



## State of New Mexico

### *Office of the Governor*

For Immediate Release  
March 31, 2005

Contact: Pahl Shipley  
505.476.2202

## **Governor Bill Richardson Announces New Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives**

### **Office will help community organizations access public funding for approved programs**

SANTA FE, NM- Governor Bill Richardson today announced the creation of the Governor's Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives. The mission of the office is to connect local faith-based and community organizations with opportunities for public funding on all levels- city, county, state, and federal.

"For too long, New Mexico's faith-based organizations who serve the most in need and the most vulnerable among us have not had access to public funding, or have not known *how* to access that funding," said Governor Richardson. "This new office will cut through the red tape and make sure these important groups have a level playing field to access desperately needed financial support and potential partnerships."

At a news conference in the State Capitol today, the Governor also announced he has named Anne Apodaca to head the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

"Anne has been involved in virtually all aspects of social service in New Mexico, from working with high-risk youth, to aiding people with substance abuse problems, to family counseling and intervention. She is well qualified, and we are lucky to have her," said Governor Richardson.

The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives will provide a single point of contact for organizations, eliminating duplication of effort and streamlining the

process. The office will be funded with \$100,000 included in HB 2, and will be housed in the Children, Youth, and Families Department.

Faith-based organizations that provide vital community services to assist the homeless, at-risk youth, senior citizens, and those battling drug and alcohol abuse should have access to every available public dollar. By providing access to public funding, this office will offer thousands more New Mexicans the opportunity to receive these desperately needed services.

#30#