

New Mexico Children's Foundation  
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## New Mexico Children's Foundation NEWSLETTER Spring 2011

### A Letter from our President

It is an exciting challenge to be the President of the New Mexico Children's Foundation. I am often asked why I have taken on this responsibility. The answer lies in the annual report that is compiled on the welfare of children in New Mexico. The Anna E. Casey Foundation examines key indicators in its 2010 Kids Count Data Book. Our overall rank is 46th. The percent of our children living in poverty ranks at 47th. The percent of children in single-parent families is 48th. Our teen death rate places us 48th and teen birth rate at 49th. Indeed when New Mexico is compared with other states, it is clear that our children are in critical need.

The New Mexico Children's Foundation (NMCF) seeks to improve the lives of children in New Mexico by raising money and giving grants to non profits that help New Mexico's children. We try to fill the many gaps our children experience. Please read about the grants we have given for the year 2010 to 2011 and help us fund grants for 2011-2012 with a donation in the enclosed envelop.

We are committed to increasing our statewide visibility. Another goal that is important to me is to continue to build our endowment which is currently just a little under \$600,000.

I want to recognize and thank Ann Kenyon, immediate Past President, for the outstanding job she did as President of the NMCF. My thanks to our energetic and committed Board of Directors for the difference you are making in the lives of New Mexico's Children!

Fondly,

Sara Armstrong, President

### **2010-2012 Board of Directors**

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Executive Director: Carol Robertson Lopez, 505-986-2043  
nmchildrensfound@qwestoffice.net www.newmexicochildrensfoundation.org

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for these events:

Dancing Stars Gala, Saturday, July 16, 2011, Santa Fe

100 Women Corrales, September 11, 2011

100 Women Roswell, October 29, 2011

100 Women Santa Fe, November 4, 2011

### **MISTAKE CORRECTED:**

NMCF recently researched and prepared a spread sheet of all the grants that we have given. We have been using a total of \$750,000 for grants given, but the correct amount is an amazing **\$849,338!!!!**

## *100 Women Making a Difference in the Lives of New Mexico's Children*

By Ann Kenyon, Past President & Chair of 100 Women Making a Difference

In calendar year 2010, four 100 Women Making a Difference events were held in Albuquerque, Carlsbad, Roswell and Santa Fe. These events made an impressive \$25,000. As chair of the 100 Women Making a Difference Committee, I have always believed that women are willing to contribute to help children and that 100 Women events were an ideal way to bring these women together. We have been so fortunate to have wonderful women host our events and I am grateful to these ladies for their gracious hospitality.

Our hostesses were:

**Albuquerque:** Ruthie Horn Robbins, Ellen J. King, Kathleen Egenes and Laura White.

**Santa Fe:** Barbara Robins and Kathy Schulz

**Carlsbad:** Vicki Moutray and the event honored Jay Ann Sepich's work.

**Roswell:** Karen Armstrong, Mary Maloney, Ginger Gwartney, Diane Alber and Connie Wolf. This event honored the accomplishments of Patti Jennings

While I was President, we worked hard to give grants all over New Mexico and these events have allowed us to increase awareness around the state as well as raise money.

For 2011, plans for 100 Women events have been made for Corrales on September 11th, Roswell on October 29th and Santa Fe on November 4th. We are still working to schedule events in Los Alamos, Las Cruces, Farmington, Taos and Gallup. If you are interested in finding out more about hosting or helping with such an event, please email me at [kenyonsmesa@hughes.net](mailto:kenyonsmesa@hughes.net).

## **Grant Applications Due on April 15, 2011**

The guidelines for applying for a grant from the New Mexico Children's Foundation were issued earlier this year. The Foundation's charitable funds are available to 501(c)(3) nonprofit New Mexican children's organizations with budgets under \$300,000.

Other requirements are:

1. Funds requested must not exceed \$5,000.
2. Nonprofits are eligible for only three successive years.
3. Funds may be used for operating expenses as well as program expenses.

For information on how to apply for a grant, please consult our website at:  
[www.newmexicochildrensfoundation.org](http://www.newmexicochildrensfoundation.org).

In order to make the application process easier for our applicants, we strive to keep the same application with minimal changes. Last year seventy applications for grants were received. If you need additional information or have questions, please call Carol Robertson Lopez, Executive Director at 505-986-2043 or email her at [nmchildrensfound@qwestoffice.net](mailto:nmchildrensfound@qwestoffice.net).

## **7Stories from the New Mexico Children's Foundation, by Kathy Schulz**

As Vice President of the Board of Directors, I serve as Chair of the Development Committee. To make a compelling case for donations to the New Mexico Children's Foundation, I have spent hours reading about the nonprofits we fund and what these programs accomplish.

The reach of the New Mexico Children's Foundation is as wide as it is varied. In Raton we help fund The Santa Fe Trail School for the Performing Arts, a children's theatre group operating in the historic Shuler Theater. In Las Cruces we support the Asombro Institute for Science Education, providing innovative educational activities for elementary school students. In between these locations are a host of other grantees, but these two inspiring non-profits of northern and southern New Mexico are spotlighted in this issue. A few of their success stories follow.

Before their involvement in The Santa Fe Trail theatre program, Zach, Jeff, and Johnny were all struggling, experiencing frustration at sports, disciplinary problems, and poor academic progress. Discovering theatre turned on a light for each of them and set them on a different path. Zach had been a problem to his high school teachers, but as he grew into the role of local theater star, his grades and behavior improved and he has now been accepted into a specialized school for the performing arts. A social worker had to intervene in Jeff's life to introduce him to The Santa Fe Trail program. After his first play his sophomore year, his academic turnaround was nothing short of stunning and he is now attending Eastern New Mexico University on a scholarship. Fourth grade Johnny's struggles were a little different as they involved autism, but his collaborative skills increased on stage and he is now more outgoing and conscientious of others. And Johnny can sing and dance like a champ, recently besting peers and adults in a talent contest!

The Asombro Institute for Science Education engages children in traditional science study but in unique and fun ways. Recognizing that children spend far too much time with electronic media and too little time experiencing nature, this program uses the nearby Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park for hands-on instruction. Fifth grade students actively participate in the scientific method, making hypotheses, collecting and analyzing data, and presenting conclusions. But as noted by the Monte Vista Elementary school principal, the program has benefits far beyond science instruction. The fifth graders gain significant leadership skills by planning and hosting a Desert Science Day each May for younger students from pre-K to fourth grade, demonstrating activities such as Weather Lab, Pollination Station, and cooking pizza and hot dogs in solar ovens. The program encourages responsible environmental stewardship among children and even allows them the opportunity to write and "publish" books about their desert home.

There are many more stories like these among our grantees and many more that *need* to happen. Please join us in improving the lives of New Mexico's youth by contributing generously to the New Mexico Children's Foundation.

## Golf Tournament at Beautiful Towa Thank you's

On September 24, 2010, the New Mexico Children's Foundation held a terrific golf tournament co-chaired by Lois Chiarito and Tim Vigil. Thank you to our sponsors and prize contributors. We are planning another tournament for 2011.

### Gold Sponsor

Buffalo Thunder Resort & Casino

### Silver Sponsors:

1. Ann Bealle Real Estate Company
2. Kathy & Edward Schulz
3. Dr. Beth Jester, Dermatology of Santa Fe
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6. Reynolds Insurance Company
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9. Don Chalmers Ford

### Special Thanks to Hole in One Sponsor:

Lexus of Santa Fe

### Hole Sponsorships:

1. Las Parras de Abiquiu Vineyard Bed & Breakfast
2. Tricia Elmer, Honoring Children with Special Needs
3. Montgomery & Andrews, P.A. (2 holes)
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5. David Dodge, Sothebys International Realty
6. Amon Appraisals
7. Los Alamos National Bank
8. Armstrong Energy Corporation
9. John G. Rehders General Contractors, (2 holes)
10. Century Bank

### Prize Contributors

1. Gusterman Silversmiths
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3. The Shed
4. La Choza
5. The Reel Life
6. Everlasting Electrolysis
7. Buffalo Thunder & Towa Golf Course
8. Linda Howell and Steve Moreno,  
Towa Golf Course
9. Turquoise Trail Restaurant
10. Cimarroncita Ranch
11. Flying Tortilla
12. Maria's New Mexican Kitchen
13. Quail Run
14. The Rainmakers
15. The Links at Sierra Blanca
16. The Lodge at Sierra Blanca
17. Artichoke Café, Albuquerque
18. Vivace Café, Albuquerque
19. New Mexico Symphony Orchestra

# *Dancing Stars Gala*

Committee Chairs Ann Bealle and Linda Ferdig-Riley are promising a memorable night when the Dancing Stars Gala takes place on Saturday, July 16, 2011 at 6:30 pm at the Scottish Rite Center in Santa Fe. The evening will include a delicious supper buffet, live music, silent auction and guest appearances of local celebrities and stars. Albuquerque news person, Nicole Brady, will be the announcer for the event. The Scottish Rite Center is an amazing building with a specially-designed wooden dance floor. Tickets are \$150.00 and can be purchased by calling 505-986-2043.

## Congratulations to our New Board Members

Five new members have joined our Board of Directors: **Aaron Enloe**, who is with Reynolds Insurance, **Linda Ferdig-Riley**, who is a retired educator, **Katherine Basham**, an attorney and partner of Basham & Basham, **Susan F. Wells**, who recently retired from IronStone Bank, and **Caroline Gaston**, who served on the first Board of the NM Children's Foundation in 1992. The Board has an active Nominating Committee chaired by Ann Bealle. Given that the Foundation has one part-time Executive Director, our volunteer board members are very active in the work of the Foundation. The NMCF could not accomplish its mission without these hard working individuals! Congratulations!!

## Children's grief is real

When left unresolved, it will manifest itself in myriad negative ways. Often the adults who remain in their lives to care for them are struggling with their own grief. The whole family is turned upside down. If the family doesn't have adequate familial or community support, the effects can go beyond the immediate wrenching emotional pain of the loss. In a survey of 300 incarcerated teens, 96% indicated that someone significant in their lives had died (Columbia University 2005). Most disturbingly, 85% of all prisoners on death row experienced the death of a parent during their childhood (Virginia Simpson, PhD., Mourning Star Center). The NMCF funds two grief support nonprofits: Gerard's House and The Children's Grief Center of New Mexico.

## NMCF Grants Awarded for 2010-2011

David Dodge serves as Chair of the Grants Committee. Each year the committee reviews grants applications and recommends to the Board of Directors a package of grants to be funded. “This is a tough assignment every year because most of applications deserve to be funded,” David said. “Hopefully in this coming grant cycle we will be able to increase the number of grants we give.”

**Asombro Institute for Science Education**, Las Cruces. The *Young Science Leaders Program* teaches students science and math by engaging them in hands-on projects.

**Boys and Girls Club Del Norte**, Abiquiu, Chimayo and other communities in the Espanola Valley. The Summer Program provides safe, fun and educational activities for children in a structured environment. Grant funds were used for transportation to the program and for field trips.

**Canones Early Childhood Center**, Rio Arriba County. *Project Literacy Outreach* brings early childhood education, child development and early/emergent literacy services to an underserved population of rural isolated, minority families in northern New Mexico.

**The Children’s Grief Center of New Mexico**, Bernalillo, Sandoval, Valencia & Torrance Counties. The Center provides free support groups for bereaved children and their families. El Rito Library, El Rito. *It’s YOUR Library* is a monthly after school program for 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders which promotes literacy and lifetime library users.

**Embudo Valley Library**, Embudo Valley, Rio Arriba County. *Make a Splash* is a popular summer reading program that fosters reading for pleasure and cultural enrichment.

**Family Strengths Network**, Los Alamos, Rio Arriba and Santa Fe Counties. The *Special Saturdays* program serves children aged five to fourteen with diagnosed developmental and/or physical special needs, and their families.

**Gerard’s House**, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Rio Arriba and Santa Fe Counties. Programs to provide emotional and psychological support to children and teenagers in Northern New Mexico experiencing a life crisis because of the death of a loved one.

**Global Opportunities Unlimited**, New Mexico. The *Therapeutic Horse Back Riding Program* provides an opportunity for disabled children to benefit from the proven therapeutic values of Horse Back Riding.

**Kirtland Youth Association**, Four Corners Area. This association operates as a boys and girls club and provides a *Summer Literacy and Recreation Program* for 220 children in grades K-8.

**Run for the BEACH**, Lincoln County. *The Luna Project for Girls* brings girls together monthly for difference exercises and activities that promote self confidence, life skills and friendship to help girls become capable and confident young women.

**NM Suicide Intervention Project**, Santa Fe County, *Preventing Youth Suicide in Disadvantaged Populations* implements strategies to build the underprivileged community’s abilities to manage and prevent youth suicide-related crises through peer-based education and counseling.

**Oso Vista Ranch Project**, Ramah Navajo Reservation. Summer day camps for youth that include equine growth and learning activities, low-ropes courses will culminate in a community rodeo.

**Santa Fe School for the Performing Arts**, Raton. This inclusive theater program provides youth with an opportunity to participate in the production of shows year round and has become a major activity for youth in Raton.

**Southeastern NM Down Syndrome Foundation**, Southeastern New Mexico (8 counties). *The Learning Program and Summer Therapy* strives to bridge the gap between researching how children with Down syndrome learn and implementing learning programs that most effectively teach the children to read, write and do mathematics.

**Valencia County Literacy Council**, Family Literacy Pre-school provides child centered instruction to develop emergent literacy in children ages 0-5 with parents reading daily to their children and staff providing a lending library and numerous educational activities.

**Wings for L.I.F.E.**, Roswell and surrounding areas. *Building Assets* is a weekly support program offered after school for elementary school children in K-5 who have parents incarcerated.