

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Mark Motsko
505-850-7375
Mark@jrsparkle.org



Kelli Cooper
VP Albuquerque Community Foundation
505-883-6240
kelli@abqcf.org

Jennifer Riordan Memorial Trust Awards \$50,000 in Grants

Albuquerque, NM—Donations totaling \$50,000 were awarded this afternoon to seven Albuquerque nonprofits from the Jennifer Riordan Memorial Trust. Hundreds of people from around the world donated in Jennifer’s name after she tragically lost her life aboard Southwest Airlines flight 1380 on April 17, 2018. With these grants, Jennifer’s family fulfills their promise to put every dollar donated in her name back into the community.

Jennifer’s husband, Michael and her two children Averie and Josh, along with the Albuquerque Community Foundation, announced the grants at the Albuquerque Community Foundation meeting room with representatives of all benefitting nonprofits in attendance.

“We are honored to continue the work Jennifer was so passionate about,” Michael said. “I am proud of the time and effort the foundation’s advisory board put into making the decisions of the first grantees.”

Grants made from the Jennifer Riordan Memorial Trust will support:

- Junior Achievement (\$10,000), for middle school programming.
- Working Classroom (\$10,000), for “Spark Kindness” murals developed and painted by local artists and youth to promote and celebrate goodness in Albuquerque.
- Barrett Foundation (\$10,000), Angel Fund to help women and children gain stable housing.
- Crossroads for Women (\$5,000) for a scholarship supporting formerly incarcerated women to obtain educational and vocational skills.
- Family Advocacy Center (\$5,000) for a partnership between the Family Advocacy Center, Deep Dive Coding and NM Legal Aid to provide women survivors of abuse of coding skills.
- Galloping Grace Youth Ranch (\$9,000), “Sparkle Tent” to encourage acts of kindness among junior leaders during the annual Pumpkin Patch.
- Annunciation Catholic School (\$1,000), for water bottle fillers to promote sustainable water sources.

“Each one of these groups exemplifies Jennifer’s principle to ‘always be kind, loving, caring and sharing,’” Michael said. “Averie, Josh and I are committed to continue making Albuquerque a better

place, which was what Jenn always strived for. This is the first of what we expect to be many years of philanthropy in Jenn's name."

For continued future grantmaking, the Jennifer Riordan Sparkle Fund has been established as a donor-advised endowed fund at the Albuquerque Community Foundation. The fund will focus on four areas close to Jennifer's heart: financial literacy, women's empowerment, Albuquerque vitality and childhood education.

For more information and to donate to the Jennifer Riordan Sparkle Fund, please visit www.jrsparkle.org.

###