



Social Enterprise Center Brings Economic Development, Jobs and Cradle Through Career Educational Support to the South Valley

Partnership for Community Action and Southwest Creations Spearheading Transformative Project with Help from Federal, National and Local Private Funders

For Immediate Release

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South Valley, NM (July 9, 2018) – Albuquerque’s South Valley will soon be home to a transformational economic development project. The South Valley Social Enterprise Center will bring manufacturing, jobs, social impact and ultimately needed long-term economic growth to the region just south of Albuquerque.

The South Valley Social Enterprise Center is a private-public partnership that will implement economic development strategies to alleviate poverty and create opportunities across generations. The Center is a community-led economic development initiative allowing families and neighborhoods to benefit from production/manufacturing jobs, professional development, a high quality dual-language early learning center, and educational support. The Center will be managed by the South Valley’s Partnership for Community Action (PCA) and anchored by tenant Southwest Creations Collaborative (SCC), a women-driven, 25-year-old contract sewing social enterprise.

Over nine years, the Center will directly support 77 new and retained jobs, as well as providing workshops and networking groups supporting an anticipated 270 jobs offsite, and an additional 473 direct secondary jobs through multiplier effects in production/manufacturing, private nonprofit employment, childcare, and retail jobs for a total impact of 820 secondary jobs.

“The Social Enterprise Center is just the sort of community-led project the South Valley needs to kickstart its economy,” said Javier Martinez, Executive Director of the Partnership for Community Action. “PCA is proud to lead this transformative project.”

Recently, the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) and W.K. Kellogg Foundation each awarded a \$1 million grant to PCA to construct the Center, putting in place the final piece of funding to bring the project to life.

“This new development in Albuquerque will lend the tools businesses need to compete and thrive in the global economy” said Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross.

The Center will be housed in a 22,000 sq. ft building on two acres of land on Isleta Blvd. The new building will house the production/manufacturing space for SCC, an early childhood center, training space and offices. It will also feature a loading dock to accommodate business-to-business direct shipping, drop shipping and Electronic Data Interchange shipping for SCC and other area business enterprises and additional contract

production/manufacturing uses. The space will also be used for professional development workshops, pre-accelerator trainings, parent leadership classes in early learning and advocacy, and educational support trainings.

“For almost 25 years, Southwest Creations has provided dignified employment while improving access to education for youth and adults,” said Susan Matteucci, Executive Director of Southwest Creations Collaborative. “The South Valley Social Enterprise Center will allow us to expand our contract manufacturing business, create jobs and bring our impactful Hacia: Toward The University college readiness program to a wider audience.”

Other Center partners will include the national non-profit, Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors, a leadership development curriculum for Latino parents with young children; Creative Startups’ business accelerator trainings; and art/food-based program partners Three Sisters Kitchen and Artful Life.

“This Center, this partnership, this community commitment is exactly what we need in New Mexico,” said U.S. Representative (NM) Michelle Lujan Grisham. “The public and private partners that have come together to make this project happen are inspirational.”

Funders for the project include: U.S. Economic Development Administration, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Albuquerque Community Foundation, Santa Fe Community Foundation, NM Impact Investing Collaborative, Enchantment Provisions, LLC, CHI St. Joseph’s Children, Nusenda Foundation, McCune Charitable Foundation, Kresge Foundation, Catholic Campaign for Human Development and the Marguerite E. Casey Foundation.

“The Albuquerque Community Foundation is honored to be a part of the innovative funding collaborative investing in this project. Through our Impact Investment funds, the Foundation seeks to support projects like the South Valley Social Enterprise Center that are creating social impact in our City,” said Nick Williams, Finance Director and liaison to the Foundation’s Impact Investment Committee.

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Southwest Creations Collaborative was organized in 1994 as a sewing and handwork poverty alleviation project with a single goal: to provide dignified, living wage employment to women from low-income communities. The founders implemented strategies from projects around the world that recognize when a woman is given an opportunity to earn an income, she will invest in her children and family first.

southwestcreations.com

The Partnership for Community Action has worked to build strong, healthy communities in Albuquerque’s South Valley and across New Mexico since 1990. PCA focuses on critical community issues like early childhood education, economic equity, wellness and immigrant rights. Through raising awareness and advocacy opportunities, we support people and families to become strong leaders in their neighborhoods and in New Mexico.

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