

# 10 Stories with Heart & Soul

by Con Alma Health Foundation





“It’s so important to celebrate the things we do well, because when we do that we create a path to and begin to decide other great things we’re going to create.”

-Pamelya Herndon, President,  
Board of Trustees,  
Con Alma Health Foundation  
2011

Here are 10 stories. They are taken from interviews with 30 people. On these pages, you won't find every fact and figure about Con Alma Health Foundation. Here's what you will find: you'll find out what happens when communities band together for a common purpose. You'll find out what can happen when communities try something new. You'll see what happens when people lead by listening to each other and working together.

“There was a great egalitarian aspect to every person at the table. This would be something for every New Mexican. It didn't matter how you spell your last name. It wouldn't matter what you ate or how you prayed or if you prayed. It would be there for everyone in New Mexico who needed a hand.”

– Don Trigg, attorney in former  
New Mexico Attorney General's office

# 1

## **The First Story Setting the Table**

When Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Mexico converted from a nonprofit to a for-profit business, a group of advocates began working with Consumers Union and the New Mexico Attorney General's Office to ensure that millions of dollars of charitable assets would be preserved. Health Care Services Corporation proposed to the New Mexico Superintendent of Insurance that \$5 million be set aside from the sale for charitable purposes.

The Coalition to Save Our Health Resources, which represented health consumers, intervened, held community forums and argued that a figure much higher than \$5 million belonged to the people of New Mexico to address enormous health needs.

The Coalition needed funding to convene people and coordinate advocates. They turned to the members of the New Mexico Association of Grantmakers (NMAG). Call it proactive philanthropy. Jan Brooks, then Executive Director of NMAG, says her proudest professional moment was convening other

philanthropic grant makers and advocates to create a singular health foundation whose institutional voice would speak to New Mexico's health needs. Brooks remembers vividly the leadership of Susan Herrera, the then Board Chair of NMAG and the CEO of the LANL Foundation, who mobilized NMAG members to support the Coalition.

“It was a blessing and one of my proudest moments in my career to work on getting the legislation passed to preserve charitable assets that belonged to the people of New Mexico,” said Brooks.

Coalition efforts worked. The figure went from \$5 million to \$20 million. Once the nonprofit assets were set aside, the question was what to do with it? Superintendent of Insurance Eric Serna and Attorney General Patricia Madrid held a public hearing and convened an eleven-member Advisory and Planning Committee. The Committee made the recommendation to establish a new, independent health foundation. It was time to set the table.

Don Trigg, an attorney who worked in the Attorney General's Office on preserving the charitable assets of the BCBSNM sale and on the formation of Con Alma Health Foundation, said that he believes once in a while in the legal profession you do something important. This was one of those times because it resulted in something for everyone. “There was a great egalitarian aspect to every person at the table. This would be something for every New Mexican. It didn't matter how you spell your last name. It wouldn't matter what you ate or how you prayed or if you prayed. It would be there for everyone in New Mexico who needed a hand.”

While no one can wave a magic wand to solve all of New Mexico's health needs, you can make sure people's voices from communities throughout New Mexico are heard, said Charlotte Roybal, who headed up the coalition that held forums around the state. “A unique conversion foundation that values cultural and geographic diversity was created because regular people gave voice to the mission,” said Roybal.

“This needed to be something to all members of the community and all aspects of the community and it meant rural and urban...it meant everybody. I always liked the table here at Con Alma. I always found it to be symbolic. It is a big table and there was room for everybody and we wanted everyone at the table. When it comes to health care, we are all in this together. It affects all of us,” said Trigg.

The Committee met many times over several months to create a framework for a new independent health foundation. They eschewed boilerplate by-laws language and instead infused the essence of the community forums. They created an organization that valued diverse representation and community voice.

The table was set.

“Because we have a singular health foundation, the voice of the foundation is an institutional voice and can speak to health policy and to what the needs are. Because of Con Alma’s professionalism, philanthropy is not being reactive, but proactive. The foundation can inform a much wider group about what the compelling needs are and give voice to those needs based on real needs assessment.”

-Jan Brooks, former Executive Director,  
New Mexico Association of Grantmakers

COALITION TO  
SAVE OUR HEALTH RESOURCES

The Advocates, Organizations and Founders

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Charlotte Roybal, Director  
Scott Benbow  
Jan Brooks  
Consumers Union  
Teresa Duran Saenz  
Jim Jackson  
Patricia Madrid  
Dan Moore  
New Mexico Association of Grantmakers  
Ellen Pines  
Frank Sanchez  
Betsy Seligman  
Eric Serna  
Jessica Sutin  
Don Trigg

Coalition Funding Partners

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Azalea Foundation  
Cudd Foundation  
Healy Foundation  
Frost Foundation  
LANL Foundation  
Lydia V. Stokes Foundation  
Mickelson Family Foundation  
Needmor Fund  
New Cycle Foundation  
New Mexico Association of Grantmakers  
Nirvana Mañana Institute  
Oppenheimer Brothers Foundation

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# 2

## Story Two

### **A Commitment to Community Voices The Community Advisory Committee (CAC)**

A decade ago, when health conversion foundations were being formed around the country, Community Advisory Committees were an experiment that began mostly on paper advocated by Consumers Union and supported by local communities. Con Alma Health Foundation is one of only 20 conversion foundations in the country that use CACs.

In New Mexico, statewide forums by the Coalition to Save Our Health Resources, made clear that New Mexicans wanted representation on the newly formed Con Alma Health Foundation. Frank Sanchez, Senior Program Officer at the Needmor Fund and a member of the eleven-member Advisory and Planning Committee remembers the eloquence and passion of fellow member Linda Lane Rigsby, who was then the Executive Director of Nirvana Mañana Institute, one of the contributing funders.

“Linda Lane Rigsby was the driving force for the creation of the CAC,” Sanchez said. “Many of us on the committee were less certain about the necessity of a community advisory committee, feeling that a Board was sufficient.”

Jim Coates, Chair of the CAC, remembers how one founding board member described the CAC. “When we were going through the first strategic planning process, one of the board members, who was the chair of the strategic planning committee, Jim Harrison, out of Carlsbad said one day, ‘Y’know, the CAC is the conscience of Con Alma.’ I think that’s a nice way to put it. The Board has its fiduciary responsibility, and we have our community responsibility. We have to carry what we’re hearing from our community, what we know about our community, carry all of that information and our relationships to the table, so that communities are part of Con Alma, not just out there to be served, but being a real partner. That is the strength of Con Alma.”

“Instead of the mantra ‘I think I can,’ we hold true to the core value of ‘communities can.’ After all, they are the real heroes. It is their strength, culture, and commitment that lead us to collaborative solutions.”

– Dolores E. Roybal, Executive Director,  
Con Alma Health Foundation

CON ALMA HEALTH FOUNDATION'S  
FIRST COMMUNITY ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE (CAC)

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Linda Lane Rigsby, Esquire  
Chair  
Santa Fe

Arturo N. Gonzales, Ph.D.  
Vice-Chair  
Santa Fe

Patty Jennings  
Secretary  
Roswell

Luciano Baca, Ph.D.  
Santa Fe

Jim Coates  
Glenwood

Clark de Schweinitz, Esquire  
Santa Cruz

Emma Duran-Buck  
Rainsville

Regina Martinez,, R.N. B.S.N.  
Albuquerque

Elaine Montaña, R.N., B.S.N., S.F.N.P.  
Santa Fe

Wanda Ross-Padilla, M.Ed., DPA  
Santa Fe

Esther M. Smedley  
Jemez Pueblo

Elaine Stone, Ph.D.  
Albuquerque

Susie Trujillo  
Silver City

Gregory Ortiz  
Acoma Pueblo

“We have to carry what we’re hearing from our community, what we know about our community, carry all of that information and our relationships to the table, so that communities are part of Con Alma, not just out there to be served, but being a real partner. That is the strength of Con Alma.”

– Jim Coates, Chair,  
Community Advisory Committee

# 3

## Story Three

### Mission and Core Values

“Although funding priorities and the environment might change, the core values and mission have not. I think that is one of our greatest accomplishments - that we have remained true to the vision of the Founders.”

-Dolores E. Roybal, Executive Director

Con Alma Health Foundation

#### **Mission**

Con Alma Health Foundation is organized 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 New Mexicans and advocates for a health policy that addresses the health needs of all New Mexicans.

## **Guiding Con Alma Health Foundation are six core values:**

1. Improve the health status of all New Mexicans;

The Foundation will:

- focus on the needs of the uninsured and the medically underserved.
- work to reduce health disparities by promoting greater access to health care and improved quality of health care—with a special emphasis on people of color and rural and tribal communities.
- make grants that emphasize the importance of education, prevention, and personal responsibility.

2. Maintain the public trust;

The Foundation will:

- remain true to its corporate and charitable Mission.
- adhere to the highest standards of accountability through
  - » a strong conflict of interest policy, and by
  - » evaluating & reporting outcomes of grantmaking activities.

3. Involve, collaborate and partner with New Mexico communities;

The Foundation will:

- involve local and indigenous communities in its decision making by appointing and electing members of these communities to policy making and advisory positions.
- engage all communities in health care needs assessments and evaluation processes, which facilitate community self-definition and self-determination.
- make grants to build the capacity of grantees to more effectively accomplish their health missions.

#### 4. Innovate and lead;

The Foundation will:

- define health broadly to include components of environmental, psychological, emotional, behavioral, social, economic, and spiritual health & well-being.
- search for new solutions to old problems and have the courage to risk failure in order to succeed.
- support the identification, preservation & communication of traditional practices that maintain, foster, and improve health status.

#### 5. Teach and learn;

The Foundation will:

- develop partnerships with educational and health care institutions and grassroots community organizations to improve cultural and linguistic competencies.
- support the development of health care professionals who reflect the cultural/linguistic diversity of New Mexico.
- support the creation of new knowledge that broadens the understanding of health issues.

6. Be an effective advocate for a health policy which supports the Foundation's charitable Purpose and Mission.

The Foundation will:

- Encourage consumer participation in health policy formation and individual health decisions.
- Support programs that provide analysis of health data and health policy issues & programs which advocate health policy positions that foster CAHF's Mission.
- Seek to shape health policy & implementation consistent with the Foundation's Mission & Core Values.

Reflection on what  
Con Alma's 10th Anniversary means:

“It says Con Alma is here,  
and there's going to be a  
20th, a 30th, a 40th.”

– Dick Carpenter, former member  
of CAHF Board of Trustees

# 4

## Story Four

### Let justice roll down like waters

“Policy change doesn’t come quickly. It takes years,” said Kim Posich, the Executive Director of the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty. “The importance of having an organization like Con Alma Health Foundation is they get that.”

The New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty is a nonprofit law firm that brings the voice and perspective of low-income New Mexicans to policy making. For example, they helped to increase access to health care by leading a multi-year campaign to change the practice of using computers to automatically terminate people’s Medicaid coverage without human review of the decision – a practice that caused more than 40,000 eligible people to lose their health care coverage. Over its 10-year history, Con Alma Health Foundation has invested more than a quarter million dollars in the work of the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty, from uncovering the conditions of New Mexico farm workers to protecting the health rights of New Mexico’s most vulnerable citizens. The Center is in it for the



long haul, because people cannot reach their full potential unless they have access to health care, said Posich. “Access to health care is a basic human right and if you can’t access health care, that’s an injustice.”

The New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty envisions a future when justice rolls down like waters, a favorite Bible quote of Posich. In the Land of Enchantment, the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty stands true to the vision of justice for all, no matter how long it takes.

“Access to health care is a basic  
human right and if you can’t  
access health care,  
that’s an injustice.”

- Kim Posich, the Executive Director,  
New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty

# 5

## Story Five

### **Innovation in Action – Coming Home Connection**

“It’s about people coming together in community and really caring.”

– Glenys Carl, Executive Director, Coming Home Connection

On November 6, 2009, Tony James went to the hospital for a routine x-ray, believing he had a bad cold. It turned out to be H1N1. Tony left the hospital on the 3rd of March, 2010. His heart stopped beating three times, he suffered a stroke, became blind and paralyzed, and faced a \$750,000 medical bill.

In his mid-50s, Tony enjoyed an active life. As a show and club promoter, on any given weekend you would have found him in a club “dancing the latest Latin dances.” But when he was discharged from the hospital, he was alone. “If it weren’t for this voluntary organization, I’d have nobody at all. They helped me and they can help many other people in similar positions. There are cracks. There are holes in the system. People have no care at the most critical times of their lives,” said Tony.

Coming Home Connection helps to mend the cracks. Glenys Carl founded Coming Home Connection in 2007 with the mission to train and coordinate volunteers to provide in-home care to families with adults and children with brain injuries, illnesses, disabilities and special needs. The idea started in Australia, where her youngest son, Scott Carl was in a tragic accident that left him brain injured. Over a four-year period, she trained more than 400 volunteers in Australia and England. After her son's death, she came to America and did hospice work during the AIDS crisis in the late 1990s. She realized the gaping hole was in-home care, because of the high cost of providers.

Since its inception, Coming Home Connection has trained 300 volunteers. CHC received a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) matching grant with sponsorship from Con Alma Health Foundation. RWJF is eyeing the program as a model to be replicated in other communities.

Carl calls herself a great believer in community, "It's about people coming together in community and really caring."

Tony James agrees. He credits nonprofits for his recovery and is grateful to many organizations, including Coming Home Connection, Santa Fe Project Access, Kitchen Angels and CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center.

18 months after his ordeal began, he rode a bike. "That gave me the greatest thrill to be able to want to do that. I still want to go swimming. I haven't tried yet. I keep worrying that since my left side was affected by the stroke, I'll be swimming in a circle," chuckles Tony, grateful for the chance to laugh again.

**"Con Alma Health Foundation is honored to play a part in building the capacity of Coming Home Connection, which is now a nationally recognized model."**

– Dolores E. Roybal, Executive Director  
Con Alma Health Foundation

# 6

## Story Six

### **The Biggest Winner – Alamo Navajo School Board**

#### **Investing in Rural Health**

Thirty miles outside of Magdalena, New Mexico, look for the dozen or so kids riding bikes up and up and over their community's beautiful hills. Today health and well being is central to daily life at the Alamo Reservation and community center. Pat Renfroe and the Alamo Reservation wellness center staff started a creative and sustainable program that can be easily incorporated into other communities with high incidence of obesity and diabetes. The community program makes winners out of losers by modeling a weight loss, cardio and fitness program after the "Biggest Loser" television show.

"Con Alma allowed us to go out and employ people to promote the center and wellness programs, use the kitchen to sample healthy food that kids and parents may never have tried before, as well as utilize the entire center with the biggest loser contest and a program tracking miles accumulated on a bike," said Pat Renfroe, Health Center Director, Alamo Navajo School Board.

Places like the Alamo Reservation know the best, most sustainable solutions for their community. They know what works for them. Con Alma is honored to have listened and partnered with them.



From left, Jessica Sutton, Erin Bouquin, Patricia Madrid, Eric Serna, Jean McClary and Robert Desiderio, 2003



Rehearsals for "La Vuelta de la Vida / As Life Changes," a Spanish/English mix radio novella by the Grant County Community Health Council that promotes diabetes and obesity prevention and was supported in part by Con Alma Health Foundation, 2009



2010 Family Cancer Retreat - Cancer Services of New Mexico, a NNMHGG grantee organization



Project DIVERSITY students at their Health Careers Academy Graduation at UNM Health Sciences Center Office of Diversity, 2008



The Hospital Auxiliary of Los Alamos Medical Center, 2005



From left, Board of Trustees Elaine Montañó, Sara Stevens, Charmaine Jackson, Denise Madrid-Boyea, 2007



Senior Citizens Law Office, 2003



Community Advisory Committee 2007-08. Top row, from left, Melanie Goodman, Susie Trujillo, and Leslie Hoelzel. Bottom row, from left, Twila Rutter, Robert Archuleta, Judith Cooper, Alice Salcido, Luciano Baca, Juan Oropesa, Levi Maes, Wanda Ross Padilla, Jim Coates and Adam Ortiz



NMSU Grants Campus Pathways to Nursing Careers, 2011



Glenys Carl, Executive Director, Coming Home Connection, at training with students in the Capital High Healthcare Careers Pathway Program, 2008. Both organizations have received CAHF grants.



Northern New Mexico Health Grant Group Event, 2005



From left, Jose Fietze, Dolores E. Roybal and Arturo Jaramillo, 2008 Grantee Recognition Event



From left, Elaine Montañó, Louise Tracey-Hosa, Dianne Rivera, Ellen Fieghny, and Sherry Taylor, 2007 Grantee Recognition Event



From left, Larry Martinez, Charlotte Roybal, Reza Gademi, Dr. Dale Alverson, and Arturo Gonzales, 2007 Grantee Recognition Event





Pamelya Herndon, President,  
Board of Trustees, 2011-2012



From left, Jim Coates, Luciano Baca, Elaine Stone and  
Emma Duran-Buck, 2003



Promotora Training at CNM coordinated by Community Coalition for  
Healthcare Access and funded by CAHF, 2009



Immigrant Rights Training, as part of the Medicaid Integrity Project by the NM Center on Law and Poverty, 2008



Press conference by NM Center on Law and Poverty to raise awareness about the need for workers compensation insurance for NM farm and ranch workers; funded by CAHF, 2009

# 7

## Story Seven

### A Second Health Conversion

#### The Northern New Mexico Health Grant Group

“We realized that this could potentially be a lot of money to people who need it, and it was going to happen very quickly and this doesn’t happen very often. My wife and I, we got Consumers Union and other people we knew together. We saw this as a golden opportunity to try to get big bucks, millions of dollars for the community.”

– David Bouquin, organized community during  
the sale of the Los Alamos Medical Center

So began the Northern New Mexico Health Grant Group, a tongue twister of a name for even those closest to Con Alma Health Foundation.

In May 2002, the Los Alamos Medical Center was sold by Banner Health Systems, a nonprofit corporation, to Province HealthCare, a for-profit corporation. David and Erin Bouquin launched the Los Alamos-Northern New Mexico Health Coalition to advocate for the health needs of the community that would be affected by the sale. “We put on that coalition steering committee someone who represented

the history of the community, which was Sid Singer; someone who represented the future of the community, which was Marvel Harrison; and then somebody who could help us with the legal aspects, and that was Wendy Marquez,” said Dr. Erin Bouquin, Chair, Northern New Mexico Health Grant Group Advisory Committee and Vice President, CAHF’s Board of Trustees. David Bouquin, quoted above, is her husband. Erin served as the President of the coalition.

Four and a half million dollars from the sale of Los Alamos Medical Center (LAMC) were preserved to serve the unmet health care needs of the people of Los Alamos, Rio Arriba and northern Santa Fe counties. Con Alma Health Foundation (CAHF), and the Hospital Auxiliary for LAMC, working as the Northern New Mexico Health Grant Group (NNMHGG) distribute the investment income from those proceeds for grants that target the populations traditionally served by LAMC.

“The total amount invested in the region is now over \$1 million dollars since grant making began in 2004,” said Erin Bouquin.

#### ORIGINAL COALITION STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO ESTABLISHED WHAT BECAME THE NNMHGG

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Erin Bouquin

David Bouquin

Marvel Harrison

Wendy Marquez

Sid Singer



## Story Eight

### Leadership in Action

“Being a good leader is being a good listener.”

– Elaine Montaña, former BOT Vice President and CAC Chair

Con Alma Health Foundation is a statewide organization. Its Board of Trustees (BOT) and Community Advisory Committee represent all five regions of New Mexico. Since inception in 2001, 101 people have served on the Foundation’s leadership and advisory bodies. In its 10-year history, Con Alma has had only two Executive Directors.

First Executive Director Robert “Desi” Desiderio and the Board of Trustees guided the Foundation from inception through its early years. Together they shepherded the organization during a tremendously entrepreneurial and creative time, building on the excitement of the statewide community forums. During this time, the Board of Trustees (BOT) and Community Advisory Committee (CAC) met frequently. They worked long hours to ensure that the Foundation remained responsive to communities, to steward the Foundation’s corpus and to establish a grant making process.

Any new organization travels rocky roads. Con Alma Health Foundation was no exception. “We were unusual in that you had an organization that had money, but it wasn’t organized. We didn’t have a facility. We didn’t have staff. We were operating solely with a volunteer board, a superb board,” said Desiderio, who prior to being Executive Director, served on the founding Board of Trustees.

In those initial years, Con Alma counts among its milestones the first strategic planning process, which originated at the 2004 BOT and CAC Retreat. The second crucial milestone was buying and renovating a building. The third was the search and hiring of the Foundation’s first full-time Executive Director, Dolores E. Roybal.

Inheriting an organization already strong in its commitment and response to communities, Roybal has increased the Foundation’s capacity to serve as a catalyst and convenor on health issues and policy impacting New Mexico. Roybal also set out to increase CAHF’s reputation on the national stage, with an eye toward leveraging the Foundation’s own resources to bring more money into New Mexico to improve health. Accomplishments include funding collaboratives like Hispanics in Philanthropy, which has awarded more than \$500,000 to New Mexico nonprofits, and initiatives such as Project DIVERSITY, a nursing pipeline program that garnered support from Robert Wood Johnson and Northwest Health Foundations. Roybal is also credited with increasing CAHF’s organizational and staff capacity to implement new program initiatives. “We are fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated staff,” said Roybal.

Roybal counts among the Foundation’s greatest accomplishments remaining true to the vision of its Founders. “Although funding priorities and the environment might change, the core values and mission have not,” said Roybal. “The by-laws for Con Alma Health Foundation created by the Founders really continue to be a living document... We have incorporated it into all of our decision making, grant making priorities, and into all that we do on a day to day basis.

# 9

## Story Nine

### Core Values in Action - CAHF Initiatives

At the heart of Con Alma Health Foundation’s six core values is a deep abiding belief in the power of partnership. How profoundly can we improve health in New Mexico by cooperating instead of competing? What can we do to contribute to others’ success and impact on health? In the last few years, CAHF has launched a number of initiatives that demonstrate the possibilities of partnership.

#### **Project DIVERSITY**

##### A Nursing Pipeline Program

“Nurses are front-line providers of health care, yet, while more than half of New Mexicans are Hispanic or Native American, fewer than 10 percent of nurses are Hispanic and less than one percent are Native American,” Roybal said.

To tackle the challenge collectively, a unique collaboration bringing together Con Alma Health Foundation, New Mexico Community Foundation, the University of New Mexico’s Medical (UNM) School Office of Diversity, UNM Hospitals and UNM Hospitals Nursing Division, UNM’s Health Science Center, and New

Mexico First were involved in building a “pipeline” and strategic bridges for minority students from high school to college. The pipeline program is called Project DIVERSITY, and it received a Partners Investing in Nursing’s Future grant through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Northwest Health Foundation.

Kathy Lopez-Bushnell, a clinical nurse researcher at UNM Hospital and a Project DIVERSITY Co-Founder said that 200 students have gone through the program, which relies on nurse mentors and intensive tutoring, with 100% success rate of graduating from high school and going to college. Today the pipeline program lives on independently from Con Alma Health Foundation and continues to introduce and support students in pursuing health careers.

### **Oral Health Initiative**

In 2009, in partnership with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Con Alma Health Foundation acted as a convener to explore the feasibility and public will to increase the dental workforce and possibly develop a mid-level oral health practitioner model in New Mexico. Con Alma Health Foundation partnered with four statewide and community-based New Mexico nonprofit organizations:

1. Health Action New Mexico
2. New Mexico Health Resources
3. New Mexico Primary Care Association
4. New Mexico Voices for Children

For decades, Jerry Harrison, Executive Director of New Mexico Health Resources, has been instrumental in recruiting and retaining health care providers to serve minority and rural residents in New Mexico by matching people to communities.

Jerry says his organization’s involvement over the years with Con Alma Health Foundation has “made us work harder.”

“Our involvement with the Dental Health Therapist program has sharpened our focus upon oral health and has made us work harder to recruit dentists and



hygienists. We have gone from recruiting zero oral health providers to fifteen or twenty per year.”

### **Health Council Convening**

In 2010, when drastic budget cuts jeopardized health councils in New Mexico, representatives from counties and tribal entities around the state met and began work on a statewide alliance of health councils.

Marsha McMurray-Avila, Coordinator for the Bernalillo County Health Council, called CAHF the prime mover in helping to bring health councils together. “It was a chance to reflect on accomplishments, establish an alliance, have a stronger unified voice, and build capacity of all health councils in the state.”

### **HIP New Mexico (Hispanics in Philanthropy)**

Con Alma serves as the anchor foundation for this funders’ collaborative, which has raised more than \$2 million in local and national dollars to help build the capacity of Latino-led/serving organizations in New Mexico.

“Con Alma provides an extremely important leadership role. In my opinion, they take initiative.”

– Kathy Lopez-Bushnell, Clinical Nurse Researcher  
UNM Hospital, Project DIVERSITY Co-Founder.

# 10

**Story Ten**  
**Vision for the Future**

“Ten years from now, we’ll be celebrating what we started today.”

- Pamelya Herndon, President, CAHF Board of Trustees

Herndon is excited about the direction of Con Alma is taking as it begins its next ten years. Roybal agrees, “Our impact goes beyond the dollars with which we make grants. Con Alma Health Foundation advocates for health policy and brings people and organizations together. We are the little foundation that could, except instead of the mantra, ‘I think I can,’ we hold true to the core value of ‘communities can.’ After all, they are the real heroes. It is their strength, culture and commitment that lead us to collaborative solutions.”

As Con Alma begins its next ten years, the Foundation looks to New Mexico communities for input on the Foundation’s next strategic plan. In early 2012, community forums will be held throughout the state. The forums will build on preliminary work done by the Foundation.

As past President of the Board and a former NM Secretary of Health, Patricia Montoya sees the role of the Foundation evolving, while staying true to the mission and vision. “We are now involved in policy decisions and acting as a key catalyst and convener. A lot of the work now in health care is about creating the dialogue. That is a significant role Con Alma now plays. It has been an evolution and the beauty of how the Foundation has grown.”

Con Alma Health Foundation is grateful to the hundreds of people who made its first 10 years remarkable - its Founders, BOT, CAC and NNMHGG members, staff, volunteers, grantees, partner organizations and supporters. Together let us embark on a healthier tomorrow, knowing that we are the heart and soul of health in New Mexico.

“Ten years from now, we’ll be celebrating what we started today.”

- Pamela Herndon, President, CAHF Board of Trustees

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## VISIONARY CIRCLE

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The Visionary Circle Fund supports:

1. Convening, connecting and funding collaborative solutions that originate from communities.
2. Meeting match requirements for grants from national foundations.
3. Initiatives that promote systemic change and improve health in New Mexico.

*Con Alma Health Foundation is grateful to our Visionary Circle donors.*

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