

***Rancho Cielo provides on-the-job training and academic and leadership opportunities*** □

□

**Washington, DC** – Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) today announced that Rancho Cielo Youth Campus has been awarded a YouthBuild grant for close to \$1.1 million from the U.S. Department of Labor. The grant will help Rancho Cielo provide on-the-job training, as well as academic education and leadership development for underserved youth. In a letter to the Department of Labor, Mr. Farr expressed his support for Rancho Cielo and there dedicated work to enriching the lives of youth on the Central Coast.

“Rancho Cielo’s comprehensive strategy connects youth with a wide-array of services and education opportunities essential to building productive futures,” said Congressman Sam Farr. ” This grant will go along way in ensuring Rancho Cielo can continue to provide our youth with these valuable resources, and help break cycles of gang violence.”

The Department of Labor announced a total of \$30,696,643 for YouthBuild programs to provide education and training to young people across the United States. YouthBuild assists out-of-school youth in obtaining their diplomas or GEDs while providing occupational training in the construction industry.

The YouthBuild grant award reflects the hard work and comprehensive approach by Rancho Cielo's leadership, staff, and students, but also a result of Salina's inclusion in President Obama's six city National Forum on Youth Violence.

"We have a real need in our county for this job training and for the transitional houses that the students will build," said Rancho Cielo Board President and Retired Judge John Phillips. "We've got too many kids who aren't safe in their own neighborhoods."

"This recognizes the value of the programs at Rancho Cielo," said Rancho Cielo Board Vice President Don Chapin. "The real benefit of this grant will be to the youth of Monterey County that we will be able to train in the trades. Thanks to the leadership that we have in our Congressional District that brought to light the programs at Rancho Cielo and made the grant possible."

Rancho Cielo is a comprehensive learning and social services center for underserved youth in Monterey County. The organization combines the rich resources of the natural landscapes with the creative partnerships forged between local community, educational and law enforcement agencies, that aims to enrich the lives of young people in the region.

"I want to thank Congressman Farr for his support throughout this process," said Rancho Cielo Executive Director Susie Brusa. "It was a very competitive grant process. Our grant stood out due to several factors, which includes the Salinas community's comprehensive strategy that

works with local government agencies, law enforcement and community organizations, as well as our inclusion on the President Obama's Six Cities Initiative."

##