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New Social Giving Club Combines Social Life and Philanthropy

FBT Architects Sponsors Nine Memberships for Employees

Albuquerque, NM – Last week kicked off a new opportunity for those philanthropic minded individuals that are looking to socialize while doing good. The Social Giving Club was started at the beginning of 2016 to provide a fun network of individuals that want to combine their giving power to benefit New Mexico nonprofits.

Here's how it works: A membership to the Social Giving Club is \$1,000 annually. The first \$500 of the contribution goes into an endowed fund to support future grantmaking. The other \$500 is pooled together with all members of the Social Giving Club to make an award this year to one organization, which will be selected by the Club members.

Started this year, the Club currently has 30 members but is hoping to grow to 50 members by the end of the year. That would allow the group to make a \$25,000 donation to one lucky New Mexico nonprofit.

“Our goal is to create a social activity that people enjoy being involved in that also combines their giving power to provide a local nonprofit a substantial impact grant,” said Kelli Cooper, Vice President of Philanthropic Services. “Additionally, half of each person’s donation will endow a fund for grant making in the future. The Social Giving Club allows people to make a greater impact as a group than they may ever be able to do as an individual.”

At its first meeting, FBT Architects stepped up and gifted nine memberships to Principals and Associates in its firm. FBT Architects made the offer of memberships to Principals and Associates. The \$9,000 will allow the architects to each participate in the Social Giving Club for one year. They will work with the other Club members to identify a nonprofit.

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“The Social Giving Club is an excellent way for our company to show our employees that we believe that investment in our community benefits everyone,” said Chris Bard, Chairman of the Board at FBT Architects. Bard has been involved with the Albuquerque Community Foundation for years. “We want our team to be involved and to be part of making positive changes in our community. The Social Giving Club shows what can be accomplished when people come together with a common goal.”

The Social Giving Club will meet four times a year offering members a fun, social gathering with an important purpose. Those interested in participating in the Social Giving Club can contact the Albuquerque Community Foundation at 505-883-6240.

The Albuquerque Community Foundation administers a permanent community endowment comprised of many gifts, large and small, and uses the earning from that endowment to make grants to other nonprofit organizations. It is also a leader in the philanthropic community, supporting many programs including the recent Mayor’s Prize for Entrepreneurship and the Great Grant Giveaway. Since its establishment in 1981, total grant distributions are nearly \$43 million and more than 6,500 grants funded for nonprofit organizations serving the greater Albuquerque area.

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