



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **United Way of Central New Mexico Establishes Family Stability Council**

Albuquerque, NM – United Way of Central New Mexico (UWCNM) has established an Advisory Council to guide its development of innovative efforts to increase the well-being of families in central New Mexico; Helen Wertheim, a community volunteer, and District Attorney Raul Torrez will chair the Council.

"I am proud to partner with the United Way of Central New Mexico to work on initiatives that support and strengthen families in our community and make us all safer," Bernalillo County District Attorney Raúl Torrez said.

The Council will play a crucial role in developing strategies that will increase prospects for secure and stable homes for children, improve children's safety and well-being, and support working families and student success from cradle to career. To work toward achieving UWCNM's mission while making the best use of resources, UWCNM will focus on Family Stability and Education/Youth Development through program investments and with nonprofit, government, business, and community partners.

"Discussions with many donors, partners and community members have reinforced that this approach makes sense," said Wertheim. "Our extensive research indicates the community is supportive of focused strategies that will benefit families and lead to greater success in our goal toward a higher graduation rate."

UWCNM has been actively engaged in supporting Education/Youth Development efforts in the community through its education initiative Mission: Graduate. This growing movement is working with hundreds of individual partners with a shared commitment to the goal of 60,000 new graduates with post-secondary certificates or degrees in central New Mexico by 2020. The new Family Stability Council will analyze needed system changes, determine effective advocacy efforts, and facilitate collaborative projects.

"United Way of Central New Mexico is tremendously pleased to have the dedication of two community leaders to guide this opportunity," said UWCNM President and CEO Ed Rivera. "Our commitment is to making real, long-term improvements as we focus on achieving measurable goals in education support and family stability."

United Way of Central New Mexico, founded in 1934, serves a four-county region. UWCNM's mission is to bring people and resources together to measurably improve lives and strengthen our communities. To learn more about United Way of Central New Mexico, visit [www.uwcnm.org](http://www.uwcnm.org) or call 505-247-3671.

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