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Investing in New Mexico's Communities and Their Greatest Asset... People

December 6, 2006

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Gadsden Independent Schools (at Anthony Elementary School)
Attn: Ms Judith Creegan, Director of Nursing & Health Services
609 Church Street
Anthony, NM 88021

Re: Youth - SBHC Yr 2
\$75,000 (Gadsden High School SBHC, Santa Teresa High School SBHC, and
Gadsden Middle School, each receiving \$25,000
11/1/2006-10/30/2008

Dear Ms Creegan,

On behalf of the Board and Staff of the New Mexico Community Foundation, we are pleased to inform you that Gadsden Independent Schools has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$75,000 as further detailed in the attached Project Description and Approved Budget and NMCF SBHC General Terms and Conditions. This grant is for Gadsden High School SBHC, Santa Teresa High School SBHC, and Gadsden Middle School, each receiving \$25,000. This grant is made possible based on recommendations from the School Based Health Clinic Advisory Committee. We are pleased to enclose a check for the full amount of this grant award.

Please acknowledge the **New Mexico Community Foundation, School Based Health Clinic Fund**, in your publications listing donors, public relations and media materials, and presentations regarding this project.

We ask that you sign and return in the enclosed SASE a copy of the NMCF General Terms and Conditions and copy of this letter indicating your receipt of this grant disbursement and acceptance of the terms of this grant. Also enclosed is a copy of the Report Requirement Guidelines due 30 days after a 12-month period. By endorsing and depositing this check, you are agreeing to the NMCF General Terms and Conditions of the grant and warrant that there has been no change in your status with the NM Department of Health as a SBHC delivery site.

We extend our best wishes to you for continued success and look forward to hearing about your accomplishments during the year.

Sincerely,

Director, Youth & Emerging Initiatives

Enclosures: Check # 13119, General Terms and Conditions, Project Description & Approved Budget, Report Requirement Guidelines and Remittance Signature Copy

Received by: Name/Title (print): _____
Signature: _____ (required) Date: _____

New Mexico Community Foundation
Project Description and Approved Budget Sheet

Grant Period: 1 November 2006 – 30 October 2008
Project Title: Behavioral/Mental Health Services for Gadsden High School, Santa Teresa High School, and Gadsden Middle School
Project Budget: \$0
Grant Amount: \$75,000
Program Officer: Nelsy Dominguez, Program Director 505-820-6860 nelsyd@nmcf.org
NMCF Fund Name: Youth - SBHC

Recipient/Name of Organization: Gadsden Independent School District 609 Church Street Anthony, NM 88021	Contact: Ms Judith Creegan, Director of Nursing and Health Services jcreegan@gisd.k12.nm.us (505) 882-0036 Other Contact (if applicable):
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Organization's Legal Name or FS (if applicable) : Gadsden Independent Schools

Mission of the Organization:
 The Mission of the School Based Health Center is to adolescent health by creating a supportive environment that focuses on the medical and mental health needs of the adolescent. The goal of the SBHC is to guide the adolescent to take responsibility for their own health.

Project Description & Approved Budget (Intended Use of Funds)

Project Title:
 Behavioral/Mental Health Services for Gadsden High School, Santa Teresa High School, and Gadsden Middle School

Project Description:

Gadsden Independent School District (GISD) is currently seeking funds for the three SBHC's in the district to provide continuous mental health services for the students. These schools are: Gadsden High School, Santa Teresa High School and Gadsden Middle School. GISD would like to hire one mental health care provider to work with the students associated with the three school based health centers.

The mental health provider will be assigned to the SBHC at GHS. This individual will provide approximately 13 hours of mental health care to each of the schools. The school nurse from the three schools and the SBHC staff will be able to refer students to the mental health care provider. The school nursing staff will maintain a schedule for the mental health provider, for the time they are scheduled at their school. A schedule would be developed for the provider, so each school could anticipate and schedule student appointments.

- The goal of hiring a mental health provider is to:
- 1) Address the psychological challenges of the transition from childhood to adulthood.
 - 2) Provide mental health care that is designed to meet the needs of the adolescent during times of crisis, stress, bereavement, or individual issues.
 - 3) Collaborate with the Southern New Mexico Adolescent and Young Adult Health Consortium to provide on going mental health services, case management, and referral services for adolescents in need of mental health care.
 - 4) Screen and provide mental health services for adolescent students at risk for suicide.

Other partners in this project will be Peak Behavioral Health Center and Southern New Mexico Counseling.

GRANT PERIOD: 24 Months

FUNDING/INTENDED USE OF FUNDS: Funding recommended at \$75,000 for 24 months for the three sites for Staffing (Mental Health Care Provider Salary and Benefits)

Background:

ORGANIZATION/ Background:
 Currently, Gadsden Independent School District has approximately 13,952 students. The population demographics include: 14 Native American Students, 22 Asian Students, 38 African-American Students, 500 Caucasian Students and the remainder of the population, approximately 95% are of Hispanic background.

Gadsden High School (GHS) has 2,060 students. The population demographics include: 3 Native American Student, 6 Pacific Islanders, 6 African-American Students, 71 Caucasian Students, and 95% or 1,974 Hispanic Students. Santa Teresa High School (STHS) has 1,293 students. The population demographics include: 3 African-American Students, 26 Caucasian Students and the remainder of the population, 95%, are of Hispanic background. Gadsden Middle School (GMD) has 981 students. There are 97% or 961 Hispanic students.

The communities served by the Gadsden Independent School District are small rural communities with limited health care providers. The towns of Anthony, Sunland Park, and Chaparral have a Department of Health office that provides limited services. La Clinica de Familia is located in each of these communities as well as the community of San Miguel. There are a large number of undocumented individuals and their families, living in each of these communities, which do not have the means to seek health care for themselves or their family members. Consequently, a large number of our students do not receive adequate mental or medical health. A high percentage of the population lives in substandard conditions. The district provides 100% free and reduced meals for every student. Many of the students are considered "at risk" due to the high rate of poverty, absentee father or mother, high crime neighborhoods, poor sanitation and inadequate services in the colonias, inadequate medical care, and limited mental health services.

The SBHC at GHS is designed to meet the needs of the students attending GHS. The students who attend GHS are from a variety of communities, including but not limited to La Mesa, Chaparral, Anthony, Mesquite, Vado, San Miguel, Chamberino, and La Union. The clinic at STHS meets the needs of the students in the southern end of the district, including but not limited to Santa Teresa and Sunland Park areas. The proposed clinic at GMS would serve the needs of the students from GMS. The students from GMS are from a variety of communities, including but not limited to La Mesa, Chaparral, Anthony, Mesquite, Vado, San Miguel, Chamberino, and La Union.

School District: Gadsden Independent School District

County: Dona Ana County

PROJECT EVALUATION:

Currently mental health services for adolescents are extremely limited. GISD has a high number of teens who are at risk for suicide due to past or recent traumatic events. Many of the teens are exposed to living environments that are difficult for most of people to imagine. Many students are living in households where substance abuse is accepted or dealing is a way of life. Frequently, students are exposed violent behaviors which threatens their existence on a daily basis. The goal of hiring a mental health practitioner is provide services to our students that are not available to them, that will provide them the coping skills necessary to succeed in both the adolescent and adult worlds. The ultimate goal is to address the mental health challenges so that a successful transition from adolescent to adulthood can be made.

With mental health services a student who:

- 1) may have taken their own life might live;
- 2) would harm others as an outlet will learn healthy ways to cope;
- 3) has been brutally raped will have an outlet to share and work through the abuse, grief, loss, and indignity suffered;
- 4) struggles with identity issues will be able to discuss and work through difficulties
- 5) are grieving will find health outlets and support

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$25,000 for each site (3); for a total of \$75,000