**NEWS RELEASE**

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**La Maestra’s Center for Youth Advancement Receives $35,000 to Empower Youth**

***CYA will Provide Academic Support and Mentoring for Low-Income Students in City Heights***

**SAN DIEGO, CA —** The Center for Youth Advancement (CYA) at La Maestra’s Generations Center announced today that it would increase its services for youth in City Heights, thanks to generous support from the AT&T Aspire initiative and The Allstate Foundation Good Starts Young program. Contributions from both organizations were presented to La Maestra at the youth, summer program closing celebration, held last Friday, Aug. 19 at Centro Cultural de la Raza located in Balboa Park.

La Maestra provides primary care and specialty health services as well as comprehensive wellbeing and empowerment programs to more than 46,000 San Diego residents annually. The organization also offers social services through its *Circle of Care*™ model. The *Circle* provides access to nutritious food with an onsite food pantry, legal advocacy services, housing, financial literacy, continuing education, and job training programs.

CYA, established in 2012, provides afterschool, weekend and summer services to equip urban youth residing in low-income, diverse San Diego communities to achieve greater opportunities in school, career, and life. CYA services include academic support, leadership development, volunteer activities, arts and culture, exercise and nutrition, and exposure to education, enrichment, and career opportunities that are often seen as unattainable in the inner city. Currently, CYA serves 100 youth. Of these, 68 students are participating in the summer program.

Zara Marselian, La Maestra founder and chief executive officer, said, “This generous support from two of our longtime partners enables our caring staff to continue providing local youth with the tools and self-confidence to thrive in school and life while breaking down barriers to wellbeing faced by families in City Heights.”

The contribution from AT&T, through its Aspire initiative, will support a high school success program at the CYA that provides individualized case management support, tutoring, and college preparation activities, designed to improve the academic outcomes of underserved high school students along with access to an array of exploratory, self-esteem boosting activities.

Ignacio De La Torre, regional vice president of external affairs at AT&T in San Diego, said, “Through AT&T Aspire we are investing in students today to prepare them for success tomorrow. We see tremendous value in La Maestra’s youth education program and are pleased to award a contribution in the amount of $25,000.”

The CYA was also awarded a $10,000 regional grant from The Allstate Foundation Good Starts Young initiative. This grant is the fourth consecutive award from The Allstate Foundation. Previous awards have supported La Maestra’s financial literacy training and economic empowerment programs for youth and women.

Freddy Santos, the senior corporate relations manager for Allstate, said, “The Allstate Foundation seeks to bring the resources and relationships of Allstate to support innovative and lasting solutions that enhance families' well-being and prosperity. We are thrilled to partner with La Maestra and its youth empowerment programs to make our hometowns better, safer places to live.”

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La Maestra Family Clinic, Inc. doing business as (d.b.a) La Maestra Community Health Centers (LMCHC) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) federally qualified health center. The organization currently operates five primary care medical clinics, nine dental suites, four school-based sites, and a mobile medical unit throughout central, east and south San Diego County, California. LMCHC also provides onsite social services including housing, a food pantry, community garden, legal advocacy, education, nutrition, and microcredit and microenterprise programs. To learn more, please visit www.lamaestra.org.

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