



Santa Fe Community Foundation Launches Fund to Support LGBTQ Issues Across New Mexico

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—March 30, 2017; Santa Fe, NM – Today, the Santa Fe Community Foundation announced the relaunch of the Foundation’s LGBTQ-focused fund to go beyond the six northern New Mexico counties where the Foundation has traditionally funded to become the statewide LGBTQ philanthropic vehicle to support issues of importance to the LGBTQ community and its allies. The fund will be known as *Envision, the LGBTQ Fund for New Mexico*.

“The time has come for there to be a dedicated statewide fundraising entity to support LGBTQ work in New Mexico,” said Bill Smith, President and CEO of the Santa Fe Community Foundation. “Following several important state legislative victories in 2017, as well as threats from the national level that affect LGBTQ people and basic issues of civility and civil rights, the Foundation’s *Envision Fund* is poised to galvanize philanthropy in cities and towns across the state – as well as from national donors – to continue the progress we have made in New Mexico.”

The Santa Fe Community Foundation is celebrating its 36th year of grantmaking and community leadership in Santa Fe and five other northern New Mexico counties, including Rio Arriba, Taos, Los Alamos, San Miguel, and Mora. Following an endorsement from the Foundation’s Board of Directors in late 2016, the Foundation is now strategically advancing statewide work and investments to create broader impact across the New Mexico. The first of these new efforts is the relaunch of the Foundation’s LGBTQ-focused Fund, originally created in 1997 with seed money from the National Lesbian and Gay Community Funding Partnership. To date, the Foundation’s LGBTQ-specific grantmaking has provided nearly three quarters of a million dollars through 1,100 grants to nonprofits in New Mexico.

“Over the next several years, *Envision, the LGBTQ Fund for New Mexico*, will work to support important initiatives across the State, including a rededication to ending HIV/AIDS in New Mexico where gay men continue to experience the vast majority of new infections, support for anti-bullying and school-based efforts that promote a civil society for all New Mexicans regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, and commitment of resources to fight

violence, discrimination, and bias against LGBTQ New Mexicans,” said Honey Ward, Chair of the Advisory Committee for the *Envision Fund*.

The announcement of the relaunch of the *Envision Fund* to have a statewide focus across New Mexico was made at the Funding Forward Conference held this week in Seattle, Washington. This conference brings together LGBTQ-focused donors from across the country to discuss current issues in LGBTQ-philanthropy and to map future opportunities for progress for the LGBTQ community.

Those interested in learning more about *Envision, the LGBTQ Fund for New Mexico*, including those who wish to contribute financially to the Fund, should contact **Jane Egan, Director of Development at the Santa Fe Community Foundation**, at jegan@santafecf.org.

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