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**FORWARD PROMISE AWARDS \$3.15 MILLION IN GRANTS
TO PROMOTE THE HEALTH AND SUCCESS OF BOYS AND YOUNG MEN OF
COLOR**

*Amistades, Inc. among Nine Organizations to Receive Funding To Help BYMOC Heal,
Grow and Thrive in the Face of Chronic Stress and Trauma*

Tucson – Forward Promise, a national grantmaking program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, today announced grant awards totaling \$3.15 million to nine organizations across the United States that are helping boys and young men of color (BYMOC) heal, grow, and thrive. This first round of grant-making entitled, Empowerment Projects, will support organizations that provide culturally-relevant and evidence-supported responses to trauma for BYMOC in schools, health systems, juvenile detention, and community-based settings. These organizations help BYMOC overcome the effects of systemic and historical trauma linked to discrimination, oppression, dehumanization and prolonged exposure to violence, poverty and other forms of toxic stress.

Amistades, Inc. is one of the nine organizations selected to contribute to the Forward Promise Empowerment Projects. Founded in 2006, Amistades is a Latino non-profit community development organization committed to providing culturally responsive services, advocacy for social justice and community empowerment. Projects Familia Adelante, Mestizo Mentoring, and Save Our Sons, currently serve Latino boys and young men in schools and in community settings through psycho-cultural early interventions, cultural mentoring, and peer-led leadership development programs focused on building self-efficacy, self-sufficiency, and strengthening family ties.

Under the Empowerment Projects initiative, Amistades will help young Latinos explore their Mexican heritage and create a positive cultural identity to thrive in Southern Arizona.



"Amistades sees partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as a critical building block in achieving its over-arching and ever-growing vision. The leadership and staff is excited to be part of a larger culturally responsive learning community supported by the technical and content expertise of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation," said Ricardo M. Jasso, Amistades' founder & CEO

The Forward Promise grant will integrate and strengthen programs developed thanks to previous support from Hispanics in Philanthropy, the Arizona Community Foundation and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Amistades' leadership and staff understand and look forward to the impact that this collaboration will have on the agency's position as a cultural advocate in the Tucson community and at the regional and national levels.

The following organizations have been awarded grants under the Forward Promise Empowerment Projects initiative:

Amistades in Tucson, AZ;

Asian Counseling and Referral Service in Seattle, WA;

Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice in Oakland, CA;

Deep Center in Savannah, GA;

Drexel University Center for Nonviolence and Social Justice in Philadelphia, PA;

Fathers and Families Research Resource Center in Indianapolis, IN;

Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation in Kailua-Kona, HI;

Native American Community Academy in Albuquerque, NM; and,

National Compadres Network in San Jose, CA.

For more information about the Empowerment Projects initiative and Forward Promise, please visit www.forwardpromise.org/grantees