

CON ALMA HEALTH FOUNDATION

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Con Alma Health Foundation Awards Grants to Improve Health

(Santa Fe) – Mesilla Valley Community of Hope is among the 22 nonprofits receiving grants from Con Alma Health Foundation next year. Con Alma announced today that it is supporting organizations across the state to further its mission of improving health in New Mexico.

Funding in southern New Mexico will support programs for teenagers and homeless individuals, and create a team of promotoras to distribute information about health, legal and social services. Promotoras are community members who receive training to provide basic health education.

“Through grant funding from Con Alma Health Foundation, Mesilla Valley Community of Hope (MVCH) is able to assist homeless individuals in southern New Mexico with applying for disability benefits in an expedited manner,” said Nicole Martinez, MVCH executive director in Las Cruces. “With a high approval rate and quick turnaround time through MVCH’s program, these individuals have greater access to health care, housing and quality of life.”

As the state’s largest foundation dedicated solely to health, Con Alma focuses its grants and its work beyond grant making on achieving health equity and supporting culturally diverse, rural and tribal communities, as well as the uninsured and underserved. In Roswell, Con Alma’s grant will support the UNITY Center, which stands for Understanding Needs in Today’s Youth.

“Teens in Roswell have worked hard to create a permanent location for UNITY Center,” said Nathan Padilla, director of Embrace, Inc., which oversees the UNITY Center. “We thank Con Alma for this significant support as the plan for a permanent location moves forward.”

Con Alma Health Foundation, with the Hospital Auxiliary for the Los Alamos Medical Center, is providing additional grants to another 10 organizations that serve people in Rio Arriba, Los Alamos and Santa Fe counties.

“We appreciate the opportunity to partner with some of the many nonprofits that work hard to help New Mexicans lead healthy lives,” said Dolores E. Roybal, Con Alma’s executive director.

Con Alma is holding its annual grantee recognition reception Thursday, Dec. 6 in Santa Fe to honor the new organizations that will receive grants next year. At the reception, Con Alma will announce the winner of the 2012 New Mexico Hero for Health award. People can submit nominations for Hero for Health until Nov. 14 on Con Alma’s website, www.conalma.org. The recipient will choose which eligible New Mexico nonprofit receives a \$1,000 donation.

Small grants :

- **Colonias Development Council**, \$14,000 to create a team of promotoras to distribute information about health, legal and social services in Doña Ana and Otero counties
- **Coming Home Connection**, \$15,000 to support a healthcare employment program training for volunteer veterans to become caregivers for veterans needing home healthcare in Bernalillo County

- **Embrace, Inc.**, \$10,000 to work with local teens, community organizations and local government to create a teen center in Roswell
- **Eve's Fund for Native American Health Initiatives**, \$10,844 to support expansion and outreach of an age appropriate and culturally sensitive injury prevention program to Native youth on the Navajo Nation
- **Las Cumbres Community Services**, \$12,000 to expand services for grandparents raising grandchildren in Rio Arriba County
- **Mesilla Valley Community of Hope**, \$8,156 to improve access to health care for disabled homeless clients through advocacy and enrollment efforts in Doña Ana, Sierra, Otero and Luna counties
- **Mora Valley Community Health Services**, \$10,000 to support efforts to mobilize the community to address substance abuse in Mora and San Miguel counties
- **New Mexico Asian Family Center**, \$8,000 to support efforts to provide culturally appropriate resources and access to health services and education for New Mexico's Asian community
- **New Mexico Direct Caregivers Coalition**, \$7,500 to support policy and advocacy efforts to build and empower a diverse workforce of caregiver-advocates in New Mexico.
- **Notah Begay III Foundation, Inc.**, \$7,500 to promote a model of youth and community engagement to reduce childhood obesity and type 2 diabetes at San Felipe Pueblo.
- **University of New Mexico Foundation-KUNM FM 89.9**, \$10,000 to support the production of a radio program addressing poverty and public health in New Mexico
- **The Wellness Coalition**, \$12,000 to educate on and share the "Nonprofit Organizational Capacity Assessment" model to assist rural nonprofits in becoming more effective

Northern New Mexico Health Grant Group:

- **Boys and Girls Club del Norte**, \$15,000 to educate children and families in Chimayo on making healthy choices through the Healthy Habits for Life and Triple Play programs
- **Cancer Services of New Mexico**, \$10,000 to educate cancer patients/survivors and their caregivers about cancer treatment and survival through family cancer retreats
- **Coming Home Connection**, \$11,500 to train and place community volunteers to provide free and low-cost homecare to families in Los Alamos and Rio Arriba counties
- **Family Strengths Network**, \$6,500 for We Help Ourselves, which teaches children and youth how to be safe at home and school, in Los Alamos County public schools
- **The Family YMCA**, \$20,000 to support the Española YMCA Teen Center through activities that promote healthy lifestyles for teenagers
- **Interfaith LEAP**, \$15,000 to provide substance abuse prevention and access to behavioral health care services for youth and families in Rio Arriba County
- **Las Cumbres Community Services**, \$15,000 to support and expand services for grandparents raising grandchildren in Rio Arriba County
- **Los Alamos Lions Club**, \$12,000 to support a regional eye screening program for children ages 3-8 and support for adults and children that cannot afford eye exams
- **New Mexico Suicide Intervention Project**, \$10,000 to increase awareness of youth suicide risk factors and interventions available in Los Alamos County
- **Self Help**, \$10,000 to support its Immigrant Health Initiative providing advocacy and case management for immigrant clients serving Los Alamos and Rio Arriba counties

Con Alma Health Foundation seeks to improve people's health status and access to health care services, and advocates for health policies to address the unmet health needs of New Mexico's

culturally and demographically diverse population. Con Alma supports and partners with organizations to improve health in New Mexico. Visit www.conalma.org.

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