

Friday, December 30, 2011

Las Cruces Bulletin

Spreading the wealth

Seven counties benefit from giving now and in the future

Courtesy of the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico

Even with the end of the year fast approaching, it's not too late to make a difference now and forever; or make a commitment to a year of giving.

Dr. Jana Williams, a local pediatrician at Full Bloom Pediatrics, and her husband, Richard, make giving a priority every year through time and money.

"It's something that's always been important to me as far as giving back," said Williams, who encourages giving among children Caroline, 11; Barrow, 9; and Cate, 6. "We want our children to see that a little bit of time and money can make a difference."

Williams currently works with Healthy Kids Las Cruces and serves on the board for Mariposa Autism Service Center (MASC).

"As a pediatrician, I see the needs out there," she said. "I know that together we can collaborate and make a bigger difference. People in the community have the power to change the community."

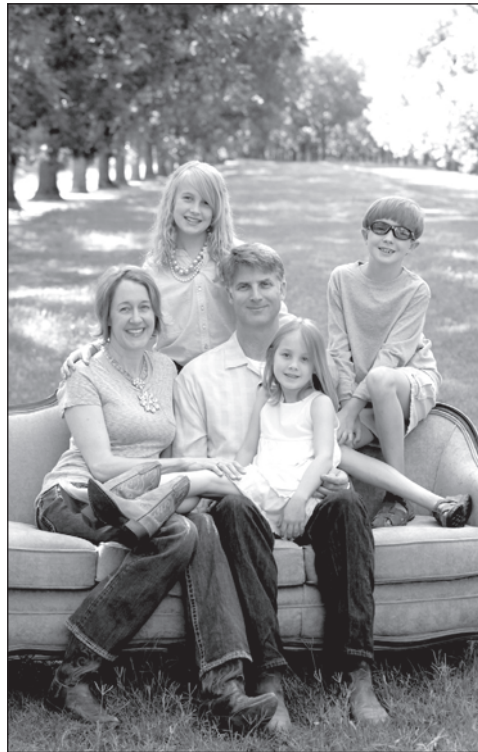
The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico (CFSNM) is an organization that helps people, like the Williams family, do good now and forever in southern New Mexico.

The CFSNM improved the health of more than 800 adolescents by making health care more accessible and affordable through school based health centers; enhanced 1,000 middle school students' understanding of science and increased their interest in becoming scientists and helped 16 women return to or continue to earn their university or community college degrees. In addition, the CFSNM brought \$435,000 of new funding to the community and with the services and expertise offered, 23 community groups were able to raise money for their causes without having to form their own charity.

The CFSNM allows people to support a wide variety of funds focusing on issues such as literacy, social issues, the arts and health that support the seven southern New Mexico counties.

This year, the CFSNM and the Williams family offered support to the Las Cruces Chamber Ballet in a unique way. The Williams family sponsored CFSNM Executive Director Luan Wagner Burn to star as Mother Ginger in The Nutcracker's Sunday matinee.

"It's important to find a group or organization that will allow you to give to your full potential," Williams said. "Everyone can give in one way or another."



Jana, Caroline, Richard, Cate and Barrow Williams devote time and money to make the community a better place.


COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
Of Southern New Mexico


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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.