

Donations up from last year

End-of-the-year plans should include charitable giving

Courtesy of the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico

End-of-the-year giving means more than feeling good.

It means making a difference in the community, and many are taking a more active roll in giving.

The Giving USA Foundation announced giving is up 3.8 percent from 2009 to 2010, however, it hasn't increased enough to offset the dip in giving in 2008 and 2009 when those

affected by the economy refrained from giving as much.

The announcement showed that 35 percent of all donations, or \$100.63 billion, went to religious organizations. Fourteen percent went to the second largest sector – education.

Nine percent of donations went to human services charities; 8 percent went to health charities; 8 percent went to public benefit charities; 5 percent went to arts, culture and humanities charities; 5 percent went to international charities; and 2 percent went to

environmental and animal charities.

The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico (CFSNM) is an organization ready and willing to make a difference in charitable giving in all sectors within southern New Mexico, and the end of the year is a good time to give.

Sebert and Barrett Brewer, husband and wife in Gila, N.M., are going to start 2012 with a new fund within the CFSNM that will impact Grant County.

"We met with the Community Foundation to start this fund because we've seen what a little bit of money and time and commitment can do," said Barrett Brewer, who was successful in starting the Island Education Fund in Maine with her husband.

Through that fund, the couple was able to raise money for a performing arts center. And now the fund presents annual gifts.

"We've been involved forever and monetary giving is part of that," he said. "It is who we are."

Currently, the CFSNM manages nonprofit and private endowments. Endowments are permanent funds that are created through a legal agreements, and then professionally managed by the CFSNM. Once an endowment is created, the principal lasts forever and continues to produce earnings, which can then be used to support its intended purpose. In addition to the portion of the funds used for the program, a portion of earnings is returned to the principal of the endowment and a portion is earmarked for management of the endowment. The CFSNM also manages scholarships, donor advised

funds and temporary funds, allowing donors several opportunities to find a cause that fits their charitable desires. Through the CFSNM, donors can contribute with cash, publicly traded stock, closely held stock, property, will and bequest assets, charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, life insurance policies and IRA/retirement plans.

Through the establishment of temporary and permanent funds, organizations can accept charitable contributions to further their mission without going through all of the requirements of becoming a nonprofit. Establishment of funds can sustain local charitable organizations, provide scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to the

heart. Through planned giving programs, donors 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 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.

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