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NEW MEXICO CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2007

Things have been buzzing since our last newsletter in March. Our second annual Alice's Wonderland Event was held on March 31st at the La Fonda Hotel. The partygoers had a wonderful time and helped raise funds for our children's organizations. The highlight of the evening was our "Raise the Paddle" live auction for projects that had been identified by eight of our organizations. Representatives from these groups were present and participated in the auction which added to the excitement felt by all. Nearly \$12,000 was raised. There is more information about the event on the following page.

We held our first "Extend a Hand" event on Wednesday, May 23rd at the home of Ann Bealle, our President. These monthly events are an opportunity for those unfamiliar with the mission and goals of the Foundation to get an introduction. The next hour-long event will be held at Gerard's House - one of our grantees - on June 28th at 9:00 am. For directions, please call the Foundation office at 505-986-2043. All are welcome to attend.

The Foundation is moving to a new office in the Kruger Building at 227 E. Palace Avenue on June 15th. We are very excited about the move and you are welcome to visit our new office. The phone number remains the same. We need a few pieces of equipment to make our new home complete. Please look over our wish list below to see if you have any of these items to donate to us. Thank You.

Wishlist: Copier, new computer, small round conference table

Carol Kessler,
Executive Director



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New Mexico Children's Foundation
P.O. Box 8182
Santa Fe, NM 87504-8182

Alice's Wonderland

NMCF held its second annual Alice's Wonderland Event on March 31, 2007 at the La Fonda Hotel. Partygoers were treated to a four-course dinner prepared by Chef Lane Warner, dancing to Soulstice, and a ballroom decorated for spring with touches of the Alice's Wonderland theme throughout. The highlight of the evening was a live auction called "Raise the Paddle". The bidding was for items identified by eight of our grantees that are in addition to their grants and that are important to the day-to-day operation of their organizations. All of the grantees were present and participated in the auction. All eight received their funds and the interaction between grantees and bidders added much excitement to the evening.

NMCF raised approximately \$50,000 from the event to use for its programs. We wish to thank the La Fonda Hotel for their continuing support of the Children's Foundation and all of the Board Members who worked so hard to make the event a success.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NMCF Annual Tennis Tournament

New Mexico Children's Foundation will hold its annual Tennis Tournament on Tuesday, September 18th at the Sangre de Cristo Racquet Club. The women's-only event begins at 8:00 am with breakfast on the porch and ends at 1:00 pm under the trees at a lunch provided by the La Fonda Hotel. Cindy Mares is once again putting the event together and is looking for teams. A maximum of 40 players can participate and prizes are given for the 1st and 2nd place winners in each category. The event includes a fashion show of tennis fashions as well as door prizes. If you are interested in playing, the fee is \$75.00. For those who do not want to play but would like to partake of the wonderful luncheon under the trees, the cost is \$20.00. Please call Cindy Mares at 982-3344 to register.

Our Grants for 2006

Abiquiu Public Library, Abiquiu - \$3,000
Art in the School, Albuquerque - \$3,000
Arts to Boost Curriculum, Abiquiu - \$4,000
Assistance League of Chavez Co., Roswell - \$4,000
Camp Corazones, Santa Fe - \$5,000
Camp Rising Sun, Albuquerque - \$4,000
Canones Early Childhood Center, Canones - \$5,000
De Colores - Parent Child Center, Santa Fe - \$3,000
Embudo Valley Library, Dixon - \$4,000
Future Foundations, Grants - \$4,000
Gerard's House, Santa Fe - \$4,000
Gila Institute for Tots to Teens, Silver City - \$3,000
Life Options Academy, Albuquerque \$4,000
Mesilla Valley CASA, Las Cruces - \$3,000
NM Suicide Intervention Project, Santa Fe - \$7,500
Self-Help, Inc., Los Alamos - \$4,000
Truchas Services Center, Truchas - \$3,000
Villa Theresa Catholic Clinic, Santa Fe - \$3,000
Wings Ministry, Roswell - \$3,000
Youth Heartline, Taos - \$7,500
Zona del Sol, Santa Fe - \$3,000



NMCF needs your help to continue its efforts on behalf of the children of New Mexico. Your financial support in any amount will touch the lives of many.

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

New Mexico Children's Foundation
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(505) 986-2043 - email: nmchildrensfoundation@hotmail.com
website: www.newmexicochildrensfoundation.org

Want to Really Feel Good?

Have you ever wondered why you feel really good about helping someone in need; or when you give to a favorite charity? Well, according to The Washington Post (May 28, 2007) -" If It Feels Good to Be Good, It Might Be Only Natural.

"...neuroscientists at the National Institute of Health had been scanning the brains of volunteers as they were asked to think about a scenario involving either donating a sum of money to charity or keeping it for themselves.

"The results were showing that when the volunteers placed the interests of others before their own, the generosity activated a primitive part of the brain that usually lights up in response to food or sex. Altruism, the experiment suggested, was not a superior moral faculty that suppresses basic selfish urges but rather was basic to the brain, hard-wired and pleasurable."

We here at New Mexico Children's Foundation definitely want you to feel better and we can't think of a better way than by making a contribution to our Endowment. Donations may be identified as going to the **ALICE KING ENDOWMENT** and may be in the form of a pledge, cash, stock, Planned Giving or gifts from your IRA; it may be in honor of someone, or a special occasion.

It may be that you just need that special something which will "light up" your brain and make you feel really good. Whatever the reason, you will know that you are helping extend future programs which benefit the children of New Mexico.

Mimi Kingsbury, Endowment Committee Chair

There are many reasons to give to New Mexico Children's Foundation, and just as many ways.

A cash gift is the easiest way to help NMCF with its programs for the children of New Mexico. Any amount is greatly appreciated, but for a gift of \$3,000, a fund can be established in your name.

Gifts of appreciated securities (stocks or bonds) may also be used to establish a fund or add to an existing fund.

Life insurance policies can be used as charitable gifts. You may name New Mexico Children's Foundation as beneficiary.

If you would like to discuss any of these options, please phone Executive Director, Carol Kessler at (505) 986-2043.

Youth Suicide and Its Prevention

More than 3,000 children and young adults, ages 10-24, take their own lives each year in this country. That's the human loss equivalent, in children, of September 11th, repeating itself every year. New Mexico has the seventh highest youth suicide rate in the nation. Since 1999, over 300 of New Mexico's children and youth have died by their own hand. The 2003 NM youth Risk & Resiliency Survey reports that 32% of high school students "felt so sad and hopeless in the previous 12 months that they stopped doing their usual activities." Twenty percent said that they seriously considered attempting suicide in the previous 12 months. Fourteen percent attempted one or more times. Unfortunately, suicide is a largely ignored issue until it is brought to the forefront by the incomprehensible death of a child.

While the reasons that teens commit suicide vary widely, there are some common situations and circumstances that seem to lead to such extreme measures. These include: major disappointments; rejection; failure; loss, such as breaking up with a girlfriend or boyfriend; failing a big exam; or witnessing family turmoil. Sexual orientation is also noted as a distinct risk factor for suicide. Since the overwhelming majority of those who commit suicide have a mental or substance abuse related disorder, they often have difficulty coping with these situations. They are unable to see that their life can turn around, unable to recognize that suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem. There are a number of behavioral indicators that can help parents or friends recognize the threat of suicide. Some common symptoms of youth depression are:

- loss of interest in activities that used to be enjoyable;
- feelings of worthlessness or guilt
- withdrawal from family and friends
- drug or alcohol use or abuse
- expression of suicidal intent

By knowing these signals, classmates, parents, teachers, coaches and other adults can provide a safety net for youth who have displayed some of these signs. It is in the school setting that students have the greatest connection to individuals who have the potential to intervene. Consequently, schools can be one of the most influential environments for impacting awareness of suicide as a major public health problem and increasing knowledge about risks and warning signs.

For more information, please contact New Mexico Suicide Intervention Project (NMSIP) at 505- 820-1066. NMSIP, a program funded by the NM Children's Foundation, provides a crucial continuum of prevention, intervention and postvention (support for schools after a suicide crisis) services to impact the problem of youth suicide. It is the only organization in Northern New Mexico specifically aimed at reducing youth suicide and suicidal behaviors.

Are You 70 1/2?

Take advantage of a new tax law and donate from your IRA tax-free! Thanks to the recently signed Pension Protection Act H.R. 4, which established a new Charitable IRA, you can now make a direct distribution from your IRA to New Mexico Children's Foundation.

This wonderful opportunity is limited to an amount up to \$100,000, must be made directly payable to NMCF and is only for 2006 and 2007 tax years. So don't wait; talk with your financial advisor today!

For more information regarding making a planned gift to NMCF, please contact Carol Kessler, Executive Director, at 505 986 2043.

NEWS OF OUR GRANTEES

Tots to Teens Fiber Arts Summer Camp

Gila Institute for Tots to Teens, in Silver City, will hold a Fiber Arts Day Camp June 4-8, 8AM - noon each day. In collaboration with Southwest Women's Fiber Arts Collective, this camp focuses on reaching disadvantaged children in Grant County ages 7-17. Participants will learn various fiber arts skills from weaving to paper making, and will leave camp with several completed projects. Our community-built park in Silver City is the venue for this camp, which was piloted in 2006. We hold this camp the first complete week that school is out in order to help parents make the transition from school to summer, and hold it early enough that parents can get their children to the day camp on their way to work.

Gerard's House

Since September they have supported more than 200 young people, ages 4-19, who are grieving the death of a family member or friend. The children meet weekly after school. They are also collaborating with the New Mexico Suicide Intervention Project and the Sky Center in Santa Fe Schools to intervene and prevent suicide. They have established a crisis response grief support team that can be mobilized quickly if a situation were to occur involving a young person.

OVER THE RAINBOW EVENT

The second Over the Rainbow fundraising event will be held on Sunday, July 15, 2007, at the Wool Warehouse in Albuquerque from 2-4 PM. It will be a casual family event with The Radio Disney performers entertaining guests with a program suitable for children ages 5 - 13. There will be clowns, face-painting, a magician, and a silent auction for the children to enjoy. A donor will give each child attending \$10 so that he or she can participate in the fun of bidding on favorite items. The committee wanted more children at the event this year and is selling tables for \$300 to sponsor them. Alice King is identifying organizations who serve children to which we can give sponsored tickets. Individual tickets are \$30 for adults, and children and individuals can also buy a table for family and friends. We have some tables left if you would like to buy one or even sponsor a child or two for \$30 each. If you would like to donate to the silent auction, we can use cash to buy items or items valued under \$10 suitable for children ages 5 to 13. We also have some event sponsorships available for \$500, \$1000, or \$2500. Please call Margaret Putnam, event chair, at 505 292 0251, email mputnam3141@msn.com or write her at 3141 June St NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111. You may also contact Carol Kessler at the Foundation.

Additions to our Website

You can now donate to the Foundation on-line. Our website has been upgraded to provide a secure page for donations. The Foundation can also now accept American Express cards in addition to Visa and Master Card.

Recent Donations to NMCF

Kathie Reed	Gary & Pat Ferguson
Richard & Cindy Mares	Suzan O'Neill
Gwen Rutledge	Dr. & Mrs. James Schneider
Dean Rudoy	Nancy & Bill Dubey
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Chambles	David & Margaret Alexander
Kelly Agency	Gerard & Kathie Cole
Youth Development Incorporated	Mrs. Lyle Ramsey
Pauline Eisenstadt	Margaret Putnam
Ann Bealle & Roy Stoesz	Sandy & Lee Berry