

YPs increase group events

Luncheons offer dynamic speakers, community leaders

Courtesy of the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico

Local Young Philanthropists (YPs) are using the second Monday of each month to gain valuable insight into the lives of successful professionals.

This year, the YPs started their Second Monday Lunch Series by bringing in dynamic speakers Steve Chavira, Keith S. Burn and David McCollum – business savvy and dedicated philanthropists who volunteers to share their secrets about success.

Chavira, professional business coach and managing director of the Building Industry Association, kicked off the series with his presentation “How to Succeed Before You Are 40.”

“There are many valuable resources in the community you can use as you work toward success, but one of the greatest resources is your relationship with others,” Chavira said.

Chavira pointed out success does come from hard work, but it also comes from a desire to make a difference within a chosen



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profession and within the community. Chavira encouraged YPs to make decisions that would provide outcomes they would be proud of down the road.

Burn, an attorney who focuses on complex construction and commercial cases, presented a lively speech on how to find balance between work, socializing and volunteering with his presentation “Get ‘er Done.” As a community member

born and raised in Las Cruces, Burn spoke about why he left the community and why he came back. He also spoke about priorities and doing something more than signing up to make a difference, something some of the biggest names in the community taught him as he was just starting out.

“I learned early in my career there is more than just saying you are part of an organization,” he said. “If you are going to be a part of something, give your word you will be part of it, then do what you need to do to keep your word.”

McCollum, publisher of the Las Cruces

Bulletin, addressed the YPs about the importance of building strong business relationships, something he did when he revived a community newspaper into a successful weekly publication. McCollum said any business should have a strong mission statement and every decision made should be governed by that statement – the No. 1 point he focuses on as a business owner. He followed that with nine other points to success, including incorporating strong character traits into business.

“Relationships aren’t just about today,” he said. “I’m not ever thinking about my relationships today, I’m thinking about my relationships in the future.”

The YPs is an organization within the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico designed to foster philanthropy and make annual grants to local nonprofits.

The group meets for its Second Monday Luncheons from noon to 1 p.m. the second Monday of each month at Lorenzo’s Italian Restaurant in the Saratoga Room, 1753 E. University Ave. next to Snap Fitness. The cost for the luncheon is \$10 for YPs and \$12 for



guests. YPs are 21-44 years of age and make a contribution of \$125 per year, of which 75 percent of the donation goes into a permanent endowment fund and 25 percent goes into a grant-making fund for a deserving charity or cause. The YPs are currently accepting new members.

The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico is dedicated to helping the southern New Mexico community now, and in the future. Founded in 2000, the Community Foundation offers opportunities for local people who want to give back locally. The beauty of the foundation is that you need not be wealthy to make a positive difference in the lives of people throughout our area. Through the establishment of permanent funds you can sustain local charitable organizations, provide scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to your heart. Through our planned giving programs, you can honor loved ones or leave a legacy that benefits the people of southern New Mexico for generations to come. The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico can advise you on how best to maximize contributions, no matter what size. For more information see our website at www.cfsnm.org or call Luan Wagner Burn at 521-4794. To donate, mail your check to CFSNM, 301 S. Church St., Suite H, Las Cruces, NM 88001.