

For Immediate Release

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Alaska Native legal advocates award Southcentral Foundation \$450k

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA – March 20, 2015 – Southcentral Foundation (SCF) is deeply humbled to announce that it has received a \$450,000 challenge grant from the law firm of Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller & Munson, LLP as well as Lloyd and Heather Kendall-Miller toward construction of SCF's new wellness and therapy center.

SCF is constructing a 58,886-square-foot building on the Alaska Native Health Campus designed to house the SCF Nuka Institute; a therapy center to serve the growing needs of SCF's Family Wellness Warriors Initiative; and the growth of Learning Circle opportunities as a core service option for approaching better health and wellness. The facility is slated to open in spring 2016.

Attorney Lloyd Miller explained that "as we approach our 40th year working with Native American Tribes, and after three decades working with Alaska Native tribal healthcare providers, our firm decided it was time to say thank you and to make our own contribution toward improving tribal self-governance and the well-being of Alaska Native people." Miller added that the firm's gift to SCF is one of a series of designated grants to Indian Tribes the firm is making this year across the United States.

The Sonosky Chambers firm has been a leading voice throughout Indian country in championing tribal self-governance and in vindicating historic tribal claims against the federal government, including the U.S. Indian Health Service. Last year the firm assisted SCF in securing \$128 million in compensation against IHS, following 20 years of federal court litigation which included two tribal victories in the U.S. Supreme Court.

"We've had a 20-plus-year relationship with Mr. Miller and his firm since we began fighting the federal government for underpaid contract support costs. They have been committed to ensuring funding for health care for our Alaska Native and American Indian people," said SCF Chairman James Segura.

SCF is an Alaska Native health care organization formed in 1982 to improve the health and social conditions of Alaska Native people. SCF has grown from a single dental clinic to an internationally recognized, award-winning health care organization employing more than 1,800 people and managing more than 80 health care programs and services to serve 65,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people in Anchorage, Mat-Su Borough and 55 rural villages that make up the Anchorage Service Unit. Additionally, since 1999, SCF has jointly owned and managed the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. SCF's Nuka System of Care has earned the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award and other national and international recognitions for performance excellence and innovation.

“This is a historic contribution – the largest, single contribution from any one entity we have received. Words cannot express the deep appreciation we feel toward the people of the Sonosky Chambers firm and can only say *Quyanaa synaq* (big thank you) on behalf of the SCF family and the 65,000 people we serve,” adds SCF President/CEO Dr. Katherine Gottlieb. “In true Lloyd spirit, he and his partners are challenging other organizations to join in this celebrated moment of giving by contributing to the matching grant.”

The Sonosky Chambers grant is a challenge grant, and SCF will be releasing additional information about the challenge in the coming weeks.

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