

# You Create HEALTHIER Communities

EL RIO  
FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER | Winter 2022

## Thank You – Please Join Us for a Special Tour

We are grateful for your charitable contributions and investments that support our mission, help us expand care, and provide life-changing medical, dental, behavioral health, wellness programs, cancer screenings and treatment to the 125,000+ people we serve. We care about our patients, employees, you, your family, the health, and well-being of our community. Thank you for being part of our El Rio family! **We invite you to join us for a behind the scenes tour of one of our thirteen health centers, to see first-hand the impact of your support.** Please email [foundation@elrio.org](mailto:foundation@elrio.org) or call (520) 205-4947 for tour information.



## Grateful Patients Helped by Your Support Share Their Thanks

"My name is Maria, I am 53 years old, and have three children and two grandchildren. I am writing this letter to express my most sincere and profound gratitude for helping with my cancer treatment. I have a great and strong will to live my life and continue being in my family's company. I know I will recover, heal, and lead a healthy life. I will win this battle with God's help, and with the help you have given me. Thank you so very much and may God greatly bless every person that made this assistance possible and accessible."

Patient, Maria

"I just want to thank you all for going above and beyond to help me with my current dental dilemma! I am still pinching myself that my treatment was covered! Please extend my SINCERE GRATITUDE to the "donors" for their generosity in making this possible for me!!! Saying THANK YOU just doesn't seem enough. I am EVER SO GRATEFUL for your compassion and empathy. I have felt for a long time that I have angels who watch over me and I have no doubt they answered my prayers."

Patient, Kathleen

"When I went into El Rio that day not only was I crying about the dental pain, I was also very upset about losing another tooth. El Rio called and said that I was the recipient of this grant or gift to get my teeth fixed. You have put a smile on my face and in my heart. To everyone with El Rio dental and the donors you will always be remembered and forever in my prayers. I hope you get to Bless more people with a new smile."

Patient, Adelaine





### Welcome Clinton Kuntz, DBH, El Rio Health, CEO

Clinton Kuntz, DBH joined El Rio Health in July, as our new CEO upon the retirement of Dr. Nancy Johnson. Prior to joining El Rio, Clinton was the CEO at MHC Healthcare since 2013. Dr. Kuntz has experience in all areas of healthcare management including operations, finance, information technology, and building construction. He has served on the board of directors of the Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers, Arizona Health Insurance Reciprocal Company, Sun Corridor, Collaborative Ventures Network and P3 Arizona.

From his fifteen years working as COO and CEO in community health centers to a personal experience where his daughter's life was saved through community healthcare, Clinton has been driven to continue the vital services provided by community health centers. Since joining El Rio Health as the CEO in July, Clinton has been very busy visiting all the sites and meeting the amazing staff.

### Recognizing Nancy Johnson, Retired CEO

There were many hugs, memories shared, and gratitude expressed when former CEO, Nancy Johnson, PhD, RN, retired after 13+ years of service and leadership at El Rio Health. Her impact has been far reaching and we are fortunate to have her passion for our mission continue as she assists with several projects and committees at El Rio Health and El Rio Foundation. The Health Center Board voted to recognize her by naming the Grant Health Center in her honor. **Thank you, Nancy!**



### The Joint Commission Visit



El Rio Health is accredited by The Joint Commission, and we recently had a successful renewal visit. In November we participated in an unannounced four-day on-site survey with three surveyor teams. The surveyors reviewed Ambulatory Care, Laboratory Services and Behavioral Health for the first time. Surveyors observed providers and teams providing care, spoke with patients, board members, colleagues across El Rio. They reviewed a number of policies, documents, and records.

Accreditation by The Joint Commission signifies El Rio Health's commitment to advancing safety and transforming health care by encouraging, empowering, and embracing ongoing quality improvement. We commend our colleagues for the successful visit and their ongoing commitment to the care of 125,000+ people served by El Rio.

### American Heart Association and the American Medical Association Recognize El Rio Health at the Gold Level



Congratulations to our health care teams and patients working on this important initiative through the Target: BP program. The main goals are to improve blood pressure control rates and reduce the number of Americans who have heart attacks or strokes. Gold level recognizes health care practices that have controlled high blood pressure in at least 70% of their adult patient population.



### HRSA's Bureau of Health Workforce awards El Rio Health a 3 Year Grant of \$2,400,685

El Rio Health was one of two organizations in our state to receive a competitive grant to establish a Community Health Worker Training Program. We are working in partnership with Pima Community College, to develop and implement a Community Health Worker Training Program (CHWTP). The program will advance health equity and support for underserved communities by increasing the number of Community Health Workers employed as members of integrated care teams to help reduce health disparities.



### Do You Know About El Rio's Street Medicine Outreach Teams?

Four El Rio Teams comprised of nurse practitioners, medical assistants, behavioral health professionals and care coordinators serve hundreds of people experiencing homelessness in parks and washes in addition to providing medical care for people at partner organizations including Sister Jose's Women's Shelter, Casa Maria, Salvation Army Hospitality House, Gospel Rescue Mission - Center for Opportunity & Women's Center, Teen Challenge, Primavera, Casa De Vida, Casa Alitas, Old Pueblo Community Services, libraries and more.



### 151 Women With No Insurance Receive Free Screening Mammograms

Thanks to major support from Quilt For A Cause, Inc., Roche Tissue Diagnostics, J. William & Helen D. Stuart Foundation, Hope Matters Breast Cancer Foundation and individual donors, El Rio's radiology teams provided 151 free mammograms in October. Nineteen women needed additional imaging. Thank you to all of you who support our cancer screening and treatment programs. We are grateful for our partner hospitals and specialists for their discounted care, which helps your support help more people in need. This year donor gifts have helped eighteen patients diagnosed with breast, colon, prostate, pancreatic, testicular and lung cancer access cancer treatment totaling \$125,000!





# INFINITE WOMAN GALA

## Gala Nets over \$300,000 for Maternal Health Services at El Rio

We want to thank everyone who helped make this year's Gala a wonderful success! We are grateful for the vision and work of Angela & Steve Celis, Event Chairs, the Gala committee, Foundation Board, sponsors, donors and volunteers!



### GOLD SPONSORS

Banner - University Health Plans, Humana, Lapan Sunshine Foundation, Lloyd Construction Company, Inc, Lovitt & Touché, Marsh & McLennan Agency, LLC, Sonora Quest Laboratories of Tucson/Laboratory Sciences of Arizona, Tucson Federal Credit Union, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan

### SILVER SPONSORS

AGM Container Controls, Inc, Allergy Asthma Associates, PC, Arizona Community Specialists, Avant Dermatology & Aesthetics, BWS Architects, Inc, Downtown & D2 Dispensaries, El Rio OB/GYN Associates, Encompass Rehabilitation Hospitals of Tucson, Equality Health, Fester & Chapman, PLLC, Rick & Lynn Gregson, Henry Schein, Hydrant, Yvette-Marie Margaillan & Eddie Diaz, P3 Health Partners Arizona, RG & Sons Plumbing, Inc, Dr. Adalberto Renteria - Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Southern Arizona Land Trust.

### BRONZE SPONSORS

Achilles, Inc., Anonymous, Arizona Clinical Research Center-Dr. Manuel Modiano, Asthma & Airway Disease Research Center, Bank of America-Merrill Lynch, Carondelet Health Network, Angela & Steve Celis, DeConcini McDonald Yetwin & Lacy, PC, El Rio Vecinos, Lars & Ann Larson, Palo Verde Behavioral Health, Pima Heart & Vascular, Inc, R & A CPAs, PC, Radiology Ltd, SMG-Tucson Convention Center, Sun Corridor, Inc, Swan Gastroenterology & Surgical Center, PC, Tucson Electric Power, Tucson Fire Department, Patricia Wallace & Jan Konstanty, Wells Fargo

### MARKETING SPONSORS

Arizona Medicare Helpers, Bobby Bakos-Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, Edye Riharb, The Schaefer Team, Si Charro | Flores Concepts, Stark Electric, Inc

And thank you to all the El Rio Employees who purchased tables and tickets! If you have not yet paid your Gala commitment, please visit [elrio.org/donate](http://elrio.org/donate) or call us at 520-205-4947.

# EL RIO VECINOS

## Young Professionals Volunteer Group celebrates 10 Year Anniversary!

In 2012, former El Rio Foundation Board Member, Dan Chambers, led the launch of El Rio Vecinos, a dynamic, engaged group of young professionals who are passionate about making a difference in our community. Vecinos collaborate with El Rio and other partners to enhance the health of our neighbors. Over the past ten years the Vecinos have contributed thousands of hours of volunteer service and raised \$727,086 in support of El Rio's children's dental services through their Annual Block Party fundraiser.



We invite you to join us as a sponsor of the April 15th Vecinos Block Party. Proceeds from the event will support El Rio's Peer Health Navigator Initiative and increased health access for youth in our community.

Please contact Jill Rodriguez, Development Coordinator at [jillr@elrio.org](mailto:jillr@elrio.org) or 520-870-7148 for sponsor and event information.







## PROGRAMS WE ARE FUNDRAISING FOR IN 2023

The funding that we receive from donors, like you, supports: Adopt-A-Family, Asthma Care, Cancer Screening & Treatment Funds, Dental Services, LGBTQ Care, Children's Literacy Program, Maternal Health, Teen Reproductive Health Care (RHAP), Wellness Programs, Behavioral Health Care, medical equipment, capital expansion and more. More than 60% of those we serve live below the federal poverty level and 15% have no health care coverage and access our sliding fee scale. Thank you for your investments and help ensuring those in need have access to care.

## Thank you to these generous foundations, corporations and organizations for their grants to El Rio Foundation for patient and program support of \$5K+ in 2022 (received by 12.6.22).

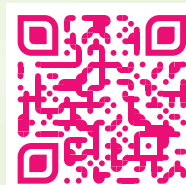
Angel Charity for Children Inc  
Arizona Community Foundation —  
Kellenberger & Tollefson Center for  
LGBTQ Philanthropy  
Bank of America  
Banner — University Health Plans  
The Bert W. Martin Foundation  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona  
Foundation for Community &  
Health Advancement  
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Consulado de México en Tucson  
Cox Communications  
David & Norma Lewis Foundation  
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Delta Dental of Arizona  
Eaglet Fund held at Community  
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Epic Systems Corporation  
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**We value our partnership and your support that changes lives for those we serve!**

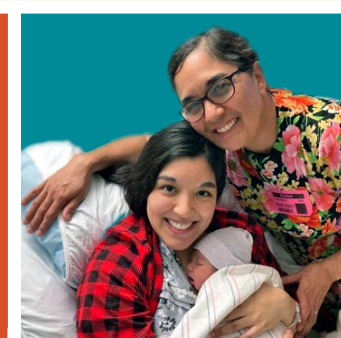
## THE GIFT OF HEALTH



### We invite you to join

El Rio 1000+ are individual donors who invest \$1,000+ annually. Your support stays local and 95% of every dollar donated goes to direct care. You can gift cash; donate securities, stocks, bonds, money market funds; or make a distribution from your IRA, 401K, pension, or donor advised fund. **Call (520) 205-4947 for more information.**

EL RIO  
**1000+**  
IMPACTING 100,000+



## The Transformative Power of a Legacy Gift

If you are an El Rio donor, **YOU** know first-hand the satisfaction that comes from making a difference. We at the El Rio Foundation deeply appreciate your generosity. As you look to the future, you may wonder, what will happen to the health care programs made possible through your gifts once you are gone? You can continue your support even after your lifetime, by arranging a Legacy gift through your will. Estate gifts are a wonderful way to support the mission of El Rio, while creating your legacy.

## DID YOU KNOW?

El Rio provides health care for **over 125,000** people in our community.

**YOU** can positively impact a family needing medical or dental care with your donation today. Your charitable contribution keeps our community healthy and stays right here in Tucson!

## Thank you for your support.

El Rio Foundation is a Qualified Arizona Charitable Tax Credit organization (up to \$400/single and \$800/couple filing jointly). You can give by phone: 520-205-4947, or online at [elrio.org/donate](http://elrio.org/donate), or mail your gift to: El Rio Foundation 839 W. Congress Tucson, AZ 85745.





*You Create*  
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Will you help us keep our community healthy?



Your support  
changes  
lives!  
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