



Media Contacts:

\$1.75 Million Health Improvement Grant Awarded to Comal/Guadalupe Consortium

NEW BRAUNFELS, TX – February 1, 2012 – The Institute for Public Health and Education Research Inc. (TIPHER) has been awarded the Texas Department of State Health Services, Transforming Texas: Healthy People in Healthy Communities Grant. The five year, \$1.75 million grant was awarded to TIPHER to fund the Central Texas Community Health Consortium (CTCHC), which was created to implement health initiatives aimed at improving quality of life in Central Texas counties, including Comal and Guadalupe counties. The Consortium presently consists of Resolute Health, TIPHER, Zajonc Corp. and the Comal Independent School District. Soon, Guadalupe County partners will be added to the CTCHC.

“The Transforming Texas: Healthy People in Healthy Communities Grant will help us realize our mission of improving the health and wellbeing of people living in Comal and Guadalupe counties,” said Tess Coody, Resolute Health CEO. “Working together, members of the CTCHC will fulfill grant mandates to create healthy and safe communities, improve access to and integration of community prevention and clinical services, and to eliminate health disparities. We are very excited to have been chosen by the Texas Department of State Health Services for this important work.”

The Healthy People in Healthy Communities grant outlines three separate goals, specifically: Health Care Delivery Systems Improvement through Implementation of Chronic Diseases Self Management Programs for high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes control as part of usual care.

- Prevent and Reduce Tobacco Use (including Reducing Danger of Secondhand Smoke)
- Prevent and Reduce Obesity, Increase Physical Activity; Improve Nutrition in Accordance with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2010
- Increase control of high blood pressure and high cholesterol; increase access to and demand for high impact quality preventive services

“CTCHC is uniquely positioned to make great strides in each of these health mandates,” said Carlos Campos, M.D., Executive Director of TIPHER and Medical Director for the Resolute Health Center for Wellbeing. “With each partner bringing a wealth of expertise in the areas of

research, clinical care, prevention and education, we are armed with all of the components necessary to create innovative solutions to these critical health problems.”

About Resolute Health

Resolute Health is a new health and wellness system that promotes prevention and increases wellbeing in the communities of Comal, Guadalupe and Hays Counties. The Resolute Health Center for Wellbeing provides people with diabetes with full health and wellness options for complete care. The center provides a team approach to complete care and support for youth and adults with diabetes, bringing together specialized doctors, personalized treatment plans and state-of-the-art medicine. Resolute's Center for Excellence is a fully-equipped, state-of-the-art kitchen that conducts hands-on cooking classes that educate adults about health-conscience, diabetic-friendly recipes through interactive cooking seminars TheDiabetes Center of Excellence has been nationally recognized and Certified by the American Association of Diabetes Educators. The Resolute Health Sow Healthy Garden teams seniors with Comal ISD 4th and 5th graders to grow healthy foods. Together they cultivate, harvest, cook, bake and can some of what's grown to mutually benefit two generations by providing positive role models and promoting movement, nutrition and healthy lifestyles for all involved. Resolute Health recently received the prestigious *Award for Excellence in Texas School Health*.

About TIPHER

The Mission of The Institute for Public Health and Education Research (TIPHER) is to improve quality of life through addressing Public Health needs and critical Education issues. TIPHER obtained its 501 (c) (3) status in 2000 (74-2956928) and since that time has developed and implemented multiple programs in the community of New Braunfels. Since its inception TIPHER has managed grant-funded programs (local, state and federal) related to public health and education. TIPHER has become the leader in public health, education, and related services for low-income families in New Braunfels and Comal County. Currently, TIPHER provides diabetes education to patients and families, medical care for the uninsured, and daily nutritional meals to the impoverished. Additionally, TIPHER is the fiscal agent of a SAMHSA Drug Free Communities Grant, designed to make environmental changes to reduce substance abuse in youth and adults. TIPHER has been a leader in the community in diabetes education, health and wellness awareness, and fitness initiatives. These efforts along with its focus on public health have drawn TIPHER's focus to the growing problems that impact public health in Comal County and in the adjacent Guadalupe County.

About Zajonc Corp.

Zajonc Corporation has been identified as the evaluator of the project. Zajonc has worked with TIPHER for the past ten years to establish sustainable projects through effective evaluation. Kyle Barrington Ph.D. is the founder, CEO, and Grants Management Director of Zajonc Corp. Dr. Barrington has worked in governmental organizations, non-profit companies, school districts and for-profit corporations, including eight years working for the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department. This unique work experience brings together a compilation of skill sets that offers customers solutions from all paradigms. Zajonc Corporation has conducted over 50 evaluations over the course of the past five years and since 1988, the agency has secured over \$170 million in private, local, state and federal funds for rural and/or underserved communities. As the Evaluator of the Community Transformation Project, Zajonc will complete monthly,

quarterly, and annual reports as it helps the consortium make on-going improvements towards achieving its goals.

About Comal ISD

The Comal Independent School District is rated a Recognized school district and all campuses in the district are fully accredited by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Five are Exemplary and thirteen schools are Recognized. In addition, each year many CISD schools are recognized with Gold Performance Acknowledgement (GPA) Awards by the TEA for outstanding performance.

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