

New foundation pledges \$200 million over next decade

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Clients and an employee with Growing Up New Mexico, a home-based childcare and coaching program that received funding from Anchorum.



ABOVE: Clients and a worker for Growing Up New Mexico, a home-based childcare and coaching program that received funding through Anchorum, which recently announced a new health foundation.
LEFT: Clients and an employee with Growing Up New Mexico, a home-based childcare and coaching program that received funding from Anchorum.



Homewise El Camino Crossing, a affordable housing project that received funding from Anchorum. The Anchorum Health Foundation was recently announced.

A new foundation in northern New Mexico was launched last week, and the organization has set a lofty goal of improving the social determinants of health and address health inequities in northern New Mexico.

The foundation made a quick splash by immediately pledging to spend at least \$200 million in the next 10 years to address those systemic problems.

Anchorum St. Vincent recently announced the formation of the Anchorum Health Foundation. Over the next 10 years, the foundation will receive more than \$500 million from Anchorum St. Vincent, which includes most of its current assets and the proceeds of a reorganization that happened in October. That fund will then become an endowment account with proceeds funding health care efforts, economic development and other critical issues, like addiction and a lack of housing, in northern New Mexico.

“The strategy is really around this idea, or mission, of building healthy communities; that’s really the charge that our board has set for us,” said Jerry Jones, who was recently named the president and CEO of the foundation. “And we’re going to do that in three ways, prevention, access and opportunity.”

Anchorum St. Vincent began in 2008 as SVHSupport. Since 2019, Anchorum St. Vincent has awarded more than \$42 million for various causes and initiatives throughout northern New Mexico.

Jones said there are still systemic health issues throughout the region. He said much of the work needed to address those health issues need to take place outside of a hospital.

“We started a new strategy that said, what if we began to act more like a health foundation ... and think about what health looks like outside the four walls of a hospital, around social determinants of health,” he said.

He said some of the foundation’s efforts will include addressing a shortage of doctors and nurses, addiction, homelessness, affordable housing and education. The foundation will likely partner with

nonprofits, hospitals, local governments, schools, colleges and community development financial institutions.

Sayuri Yamada, the chair of the foundation's board of directors, said Jones will lead the foundation's effort to build healthy communities.

"He is passionate about leading new strategies, approaches and pathways to positively impact his home state of New Mexico," Yamada said.