

Las Vegas, New Mexico

Community Foundation



FALL NEWSLETTER

Helping Las Vegas THRIVE

OCTOBER 2024

LANL Foundation Awards LVNMCF

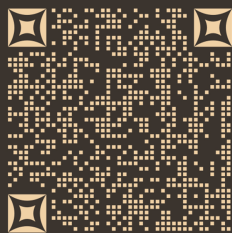


LANL FOUNDATION
Investing in Learning & Human Potential

The Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation (LANL) has awarded a \$5,000 Capacity and Synergy building grant to LVNMCF for the 2024 fiscal year. Grant funds will support grant writing and fundraising workshops in Fall 2024 for the nearly 40 nonprofit organization in the San Miguel and Mora County service area of the Las Vegas NM Community Foundation. An initial workshop is scheduled for October 2024 and others will follow in winter and spring. A survey developed by LVNMCF Board Chair Carla Romero and VISTA Member Betty Bastai revealed the need for fundraising training.

“The Las Vegas Community Foundation is dedicated to supporting our nonprofit community with resources, capacity building programs, and moral support. The health of our community nonprofits is critical to the long term recovery from the wildfires and flooding.”

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LVNMCF Strategic Plan for 2024

Dr. Kim Blea, Dean of Students at New Mexico Highlands University, facilitated a Strategic Planning workshop for the Board of Directors on May 31, 2024. Among the leading goals identified by the board members were a housing initiative, capacity building, staffing, and fundraising. Within weeks of the Strategic Planning meeting, LVNMCF was contacted by Anchorum Foundation of Santa Fe with the good news of a major five-year grant of \$750,000 per year to support an Anchorum Health and Wellness initiative in northern New Mexico. Thus,

health and wellness have also become major priorities for LVNMCF in 2024 and beyond. The board of directors has addressed some of its staffing concerns by recruiting former board chair Elmo Baca to serve as Executive Director and launching a marketing campaign to hire an Anchorum Fellow Community Liaison to join the staff in October or November. The annual community grants program and new Anchorum grants program are expected to be awarded in Winter 2024 and Spring 2025.

Local Foundation Seeks Coordinator for Health Initiative

The Las Vegas New Mexico Community Foundation (LVNMCF) is almost ready to launch a five-year multi-million dollar health and wellness initiative for San Miguel and Mora Counties. The next step in this effort is to hire a full-time community liaison professional to help support and organize the work. The position is called an Anchorum Fellow in recognition of the organization providing the financing for this initiative, The Anchorum Health Foundation (AHF). The AHF recently opened a Donor Advised Fund with the LVNMCF with an initial investment of \$750,000, in the first phase of their grant making. Part of that money will fully support Anchorum Fellow positions in the LVNMCF and each of the other four Community Foundations being funded – the Santa Fe Community Foundation,...

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OUR OFFICE AT THE HISTORIC EL FIDEL HOTEL IN LAS VEGAS, NM

Anchorum Health Foundation unveils plan to pump \$25M to Northern N.M. community

By Gabrielle Porter gporter@sfnewmexican.com Jul 15, 2024 Updated Sep 30, 2024

The Anchorum Health Foundation tap is officially on.

The Santa Fe-based organization, whose leaders have been working for months on a plan for spending part of \$500 million flowing in following its predecessor's divestment from Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center, has now unveiled its first step: pumping \$25 million into five deeply rooted community foundations in Northern New Mexico over the next five years.

Those groups — Santa Fe Community Foundation, Las Vegas New Mexico Community Foundation, the New Mexico Foundation, Los Alamos Community Foundation and Taos Community Foundation — each will receive a share of \$5 million annually, with proportions determined by the groups' "capacity, size, and track record addressing health and wellness issues in their service area," Anchorum leaders announced in June.

Anchorum Health Foundation President and CEO Jerry Jones said in an interview he is "just thrilled" about the plan. "The community foundations that we've selected really are the experts in their communities," Jones said. "It's the value we have at Anchorum Health Foundation to not be



Olivia Villalpando, left, of Vaughn and Stephen Rivera of Santa Fe, load up bread on the food mobile bus at The Food Depot before heading out to the Stage Coach Apartments on Friday.

Luis Sánchez Saturno/The New Mexican

prescriptive from here in Santa Fe but to allow the work to be informed and done in these beautiful communities we're trying to serve." For the Las Vegas NM Community Foundation, Anchorum's investment will be \$750,000 per year for the next five years. "It's a total game changer for us," said Board Chair Carla Romero. "We'll be able to help our "burn scar" survivors on the road to long term recovery."

LVNMCF will hire an Anchorum Community Liaison Fellow in October to assist with addressing community priorities and strategic community grants to health and wellness nonprofit organizations.

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Local Foundation Seeks Coordinator for Health Initiative

...the New Mexico Foundation, the Los Alamos Community Foundation and the Taos Community Foundation. Each will receive a share of \$5 million annually,

"These positions provide a great opportunity to make a difference in the long-term recovery and sustainability of our San Miguel and Mora County Communities and other parts of the state," said Elmo Baca, executive director of the LVNMCF.

AHF President and CEO Jerry Jones said, "The individuals in these fellow positions will help build capacity in the host areas, strengthening and expanding relationships with the local nonprofits, and helping us to understand better the needs in each area.

AHF is the new face of Anchorum St. Vincent, a nonprofit that for years held a half-share of Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center and its related local holdings. Last year, Anchorum St. Vincent transferred its share to Texas-based Christus Health in exchange for \$500 million over the next decade, which will be used to power this ambitious effort to make Northern New Mexico healthier. That goal involves bolstering efforts to address social factors that influence people's health, like access to food or housing or education.

Betty Bastai

Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Recovery VISTA
Las Vegas New Mexico Community Foundation



Betty Bastai is serving as a VISTA member with the Las Vegas New Mexico Community Foundation (LVNMCF). Betty has been a

VISTA for three years after moving from Washington State to New Mexico in 2018. In her first year (2018-2019), she served as the STEAM Design Specialist with UNM Social Media Workgroup, an organization that promotes STEAM education. In Betty's second year (2019-2020) she was a Cities of Service Experience Matters VISTA with the City of Albuquerque, Office of Civic Engagement. She collaborated with another VISTA member and the Department of Senior Affairs to develop a multigenerational mentoring program. Betty carried out her third year as a VISTA with the City of Santa Fe, Office of Economic Development (OED). She helped the OED compile and edit an extensive newsletter, manage the 11,000 newsletter subscribers, promote OED's events and newsletter on its Facebook page, and assisted the OED with the implementation of a Free Wi-Fi Program in low income mobile home parks.

Betty is very excited to bring her extensive experience and enthusiasm to LVNMCF to help the foundation's ongoing effort to support the communities and individuals impacted by the Hermit's Peak and Calf Canyon Fires.

Elmo Baca Named Executive Director of Community Foundation



The Las Vegas New Mexico Community Foundation has contracted with their long-time board member and former chairman to work as executive director of the Foundation. As executive director Baca will work on major Foundation objectives including long-term wildfire disaster recovery; development of a housing/land trust; management of the recently established Anchorum Community Health Fund; and fundraising. Baca is a native of Las Vegas and has been involved in downtown revitalization and

historic preservation for over 40 years. He served as state Main Street director and state historic preservation officer during a nearly twenty-year career with state government. Baca's work related to the long-term recovery from the Hermit's Peak and Calf Canyon Wildfire will include ongoing collaborative relationships with FEMA, related federal and state agencies, local municipalities, community nonprofit organizations, and others.

The housing and land trust is envisioned as a critical project for community and regional sustainability and long-term growth of the Foundation's service area of Mora and San Miguel Counties. The trust will enable the Foundation to stimulate the private sector housing industry, leverage private and public sector funding, support workforce and affordable housing supply, and attract new residents.

Baca's work helping manage the \$750,000 fund recently established at the Foundation by the Anchorum Health Foundation, will focus funds on projects that will power an ambitious effort to make Northern New Mexico healthier. That goal involves bolstering efforts to address social factors that influence people's health, like access to food or housing or education. He will also work on fundraising efforts such as enhancing the Foundation's grant-writing capacity; negotiating with federal, state and local government agencies to leverage public funds; and attract major donations and bequests to the Foundation.

Aneata O'Brien

LVNMCF Administrative Coordinator



Aneata O'Brien joined LVNMCF as administrative Coordinator in March 2024. Aneata has worked in a variety of nonprofit agencies over the years, working with

children and families. She has worked as an International Adoption Coordinator working primarily with Ethiopia and Uganda, and as Administrative Assistant for two Colorado nonprofits and one California nonprofit all serving families of children with disabilities. Aneata is a poet and artist who studied Art History and Graphic design. She currently works closely with the Las Vegas Arts Council in administrative and gallery work. Aneata made her home in Las Vegas in 2022 and has two grown sons.

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CONTACT
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www.lvsmcf.org
admin@lvsmcf.org
(505) 600-2868
P. O. Box 1002
Las Vegas, NM 87701