

New Anchorum Health Foundation has big plans for big endowment

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The money is big.

The challenge is huge.

The potential is massive.

The newly created Anchorum Health Foundation is expected to receive more than \$500 million in the next decade to address serious societal issues in Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico — including affordable housing, educational attainment, access to health care and senior care.

Jerry Jones, president and CEO of the new foundation, and Sayuri Yamada, the foundation's board chairwoman, offered more details this week about their plans.

Anchorum Health Foundation intends to inject \$200 million in the community in the next 10 years. In that time, if endowment investments play out as they have over the past 15 years, the \$500 million could grow to more than \$1 billion, and the sum can be used to leverage more funding, Jones said.

“Being able to attract other investments is going to be a part of that,” he said.

The foundation does not intend to simply dole out money but instead will look to create public and private alliances that attack deep-seated issues facing a 10-county area and much of Northern New Mexico, he said. The foundation's philosophy is "transformative, not transactional," he said.

"We don't lead with the checkbook," Jones said. "We lead with building relationships and building partnerships."

Instead of organizations bringing project ideas to the foundation for funding, Jones envisions collaborating with organizations to assemble projects that match the foundation's strategies and community needs.

The foundation's primary funding comes from Anchorum St. Vincent, a nonprofit community health impact organization that will become a subsidiary of the foundation.

Earlier this fall, Anchorum St. Vincent announced it was relinquishing its half-ownership share of Christus St. Vincent — operator of Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center and several clinics — to Texas-based Christus Health.

Anchorum St. Vincent's \$130 million endowment was transferred to the foundation, and the first payment of about \$50 million from Christus Health was made in September, Jones said.

Anchorum Health Foundation is poised to become the largest foundation in New Mexico, surpassing the J.F. Maddox Foundation in Lea County at about \$270 million in assets, according to the New Mexico Association of Grantmakers.

Anchorum St. Vincent has been in transition since 2018, shifting from a focus on improvements and upgrades at Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center and its clinics to become a community health impact organization that addresses what Jones called "social determinants" — community issues such as housing, education and food.

The Anchorum Health Foundation is now a separate entity from Christus St. Vincent, but Anchorum still has seats on the Christus St. Vincent board of directors.

Anchorum St. Vincent had split its objectives to 80% social determinants and 20% assisting the Christus St. Vincent hospital system. That balance will remain with Anchorum St. Vincent focusing on continuing work to improve access to health care and owning medical real estate such as a Santa Fe cancer center under construction and its orthopedic center.

The foundation will focus on the four primary objectives: affordable housing, critical access to health care, educational attainment and senior care.

“It’s very strategic,” Yamada said. “We do need to be very strategic in how we invest. It’s not random acts of kindness, give a little money to everyone.”

The societal challenges in Santa Fe and the northern part of the state are well known, but Jones said a key to success will lie in accessing data — and employing it to inform funding decisions and partnerships.

The foundation will delve into the Santa Fe Data Platform and is surveying hospitals across Northern New Mexico for specific details of challenges they face.

“The facts will tell us what to do,” Jones said. “We don’t know what the facts are. How sound is the hospital network across Northern New Mexico? We need to understand what issues people are trying to solve.”

Jones said he would like to replicate the 150 second mortgages Anchorum St. Vincent has sponsored over the years for Christus St. Vincent employees.

“I would like to do ones for teachers, law enforcement, first responders,” he said.

Jones pointed to some of the work Anchorum St. Vincent did in recent years as a template for the new foundation. In 2020, Anchorum St. Vincent, Enterprise Bank and

New Mexico Bank & Trust each chipped in \$5 million with another \$5 million from other entities to create a \$20 million Catalyst Fund for Homewise to build 1,000 affordable housing units in the next seven years.

Anchorum St. Vincent also owns the former Lamplighter Inn and is awaiting city permits to convert the hotel into housing to get people out of homeless shelters.

Anchorum St. Vincent has allocated \$8 million to 70 grantees over the past three years.

The new foundation also is in discussions with La Familia Health, which is fighting for survival with a \$1 million fundraising campaign. Jones didn't touch on specifics about La Familia, but said officials are "working together with La Familia to understand the opportunities for La Familia to be successful."

Jones acknowledged effectively implementing Anchorum Health Foundation's grand vision will entail buy-in from numerous local governments across Northern New Mexico and dozens of organizations – many with their own agendas.

"It's going to take us having trusted relationships with these organizations," Jones said.