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For Immediate Release

YDI is set to make an enormous IMPACT on the Southwestern New Mexico County of Doña Ana

Las Cruces, New Mexico – Youth Development, Inc. (YDI) will begin a new program in Doña Ana County, New Mexico that will assist individuals in gaining valuable job skills and educational assistance.

YDI's new program, Including Multicultural Populations Academically through Career Development and Training (IMPACT), funded by a \$400,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, will provide education and workforce opportunities to immigrant individuals in Doña Ana County and engage in collective impact with community partners to generate change resulting in equal access and opportunity for all youth.

"We have 51 years of experience leading social services and care in New Mexico, and because of this YDI understands the importance of equal access to job skills and training for all individuals who wish to better themselves in order to become a positive influence in their community," said Robert Chavez, COO for YDI. "This experience allows us to further our work with youth and families in Doña Ana County and advance the overarching goal of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for transformational change."

Over the course of the next two years, the goal will be to work with 45 young adults ages 18-24 to provide access to occupational skills training and on-the-job work experience to develop career pathways to future employment placement and instill self-sufficiency and confidence to pursue positions in high demand and emerging industries. YDI will also collaborate with various partners in the community to lead focused discussions identifying barriers to education and training access for all populations to create solutions and drive system change through advocacy and policy recommendations.

YDI is currently recruiting for a Director to lead IMPACT. To view the job description and apply, please visit YDI's website at www.ydinm.org and search under Careers. Additional questions and inquiries can be directed to Concha Cordova, Vice-President of the YDI Education, Employment & Training Division at ccordova@ydinm.org or 505-977-3216.

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Youth Development, Inc. (YDI)

Founded in 1971, Youth Development, Inc. (YDI) is a nationally recognized, New Mexico-based, youth and family service organization. We assist with early childhood education and childcare, prenatal care, alternative education, job training and placement, mental and behavioral health services, homeless assistance, mentoring, family development and family counseling services.

About the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal innovator and entrepreneur Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life. The Kellogg

Foundation is based in Battle Creek, Michigan, and works throughout the United States and internationally, as well as with sovereign tribes. Special attention is paid to priority places where there are high concentrations of poverty and where children face significant barriers to success. WKKF priority places in the U.S. are in Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico and New Orleans; and internationally, are in Mexico and Haiti. For more information, visit www.wkkf.org.