Los Alamos National Security awards grants to 24 nonprofits in Northern New Mexico

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LOS ALAMOS, New Mexico, February 5, 2009 — Local nonprofit organizations that benefit from volunteer efforts by employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory received an additional assist: $265,000 in special one-time Community Giving grants from Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS), the company that manages the Laboratory.

Twenty-four nonprofit organizations from Los Alamos, Española, Taos, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and Carlsbad received grants for projects that include feeding the homeless, building a commercial kitchen for individuals with developmental disabilities, and providing high-cost specialty medical equipment for critically ill children among other things. “The response from nonprofit organizations in Northern New Mexico has been tremendous,” said Community Programs Office Director Kurt Steinhaus, “I enthusiastically thank all of the Lab volunteers for making a real difference in our communities.”

Each grant request was reviewed by a committee of six Laboratory employees who made their evaluations based on a set of criteria that included best business practices and the involvement of at least one Lab volunteer.

The Community Giving grants program is one of several regional initiatives supported by the LANS Community Commitment Plan, which invests about $3 million per year in economic development, education, and other community giving efforts. The grants were specifically awarded to support the efforts of Lab employees whose volunteer work with nonprofit organizations encourages a vibrant quality of life in the area. Qualifying 501(c) (3) organizations in New Mexico were awarded amounts ranging from $1,000 to $25,000. The list of recipients is at http://www.lanl.gov/news/newsbulletin/pdf/grant_list_2008.pdf.

The grant program is in addition to the LANS dollar-for-dollar match of employee contributions through the Laboratory's employee giving campaign, which this year provided more than $2 million for United Way of Northern New Mexico and United Way of Santa Fe County.

For more information about the Community Giving Grant program, contact Mariann Johnston or Vangie Trujillo of Community Programs at 665-4400 or CPO@lanl.gov by e-mail.

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Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the Department of Energy's NNSA