



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 6, 2011

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### **Tucson Federal Credit Union Selects El Rio Health Center Foundation To Receive First Ever \$25,000 Community Sponsorship Award**

Tucson, Arizona - In this time of drastic state budget cuts to non-profits and shrinking corporate giving programs, Tucson Federal Credit Union decided to do something totally different and gift the largest philanthropic gift to one charity that they have ever made through an invitation RFP process. Brenda Goldsmith, Executive Director of El Rio Health Center Foundation, was thrilled to get the phone call from TFCU announcing El Rio had been selected from a number of worthy charities to receive TFCU's first ever \$25,000 Community Sponsorship gift. TFCU's generous donation will be used for direct program support for two programs, sponsorship of the 10th Anniversary El Rio Health Center Foundation, October 28th, 2011 gala dinner, and Thanksgiving luncheon. The two programs receiving support are El Rio's Back to School Immunization program and El Rio's nationally recognized Pharmacy-Based Diabetes program.

**“Tucson Federal Credit Union is interested and concerned that all people in our community have access to quality healthcare. We care deeply about the well-being of our community and look forward to a wonderful year-long partnership working with El Rio to help keep Tucson families healthy”** says Susan Stansberry, President and CEO of the Tucson Federal Credit Union. TFCU is committed to community involvement. They encourage their employees to donate their time to the Tucson community by giving them eight hours of paid volunteer time each year

TFCU will be our newest corporate partner in the free back to school immunization events starting next month. El Rio currently collaborates with the Boys & Girls Clubs, Sol Casinos, Tucson Medical Center and others to provide an array of services including immunizations, after-school program enrollment, dental screenings, free books, and health insurance information. The community is invited to bring their school age children 5-18 years old for FREE back to school immunizations at the shot clinics listed below.

Thursday- July 21, 2011 - 3 Pm to 6 pm  
Boys and Girls Club - Jim & Vicki Click Clubhouse  
2935 South Columbus Blvd - Tucson, AZ 85716

thursday- July 28, 2011 - 3 pm to 6 pm  
Boys and Girls Club - Frank & Edith Morton Clubhouse  
3155 East Grant Road - Tucson, AZ 85706

saturday- July 30, 2011 - 10 am to 2 pm  
Boys and Girls Club - Holmes Tuttle Clubhouse  
2585 East 36th Street - Tucson, AZ 85713

saturday- August 6, 2011 - 10am to 2 pm  
Pascua Yaqui Wellness Center  
5305 West Calle Torim - Tucson, AZ 85757

Tucson Federal Credit Union believes in “Creating an exceptional experience for each person, every day.” TFCU understands the important role health and wellness plays in having an exceptional experience. If you suffer from a chronic disease like diabetes it is important to have a passionate, qualified medical team helping you to manage your disease.

El Rio’s doctors refer diabetic patients to the Pharmacy-Based Diabetes Program when all usual treatment methods to achieve blood sugar control have failed. Once in the program, bi-lingual residency-trained Clinical Pharmacists (one at each of the four Diabetes Program Clinics) provide patients the appropriate diagnostic, educational, therapeutic management services including prescribing medication and ordering laboratory tests.

This program model allows clinical pharmacists working with physicians under collaborative practice agreements to provide the services for which the physician simply does not have time. The pharmacists generally devote 45 - 60 minutes to the first and second visits with multiple follow-up visits: a level of involvement that is simply not practical for a physician who sees 30 - 50 patients per day and can only spend 15 - 20 minutes per appointment. This model of care has helped patients feel empowered and achieve positive outcomes. Tucson Federal Credit Union has been a long time supporter of El Rio’s Reach Out Read Program running book drives at their branches and volunteering their time. This year, free books will be available at the immunization events in addition to the pediatric offices.

Additionally, TFCU will be El Rio’s first ever Community Champion Sponsor for our Raise the Pepper 10th anniversary foundation dinner taking place October 28th, 2011 at the Westin La Paloma Resort and Spa.

*El Rio is the 14th largest community health center in the country and offers primary medical and dental care. El Rio Community Health Center has 17 locations and serves over 74,000 patients annually. Over 60% of El Rio's patients served live at or below the poverty level.*

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