

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 26, 2008

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**CON ALMA HEALTH FOUNDATION
HOSTS COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP CONVENING**

HEALTH FOUNDATIONS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY MEET IN SANTA FE

SANTA FE -- Con Alma Health Foundation and Grantmakers in Health will convene a meeting for health foundations' Community Advisory Committees on Friday, April 25, 2008 at The Lodge at Santa Fe.

Community Advisory Committees provide advice and recommendations to their respective foundations' governing bodies to ensure they achieve their charitable purpose and mission.

"Being aware that health foundations with Community Advisory Committees (CACs) have particular expertise in engaging with their communities, we are convening representatives of such foundations to share strategies, learn from one another, and offer solutions that the larger world of philanthropy might borrow and benefit from," states Con Alma Health Foundation Executive Director Dolores Roybal

The featured presenter will be Scott Benbow, San Francisco philanthropy specialist and former staff attorney for Consumers Union. According to Benbow, "new health foundations, many of which were created in the past decade, are changing the face of philanthropy. They have rewritten some of the rules of traditional philanthropy; they are often more dynamic, open, and responsive than older institutions."

Conference topics include: Exploring and clarifying values, mission, and goals, CAC input in funding strategies and decision making, enhancing community-engagement; evaluating foundation grantmaking processes; skill building to strengthen foundation-related skills and program design, including exploring community needs.

Chair of the Community Advisory Committee for Con Alma Health Foundation Alice M. Salcido states "This conference provides a great opportunity for our Con Alma CAC members to meet members from other CACs and compare strategies for carrying out our responsibilities."

For information visit www.conalma.org or call 505-438-0776.

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The mission of Con Alma Health Foundation is to be aware of and respond to the health rights and needs of the culturally and demographically diverse peoples and communities of New Mexico. Con Alma seeks to improve the health status and access to healthcare services and advocates for a health policy that addresses the health needs of all New Mexicans. In 2007, the Foundation will award more than \$2 million in grants to nonprofit organizations across the state, bringing its total grantmaking to more than \$7 million since inception in late 2001. For more information, visit www.conalma.org.

Grantmakers In Health (GIH) is a nonprofit, educational organization dedicated to helping foundations and corporate giving programs improve the health of all people. Its mission is to foster communication and collaboration among grantmakers and others, and to help strengthen the grantmaking community's knowledge, skills, and effectiveness. Formally launched in 1982, GIH is known today as the professional home for health grantmakers, and a resource for grantmakers and others seeking expertise and information on the field of health philanthropy.

Scott Benbow is a philanthropy policy analyst and attorney at Consumers Union, the nonprofit publisher of *Consumer Reports* magazine. For five years, he has focused on the accountability and effectiveness of nonprofit organizations, especially grantmaking foundations, in the United States. Prior to that, he worked on law and justice projects in three other countries -- Ethiopia, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

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