundation will honor its 2008 Grant Awards recipients at the Foundation's 7th Annual Grant Awards Banquet on Friday, November 14 at Sandia Resort.

Grants supporting *Increased Access to Health Care*:

Alianza of New Mexico, \$35,000 to increase access to substance abuse treatment and prevention services in Roswell and Chaves County; **Cancer Services of New Mexico**,

\$25,000 to help people with cancer cope with legal and insurance paperwork; **Catron County Health Council**, \$10,000 to implement the Catron County Indigent Fund; the **Catron County Health Council-Northern Branch**, \$20,000 to establish a Community Advisory Board to create a health clinic for the medically under-served area of northeastern Catron County. **Comadre a Comadre**, \$60,000 to train women in the community to help Hispanic/Latina women in Bernalillo County with breast cancer access a culturally challenging medical system; **Community Coalition for Healthcare Access**, \$50,000 multiyear grant to expand Promotoras Training and Network in Bernalillo County; **Hidalgo Medical Services**, \$35,000 to help people get the medicines they need through a tele-pharmacy service, in response to the closing of the only pharmacy in Hidalgo County; **REACH 2000**, \$30,000 to increase access to health care for low-income women in Chaves County and encourage women to enter the healthcare workforce through partnership with ENMU-Roswell; **Sanctuary Zone**, \$50,000 to establish the only domestic violence shelter in Torrance County; **Santa Fe Project Access**, \$40,000 to replicate Santa Fe Project model in Rio Arriba, Taos, and San Miguel Counties whereby physicians donate free care to uninsured people; **Southeast New Mexico Vietnam Veterans of America 968**, \$10,000 to help Veterans in Southeast New Mexico access health care; and **Valencia Health Commons**, \$10,000 to establish 24-hour emergency care, hospital services, specialty services, and primary and preventive care in Valencia, Torrance and Socorro Counties.

Grants supporting *Culturally Appropriate Health Care Services*:

El Centro de Igualdad y Derechos, \$10,000 to launch an Immigrant Leadership Institute in Bernalillo County;

Enlace Comunitario, \$10,000 to mobilize young Latino men in domestic violence prevention; **Grant County Community Health Council**, \$4,000 for a radio novella called "La Vuelta de la Vida" to promote diabetes and obesity prevention; **Native American**

Independent Living, \$40,000 to provide new supports for people with developmental disabilities in Pueblo communities; **Presbyterian Medical Services for Totah Behavioral**

Health Authority, \$50,000 to integrate primary care and behavioral health services for

chronically homeless people in San Juan County; and the **University of New Mexico Center for Rural & Community Behavioral Health**, \$40,000 to promote health of refugee children in Bernalillo County.

Grants supporting *Health Promotion*:

Alamo Navajo School Board, \$60,000 multiyear grant to promote health in one of the poorest Native communities in New Mexico;

Boys & Girls Club of Las Cruces, \$10,000 to improve health habits for children ages 5-10 in Las Cruces; **Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Fe**, \$25,000 to launch a school district partnership to promote health in Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and San Miguel counties;

Carlsbad Battered Families Shelter, \$10,000 for a parenting program for families experiencing domestic violence; **Future Foundations Family Center**, \$40,000 to prevent

substance abuse in Cibola County through youth mentoring; **Little Sisters of the Poor of**

New Mexico, \$10,000 to provide health services for elderly from the Navajo and Zuni Reservations, and elderly poor in Gallup; **Many Mothers**, \$5,000 to train neighbors in

immigrant communities of Santa Fe to help mothers with infants in the first 3 months of life; **New Mexico Health Care Takes on Diabetes**, \$10,000 for diabetes prevention and treatment in Sandoval County; **New Mexico Lions Eye Foundation**, \$25,000 for KIDSIGHT to provide access to eye exams, glasses and surgery for pre-adolescent children in Lincoln, Otero, Curry, Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, San Juan, McKinley, Bernalillo & Eddy Counties;

Picuris Penasco Community Coalition, \$10,000 to improve health in culturally appropriate ways in Picuris Pueblo and other small villages in southern Taos County and southeastern

Rio Arriba County; **Roswell Literacy Council**, \$15,000 for a listening lab to test and improve hearing for children and adults in Chaves County; **UNM Foundation for University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center/Department of Family & Community Medicine**, \$55,000 multiyear grant to teach medical students how poverty affects health and how to better serve indigent patients; **Young Life: Red Rocks YoungLives**, \$10,000 to train Navajo mentors for Navajo teen parents; and **Youth Shelters & Family Services**, \$10,000 to improve response to behavioral and substance abuse needs of homeless, runaway and in-crisis youth in Santa Fe/Northern New Mexico through training and improved collaboration among service providers.

Grants to Strengthen New Mexico's Health Workforce:

NM Highlands University Foundation for Ben Lujan Institute for Leadership and Public Policy of New Mexico Highlands University, \$50,000 multiyear to improve care for culturally diverse patients by cross-training primary care medical residents and community health workers in Santa Fe, Taos and Rio Arriba Counties; **Coming Home Connection**, \$10,000 to train youth and young adults as volunteers for home health care in Santa Fe and Rio Arriba Counties;

Dreamtree Project, \$10,000 to support a health care workforce pipeline for youth in Taos, Mora, Union, Rio Arriba, and Colfax Counties; **Las Cumbres Community Services**, \$40,000 for a training institute to improve mental health treatment for babies and young children in rural Northern New Mexico; **New Mexico Center for Nursing Excellence**, \$50,000 to address New Mexico's nursing shortage through the establishment of a New Mexico Nursing Council, **New Mexico Community Health Worker Association**, \$10,000 to support a Community Health Worker Certification Project through the development of a standardized curriculum to address the health care provider shortage; **NMSU Foundation for Grants Pathway to Nursing Careers**, \$50,000 multiyear grant for a nursing pipeline in Cibola County; **NMSU Foundation for Gadsden Health Careers Initiative**, \$40,000 to address the under-representation of Hispanics in health professions;

St. Vincent Hospital Foundation, \$20,000 to inspire Santa Fe County high school students to pursue health care careers; and **University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy**, \$50,000 for a pharmacist pipeline for high school students to relieve the critical pharmacist shortage in Southern New Mexico through a UNM/NMSU Cooperative Pharmacy Program Summer.

Grants to Improve Health Policy:

Health Security for New Mexicans, \$10,000 to expand community education and outreach efforts about universal health care; **Native American Independent Living**, \$10,000 to train Pueblo People to be public policy advocates for people with disabilities; **New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty**, \$60,000 multiyear grant to increase access to health care for underserved New Mexicans; and the **New Mexico Health Equity Working Group**, \$50,000 to help reframe the predominant view of health statewide to include social, economic and political factors that impact health.

Evaluation and Research grants are awarded to:

Hogares, \$50,000 multiyear grant to improve the behavioral health care system for children in New Mexico; **Hoy Recovery Program for the National Latino Behavioral Health Association**, \$11,000 to address behavioral health disparities among Latinos/Hispanics in New Mexico; **Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation for the First Born Program**, \$45,000 multiyear grant to support a matching grant to evaluate a home-visiting program for first-time families in Rio Arriba and Taos Counties; and **Relevancy**, \$10,000 to gather data

on diabetes in the African American communities of Bernalillo, Curry, Lea and Sandoval Counties and develop prevention programs.

Con Alma Health Foundation

The mission of Con Alma Health Foundation is to be aware of and respond to the health rights and needs of the culturally and demographically diverse peoples and communities of New Mexico. Con Alma seeks to improve the health status and access to health care services for all and advocates for a health policy that addresses the health needs of all New Mexicans. By the close of 2008, the Foundation will have awarded more than \$2 million in grants to nonprofit organizations across the state, bringing its total grantmaking to more than \$8 million since inception in late 2001. For more information, visit www.conalma.org.

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