

CFSNM

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that is right here in our backyard. We felt that Paleozoic Trackways would most greatly benefit from a YP grant by putting the funds toward preservation and education – two key environmental concepts.”

The Paleozoic Trackways in the Robledo Mountains were discovered 22 years ago by Jerry MacDonald. The grassroots effort started in 2005, and the foundation focused on bringing to public attention the importance of the finds and working to make the area a national monument, which was signed on March 30, 2009.

The foundation is dedicated to educating the public that the first discovery was not just occasional tracks, but contains fossilized tracks extending more than 20 feet and evidence of a petrified forest rising from the desert floor. Recently discovered petrified wood is unique and rare as it contains preserved wood cells, which are exceptionally valuable for research scientists.

With the creation of the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument, the focus of the foundation turned to obtaining the necessary funding to maintain the site and exhibit the remarkable discoveries uncovered there.

“This year, the Young Philanthropists Grant

Committee thought long and hard about which local organization would best represent our theme for environmental awareness,” said Veronica Lowe, a YP contributor and member of the grant committee. “With this grant, they plan to educate the public about the prehistoric pathways near Las Cruces and they hope to lead student field trips and spread knowledge about this important discovery. We congratulate and thank all of the other entries for their participation.”

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, Ph.D., at 575.521.4794. To donate, mail your check to CFSNM, 301 South Church St., Suite H, Las Cruces, NM 88001.