

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Grant County Community Foundation Awards First Grants to Area Nonprofits!

The Foundation awards \$20,000

March 5, 2018, Silver City – The Grant County Community Foundation is honored to announce the recipients of the Foundation’s first-ever grants: Gila Valley Library (\$5,000), Mimbres Cultural Heritage Site Experiential Education (\$5,000), Lotus Center (\$2,500), and Deming Silver Linings (\$2,500). Two additional \$2,500 grants will be awarded from the Sebert Brewer Fund to Deming Silver Linings and the Virus Theater. This fund was established at GCCF in honor of the Grant County Community Foundation founder, who died in July. The Foundation was established in 2012.

The Grant County Community Foundation is dedicated to the vision of a shared and vibrant community. Its mission is to enrich lives through collective action. This mission is expressed by:

- Building a culture of philanthropy by encouraging charitable giving from individuals, families, organizations and businesses
- Making grants to advance local nonprofit organizations, thereby building their capacity to achieve their missions
- Stewarding donor funds to ensure sustainability and to fulfill the donors’ philanthropic visions

Of the 14 groups that applied, the foundation selected five grant recipients based on the strength of the proposed project, the organizational capacity, the projected community impact, project feasibility, and budget; each project was encouraged to be collaborative, which is one of the Grant County Community Foundation’s cornerstones. The grants represent the geographic scope of the Foundation’s work: Cliff/Gila, Silver City, Mimbres and Deming.

The Gila Valley Library was awarded \$5,000 to assist in the building of a 300-sq. ft. addition to the current building, which is estimated to cost \$30,000 in total. The building addition will allow the Gila Valley Library to have a dedicated space for its children's programming which includes science camps and literacy tutoring, as well as a dedicated space for presentations and equipment storage. The expansion should be completed in 2018 and Madge Slavec, Director of the Gila Valley Library, expects that attendance numbers and the number of programs offered will increase with more space. The space will serve children of all ages, including high school aged children, from Cliff, Gila, Buckhorn, Riverside, Mule Creek, Mangas, and Red Rock.

The Mimbres Cultural Heritage Site was awarded \$5,000 which will allow two groups of students to join archaeology field school students directed by Dr. Barbara Roth from the University of Nevada Las Vegas for a 2-day, overnight field-school experience. The students will learn the importance of protecting and preserving archeological and historical sites for future generations, which is particularly relevant in southwestern New Mexico. The participating students will become "archaeology ambassadors" and teach other students about stewardship and preservation.

The Lotus Center was awarded \$2,500 to fund Yoga in Public Schools ("YIPS"). The funds will be used to place three of the Lotus Center's instructors in fourth, fifth, seventh, and eighth grade classes at Jose Barrios Elementary and La Plata Middle School. Yoga practice by young children has been shown to increase self-control, mood, and self-esteem, decrease anxiety, depression, and alcohol use, and improve social-emotional skills, attention, and academic

performance. The Lotus Center launched YIPS in the fall of the 2017/2018 school year and hope to expand further into Grant County.

Deming Silver Linings was awarded \$2,500 in grant funding and an additional \$2,500 from the Sebert Brewer Fund to support a soup kitchen in Luna County which will serve hot meals two days a week to anyone who comes, with an emphasis on serving the homeless. Deming Silver Linings hopes to serve the 41% of Luna County children who live in poverty; while there are food distribution centers and an option for an emergency food bag once a month, there is currently no hot-meal soup kitchen and no shelter. Once the soup kitchen is running and can demonstrate the need in Luna County, Deming Silver Linings hopes to expand to a full-scale shelter. The current soup kitchen plans also include offering use of a public restroom and counselor services during the meal to help people access assistance.

Virus Theater was awarded \$2,500 from the Sebert Brewer Fund to assist in the installation of a HVAC/heating and cooling system in the historic El Sol Theater. The 150-seat theater has already hosted several theatrical productions and has more planned. The HVAC system addition will make the building useable year-round for theater, festivals, community organizing and events.

The Grant County Community Foundation is not only proud but also grateful for the opportunity to support change in the four counties in Southwest New Mexico. Area nonprofits provide vital and enriching services in this rural part of New Mexico. For more up to date information on the foundation, please visit www.grantcountycommunityfoundation.org.