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Tucson, Arizona

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**El Rio Community Health Center – New 26,000 Square Foot El Pueblo Grand Opening
New Partnership with Canyon Ranch Institute Announcement
Thursday, December 2nd – 4:00 to 6:00 pm – 101 West Irvington – Building 10**

Thursday, December 2nd El Rio Community Health Center will host a grand opening for the new El Pueblo medical site that combines the current El Pueblo Health Center and El Rio's school based clinic located at the Sunnyside Unified School District Multi-Educational Learning Center under one new state of the art medical facility. The public is invited to join community leaders at the ribbon cutting ceremony. Additionally, a new partnership with Canyon Ranch Institute which will take place at this new site will be announced. There will be tours of the new facility and a chance for the community to meet El Rio Community Health Center's Executive Director, Kathy Byrne, the El Pueblo medical team, BFL build team and Canyon Ranch Institute, Executive Director, Jennifer Cabe, M.A..

The new facility is a state of the art, eco-friendly, "green" medical facility and the second anticipated LEED(tm) certified facility under El Rio's umbrella of 17 medical sites. The new site is located at the El Pueblo Regional Neighborhood Center at Irvington and Old Nogales Highway and has been under construction for the past year.

El Rio received \$2.5 million in federal stimulus funding under ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009) toward the construction project, and a second federal grant in the amount of \$357,000 to help towards equipment for the new facility. Private donors to the El Rio Health Center Foundation contributed \$200,000 to fund the new x-ray machine.

The new medical site will offer primary care, lab, x-ray, pharmacy services, group visits and health related classes. Previous to the new site, patients seen at the El Pueblo Clinic and the MEL Clinic have had to travel to other locations for radiology and pharmacy services. Patient visits are expected to grow from 13,000 to over 40,000 annually.

The Design and build team includes CDG Architects, Swaim Associates and BFL Construction.

The community is invited to join El Rio's for the ceremony from 4:15-4:45 pm. Tours will be offered afterwards to learn about the "green" features that were incorporated in the building. Music will be provided by "DOC-appella" and refreshments by El Charro Café catering. An information table will be set up for people who are interested in becoming patients at the new site.

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