

Feeding children in need

Community Foundation values southern NM ties

Courtesy of the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico

The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico (CFSNM) is an active community supporter in Doña Ana County, but the support doesn't stop there.

The foundation reaches out to all the communities throughout southern New Mexico, offering financial management, trainings and sustainability.

Rebecca Dow, CEO and founder of Apple-Tree Child Development Center in Truth or Consequences, knows first-hand the benefits of working with the CFSNM.

"Our relationship with the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico has been priceless," said Dow, who has an endowment within the CFSNM.

An endowment is a permanent fund that is created through a legal agreement, and then professionally managed by the CFSNM. Once an endowment is created, the principal from the funds lasts forever and continues to produce earnings. A portion of the earnings

can be used for grants, scholarships, programs and specific community needs. 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.

"While we don't have a lot of money in our endowment, we do feel confident that a donor is going to come along and we will have that endowment to put the money in," said Dow of the center that opened in 1999 and serves primarily low-income, at-risk families throughout Sierra County. "The mini grants we received have really helped us offer programs we wouldn't otherwise be able to offer."

With help from the CF-SNM, AppleTree has been able to expand their food service program and offer art classes to area youth.

Dow said one thing that makes the partnership successful is the foundation's commitment to Sierra County.

"Before the Community Foundation, we didn't have the help we do now," Dow said. "Having them reach out to Sierra County is valuable and appreciated."

Organizations with agency endowments within the CFSNM also have the opportunity to attend trainings and networking events through the nonprofit.

In addition to their work with Sierra County, the CFSNM serves Zia Therapy in Alamogordo and has awarded a childhood obesity prevention grant to the Hidalgo County Health Consortium in Lordsburg.

CFSNM 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.



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