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The Northeastern Regional Community Foundation announced today that it is accepting proposals for \$20,000 in grants to community organizations to address both issues related to health awareness for youth and environmental conservation. The awards are part of the earnings from the foundation's new endowment to benefit the northeastern part of the state.

Last year, NRCF awarded nearly \$17,500 in grants to three area organizations for projects targeted at obesity and related health issues. The NMCF has awarded \$17,500 to six projects. In healthcare they are: 21st Century Community Learning Centers for Health Education / Obesity Prevention Program (\$8,500); Cardinals' (High School) Health Care Center (Las Vegas, NM City Schools) for Exercise equipment, health and exercise videos and other educational materials for young people (\$3,000); Pecos Valley Medical Center for Diabetes Education and Prevention Project (\$2,500); Rio Gallinas Charter School for an in-school and after school nutrition program (\$3,000). In arts & culture: Las Vegas Arts Council for a sustainable ecosystem project at Rio Gallinas School; Short Grass Music Festival for a Colfax County school program & Festival Concert artist fees (\$1,700).

The 2005 grantees were the Bridge Academy Charter School in Las Vegas, the Roy School Based Health Clinic, and the Sangre de Cristo Girl Scout Council.

The foundation was formed from the Northeastern Regional Medical Foundation, which changed its mission after the sale of Northeastern Regional Hospital in Las Vegas to a for-profit company. A community foundation can raise money through donations as well as planned estate giving from donors who wish to receive a full deduction from the IRS for their gifts and might want to specify how their money benefits the community. Other community non-profit organizations can set up endowment accounts through the NRMF and take advantage of high returns on their funds.

The Northeastern Regional Community Foundation has become an affiliate of the New Mexico Community Foundation in order to minimize overhead, increase investment return on the endowment, and maximize the amount of money available for grant making in the community.

Monies in the foundation are invested with the New Mexico Community Foundation, but a local board of directors and local grant-making panelists make decisions about the needs of Las Vegas and surrounding communities and which organizations should receive grants.

The deadline for proposals is September 19, 2007. Application details on available grants can be downloaded at the foundation's web site. (www.newmexicogives.org).

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