



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 27, 2020

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SANTA FE – Native communities in New Mexico have been hit hard by COVID-19, and institutional support for those populations is more necessary than ever. In the spirit of community collaboration, the Museum of New Mexico Foundation has formed a new partnership with Native American Professional Parent Resources (NAPPR) by donating 136 Foundation memberships to the households they serve.

NAPPR primarily works with infants and toddlers under the age of five, prenatal mothers, and children with developmental disabilities. The organization, based in Albuquerque, is a nationally recognized nonprofit that offers Early Intervention, Early Head Start, Tribal Home Visiting and Dental Support Center services, many of which have gone virtual since the onset of the pandemic. Since 1982, NAPPR has provided these services at no cost with the goal of uplifting and growing healthy children and families in urban and rural areas.

NAPPR Early Intervention Director Liz Torrison says the Museum of New Mexico Foundation is a natural partner for the nonprofit, since access to cultural outlets, excursions, and events can be tricky for the Native families served by NAPPR. “It felt like there was a clear line between what we’re trying to do and what the museums do. Our programs are focused around early education, learning and development. The state museum system is a great way for our families to access the tools for that early learning. We really wanted to open up a new avenue for their learning and exploration.”

Jamie Clements, President/CEO of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation, says the partnership is in line with other educational initiatives supported by the Foundation, which has previously donated memberships to families affiliated with the Santa Fe Community College and Reading Quest, a local literacy organization. “For us, the fact that NAPPR focuses on Native communities is really important,” Clements says. “Native people in New Mexico have suffered the most from COVID and its economic distress. We wanted to focus our efforts on these communities and their families and children.”

He adds that these types of donations tend to foster lasting relationships with the Museum of New Mexico institutions, which include the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture and the Laboratory of Anthropology, the Museum of International Folk Art, the New Mexico History Museum, the New Mexico Museum of Art, New Mexico Historic Sites, and the Office of Archaeological Studies.

“By offering these complimentary memberships, families have a year’s worth of experiences at the museums and historic sites around the state,” Clements says. “I think that exposure, in and of itself, is really valuable and will support lifelong learning.”

About the Museum of New Mexico Foundation

The Museum of New Mexico Foundation supports the Museum of New Mexico system, focusing on fundraising for exhibitions and education programs, retail and licensing programs, financial management, advocacy and special initiatives. The Foundation was founded in 1962 by Thomas B. Catron III with the goal of providing private support for the four state museums in Santa Fe. The private, nonprofit Foundation enjoys a robust private-public partnership with the State of New Mexico, and has expanded to support eight historic sites statewide as well as the Office of Archaeological Studies.

For more information, go to museumfoundation.org.