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Mayor Berry & First Lady Maria Berry's Farewell Charity Gala Beneficiaries Announced

Three local nonprofits to benefit from the eighth annual gala

ALBUQUERQUE — Today, Mayor Richard J. Berry and First Lady Maria Berry announced the three non-profit beneficiaries of the 2017 Farewell Charity Gala proceeds. Their annual Gala is dedicated to raising funds for nonprofits selected through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, that are engaged in inspiring work throughout the Albuquerque community. Funds to be raised in 2017 Farewell Gala will benefit organizations that specialize in creating pathways for individuals who find themselves underemployed or unemployed. This can include a wide range of programs and systems that help people improve their employability, skill sets and other attributes that will lead to improved upward economic mobility for the individual and their families.

The success of the Mayor and First Lady's Charity Gala is evidenced by the fact that proceeds raised were able to meet the financial requests of several non-profit beneficiaries over the past seven years. Since 2010, Mayor Berry and First Lady Berry have raised more than \$1.3 million net for local nonprofits, impacting over 100,000 lives.

The 2017 beneficiaries selected are: Crossroads for Women, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) New Mexico, and Albuquerque Community Foundation: The Bright Futures Fund. Crossroads for Women provides housing and trauma responsive, gender specific wrap-around services to homeless and formerly incarcerated women reintegrating into the community. The funds will be used to provide services for women re-entering the work force returning to school after a period of homelessness or incarceration. NAMI New Mexico, through its many affiliates, offers a signature program called In Our Own Voices (IOOV) to community agencies and law enforcement. Funding to NAMI NM will be utilized to expand three signature programs: the In Our Own Voice Program, the Connection Support Group Program and the Family to Family Program. Finally, Albuquerque Community Foundation: The Bright Futures Fund money will be placed in a donor-advised fund that allows the advisors to either help a charity today or to help the permanent needs of tomorrow.

“We’re so grateful to our community for their continued compassion and support of this event and our worthy, local charities,” said Gala Chairwoman and First Lady Maria Berry. “We look forward to the opportunity to work with our three beneficiaries as we all strive to improve the circumstances and opportunities for many in our community.”

For more information regarding the event happening on April 29, 2017 and for ticket sales, please visit www.MayorsCharityGala.com.

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