

Friday, January 6, 2012

Las Cruces |

Board, E.D. look to sustain the future

Flickinger Center in Alamogordo creates endowment for sustainability

Courtesy of the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico

Three years ago, board members at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts in Alamogordo began working on a plan for sustainability with Executive Director Jim Mack. They knew they wanted to meet current needs of the center, as well as future needs.

"We have been talking about funding for the past three years," Mack said. "First we set up an annual support campaign, and then we started talking about the future."

The annual Support Campaign helps to cover the operational costs of the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, while ticket sales for events cover the cost for artist fees, productions costs and other expenses associated with presenting events.

"We get great support from the community, but we still have a lot of facility issues," Mack said of the 590-seat theater that opened in 1991.

Since opening, the Flickinger Center has offered a variety of entertainment including concerts, plays, musicals, dance recitals and beauty pageants, both by professional stage companies and by local amateur groups.

To meet the needs of the center, the group set up the Flickinger Center Endowment at the end of 2011 with the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico (CFSNM).

"We had been looking for some sort of vehicle to set up an endowment," Mack said. "We knew we needed to set something up for sustainability."

Mack and board

members met with CFSNM Executive Director Luan Wagner Burn and learned more about long-term planning, as well as the history of the CFSNM.

"Our focus is to use the endowment primarily to sustain the facility. The center has proven to be a very vital part of the community and this endowment will allow us to continue, and even improve, what we are offering the community," Mack said, noting the choice to open the endowment within the CFSNM was the best choice. "The Community Foundation staff is available to help us grow the endowment. They didn't just take our money and say we are ready to go. They will offer education and training to help along the way."

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.

