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## **\$25,000 Funding Awarded to El Rio Community Health Center from Intuit Foundation Thanks to Intuit Employee Lucia Rodriguez**

*Tucson, Arizona* - In a recent announcement by the Intuit Foundation, El Rio was chosen as one of five organizations nationally to receive a “High Impact Grant”. \$25,000 has been awarded to El Rio Community Health Center to provide medical care, glucose test strips and education to low income patients with diabetes. El Rio’s Diabetes Program was a good match with Intuit’s guiding principles which would create a sustained lasting change for our organization and the patients we serve.

Intuit employees across the country were given the opportunity to nominate their favorite charity for a “High Impact Grant”. Priority was given to nonprofits where local Intuit employees had involvement and could demonstrate a deep understanding of the organization and the community impact this gift would make.

**Lucia Rodriguez, a Small Business Advisor, for Intuit QuickBooks here in Tucson and an advocate for El Rio Community Health Center for over 30 years seized the opportunity to submit a request for support.** She knew that thousands of patients rely on the community health center’s healthcare team to help them manage their diabetes through a program that provides care coordination between doctors and clinical pharmacists, medication management, bi-lingual education, empowerment and support.

In the grant request, Rodriguez shared her belief with Intuit’s corporate development review team that by selecting El Rio’s Diabetes Program, Intuit could reaffirm its local and company-wide commitment to health life style choice and changes. After months of review, she received the exciting news that the request was one of five in the country to be approved.

“This gift will help to improve overall quality of life for many patients that we serve, their families and our community,” states Brenda Goldsmith, the Executive Director of the El Rio Health Center Foundation. Public, private partnerships and funding are critical for this life-changing, cost-effective program which helps underinsured and uninsured people. El Rio is extremely proud of this innovative diabetes program which is directed by Sandra Leal, PharmD, MPH, FAPhA, CDE.

Dr. Leal and her team of clinical pharmacists provide services to predominantly Hispanic and Native American people. Dr. Leal was the first pharmacist in Arizona to receive prescription authority and the program has expanded to multiple El Rio sites. She has received the ASHP Best Practices Award in Health-Systems Pharmacy from the American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists, the Innovative Research in Primary Care Award from the National Association of Community Health Centers, the Pinnacle Award from the American Pharmacists Association Foundation and was selected as Pharmacist of the Year by the Arizona Pharmacy Alliance. Her work has been widely published and she is deeply involved in improving patient safety and health outcomes as a faculty member of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Patient Safety & Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative. Dr. Leal is also an adjunct instructor at the University of Arizona, College of Pharmacy and at A.T. Still University, School of Osteopathic Medicine.

El Rio Community Health Center is the largest provider of medical and dental services to uninsured and Medicaid populations in Pima County. With 17 sites in Tucson, El Rio serves the medical and dental needs of more than 76,000 patients annually. El Rio employs over 800 people with an annual budget of over \$90 million dollars. A national model of health care excellence, El Rio's mission is to: "Improve the health of our community through comprehensive, accessible, affordable, quality and compassionate care." For more information visit. [www.elrio.org](http://www.elrio.org).

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