



For Immediate Release:

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Methodist Healthcare Ministries awards VIDA \$60,000 to enhance Career Pathways for Allied Health Professionals

Mercedes, Texas (Dec. 20, 2023)—Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement (VIDA) is honored to be a grant recipient of Methodist Healthcare Ministries. This substantial contribution allows VIDA to expand its impact and continue its essential efforts in advancing career training opportunities for allied health professionals.

The grant acknowledges the pivotal role of community organizations in driving positive transformation, addressing influential factors impacting health such as socio-economic challenges, and fostering avenues for economic advancement. Methodist Healthcare Ministries' funding is a valuable contribution to supporting our community's health and residents' access to quality healthcare.

“We are immensely grateful to Methodist Healthcare Ministries, for selecting VIDA as a recipient of this \$60,000 grant. It is our continued priority to support our low-income residents to achieve economic mobility through high-demand and high-wage career pathways, especially in the healthcare industry. This grant will allow VIDA to continue providing the essential wraparound support services for building and sustaining a competitive healthcare workforce in the RGV. Thank you MHM for recognizing the importance of investing in human capital to promote health equity and economic prosperity of our region, said Felida Villarreal, VIDA's President & CEO.

This grant offers crucial financial backing and stands as a compelling demonstration of how collective efforts of individuals and organizations can address vital community challenges. VIDA expresses deep gratitude to Methodist Healthcare Ministries for their belief in the organization's mission.

About Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement:

For over 28 years, VIDA has helped more than 6,000 economically disadvantaged valley residents successfully complete career training programs in high demand occupations and achieve self-sufficiency. In 2023, VIDA served 627 participants with an average persistence rate of 96%. Participants entered VIDA's program earning an average hourly wage of \$10.54, but graduated and secured employment with an average hourly wage of over \$23.44! This is a true representation of human capital investment and aligning workforce skills with local industry demand. To learn more about VIDA, please visit www.vidacareers.org or call (956) 903-1900.