Donors show the love for Moab Valley Multicultural Center

April 14, 2016

When the staff and volunteers at the Moab Valley Multicultural Center (MVMC) set goals for the annual “Love Utah Give Utah” fundraising event sponsored by the Community Foundation of Utah, they thought 250 individual donors to MVMC might be an ambitious but realistic target.

But when the 24-hour event ended March 31, MVMC had amassed 449 donors, who contributed $10,393. It was the second highest total of all the nonprofit organizations participating in the event in the “Small Organizations” category, and the highest total of any rural-based group, according to the event’s organizers. Of the top five organizations, only MVMC was based in rural Utah. Added to this was a $7,500 matching grant and a $5,000 prize for finishing second in the state that brought the fundraising total for MVMC to $22,893.

That infusion of funding will allow the center to deepen its commitment to providing services to marginalized people who often have nowhere else to turn, said MVMC director Rhiana Medina, adding that the center will focus on expanding its crisis intervention, youth programming and interpretation/translation programs.

Noting how difficult it is for rural nonprofits to compete with Wasatch Front groups, Medina said she is thrilled by the response from the Moab and Grand County residents.

“This year we proved we have great support both within and outside of Moab,” she said. “Our staff is extremely hardworking, creative, and dedicated to the mission and it shows.”

MVMC also provides cultural outreach and education activities and language and life skills classes and counseling, along with sponsoring the Amigos Club at Grand County High
School, helping adults prepare for driving tests, and Spanish classes for both adults and children.

“The center is often a lifeline for people who don't know where else to go,” Medina said, “and thanks to the generous contributions from so many, we can help more people in need.”

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MVMC lauds Tuesday, Thursday hours From the left is Zaida Agreda, Rhiana Medina, both of Moab Valley Multicultural Center; Kelli...