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New Mexico Children's Foundation Joins Forces with Governor Bill Richardson and Molina Healthcare aiding the Navajo Nation's fight against COVID-19

Santa Fe, May 20, 2020 — With a virtual handshake, the partnership began between the New Mexico Children's Foundation's Board Chair and former Attorney General, Gary King and former Governor Bill Richardson. Partnering with medical equipment experts, Molina Healthcare, and former Navajo Nation President Peterson Zah, the Richardson-Zah Navajo Relief Fund for Children and Families was off to a serious start.

Since its establishment April 10th, the fund has begun purchasing masks, gloves, gowns and other personal protective equipment (PPE) to deliver to families and clinics within the Navajo Nation. To date, the partnership has raised over \$200,000 to aid the highly-impacted Navajo Nation and surrounding Indian Country. A portion of the fund will contribute to the salary for a vital Intensive Care physician to help staff the Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services in Gallup, NM.

"I wanted to partner with an organization that recognized the immediate and urgent nature of the COVID-19 crisis," said Governor Bill Richardson. "The New Mexico Children's Foundation understands that relief funds need to be quick and able to respond to the needs of the people, wherever and whatever they might be."

The Children's Foundation Executive Director Eileen Berry remarked, "It's natural for the New Mexico Children's Foundation (NMCF) to take on this partnership role and the Foundation is honored to do it; we've been quietly funding small non-profit organizations state-wide to help our kids succeed, and we're set up to be the Fund's fiscal sponsor."

The Richardson-Zah Navajo Fund for Children and Families also works closely with Molina Healthcare, Inc., utilizing their established procurement and delivery system to order and ship vital medical equipment that is so scarce in the hardest hit area of the U.S.

New Mexico Children's Foundation is a visionary, grassroots organization that funds small non-profit children's organizations throughout New Mexico. Since its founding in 1992, by former first lady Alice King, it has provided more than \$1.6 million in funding to 165 non-profit organizations in 25 New Mexico communities. For more information, go to www.nmchildren.org.

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