

New Mexico Children's Foundation
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New Mexico Children's Foundation

NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2014

Dear Friends,

I am excited and honored to begin my presidency of the New Mexico Children's Foundation. I joined the NMCF shortly after the loss of founder Alice King and was struck by the extremely high regard in which she was held. At the same time, it was clear that the Foundation was at a turning point; it had to grow and adapt to changing circumstances. I am proud to say that we have done that and are, of course, continuing to do so. Some very exciting developments have occurred in the last few years.

We celebrated our twenty year anniversary and twenty years of grant-making. After a dip related to national financial conditions, our fundraising has grown—and we DO have fun events!! Our endowment approaches the million dollar mark. We are recognized as an excellent means of efficiently get funds to the state's children who most need help. Two major foundations honored us with multi-year donations. Perhaps even more significant, we were selected to be the steward of the NM Centennial Children's Legacy Fund, created to support the state's youth into the future.

Though more productive than ever, we manage to keep our fundraising and administrative costs at around 15% of revenue, meaning that 85% of our donations go directly to support the state's children through our grants. Last year this resulted in \$109,000 in grants provided to 42 non-profits, our highest grant-making activity ever.

That is the good news, but there is plenty of bad news. New Mexico remains at or near the bottom of all fifty states when factors related to childhood well-being are measured and ranked. Nearly twice as many worthy organizations apply to us than we have the dollars to fund. The needs in this state are still dire and we need your support. Tucked inside this newsletter is a donation envelope and I ask that you make a gift today and invest in the children of New Mexico.

Your gift will make a difference in the lives of New Mexico's children.

Wishing you a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

Kathy Schulz

New Mexico Children's Foundation

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**One of Santa's
elves will donate
\$10.00 for every
person that likes the
New Mexico Children's
Foundation Facebook**

page. You can invest in the children of New Mexico by simply going to our Facebook page and liking us!!! Do it today!!!!

Mission Statement: To support small programs state-wide that serve the physical, mental, educational and social needs of children and their families.



Wyeth Carpenter

Past President David Dodge had an idea to add a Youth Representative to the NMCF Board of Directors. "I always felt as an organization dedicated to helping young people, we should have a young person on our Board to help guide and advise us from their perspective."

We were fortunate to have Wyeth Carpenter of Santa Fe Prep apply for the position and join the Board. This dynamic young man is the Captain of his winning soccer team and a member of the basketball team. Wyeth also produced and directed a film that compared high school fifty years ago to today. This film documented the evolution of technology in High School.



At our recent Grande Gala he worked tirelessly to help with event, including demonstrating the Carlos Santa guitar that was part of our live auction. As a member of the Board, Wyeth is helping us develop our use of social media. We are now in the midst of a challenge to acquire "Likes" for our Facebook page with a \$10.00 donation per "like" thanks to one of Santa's elves.

When Wyeth graduates next year, he hopes to study business management, philosophy, psychology, or economics. When asked about his service to the New Mexico Children's Foundation, Wyeth said, "I have had the privilege of having a wonderful, comfortable upbringing. When I learned of NMCF, the idea of helping those who have been less fortunate sparked my interest. Given NMCF's mission and the great work the volunteers put in, it was a no-brainer."

When Wyeth leaves for college, we will have an opening for our next youth representative. If you know someone you would like us to consider, please contact us at info@nmchildren.org.



Galloping Grace Youth Ranch

Located in Sandoval County, the Galloping Grace Youth Ranch is one of the non-profits NMCF is funding for the first time. Their mission is to bring "Pure Joy to children by creating a place where kids lead kids while growing crops, raising animals, playing outdoors, and enriching the community. Our vision is to cultivate healthy kids today, so they can harvest a healthy society tomorrow." Through their youth-led summer Junior Leadership program, youth are trained in leadership through learning the importance of agriculture, how to care for animals and crops and how to care for others by leading younger participants through a variety of activities. In addition, Food Recovery is a program model to reduce food waste that in turn feeds needy families and contributes to creating sustainable food sources. At the ranch the children take part in active and hands-on learning experiences at this working, sustainable farm/ranch. As these pictures demonstrate, these children are having a great time!



Your gift to the New Mexico Children's Foundation funds programs such as the Galloping Grace Youth Ranch. We thank the following Foundations for their generous donations:

The Delle Foundation

The Jockers Family Foundation

The Las Campanas Community Fund

Oso Vista Ranch Project, \$2000. *Ramah Navajo and Zuni Reservations*. Summer day camps for youth that include photography and personal leadership activities facilitated through rock climbing and challenge course activities.

Self Help, Inc., \$4,000, *Rio Arriba, Los Alamos, Taos and Northern Santa Fe Counties*. Assists students in need with items such as pencils, calculators, notebooks and other essential items needed to succeed in classroom.

Southwest Youth Services, \$2000, *Albuquerque and Central NM Pueblos*. Programming under Native Youth Wellness Corps promotes healthy and empowered youth through soccer clinics, soccer play and the Annual Indigenous Soccer Cup Tournament.

Story of Place, \$1000, *Santa Fe* Following citizen and community education, students conduct research in order to formulate and implement a project to benefit the community. Students learn youth civic leadership and job training skills.

Spirit of Hidalgo, \$3,000, *Hidalgo County*. The Youth Leadership Team supports expansion and availability of donated food and fresh foods for children. Participants work to create a plentiful food supply and to build distribution projects.

Talpa Community Center, \$1,000, *Village of Talpa and Taos County*. Children engage in ceramics, sewing, quilting and reading activities during this summer program.

Tarnoff Art Center, \$2,500, *Pecos, Rowe and San Miguel County*. Summer camp where students participate in a range of activities with art, meditation, yoga and other skill building activities.

Truchas Service Center, \$5,000, *Truchas*. Provides a four day a week preschool for children 2 to 5 and is the only program in this area. Children 6 to 12 can attend the summer sciences and art program with science lessons and experiments in the morning and art activities in the afternoon.

Valencia County Literacy Council, \$3000. *Los Lunas*. Family Literacy Pre-school provides child-centered instruction to develop literacy in children ages birth to 5 years with parents reading daily to their children and staff providing a lending library and numerous educational activities.

Villa Therese Catholic Clinic, \$2500, *Santa Fe*. The Clinic, staffed by volunteers and paid staff, provides integrated children's medical and dental services for the uninsured.

Wings of America, \$2,000, *Zuni and McKinley County*. Running and fitness camps to promote healthy lifestyle choices among American Indian youth ages 6 to 18 years at Zuni Pueblo.

Wings for L.I.F.E., \$4000, *Roswell surrounding areas*. Wings for L.I.F.E. (Life-skills Imparted to Families through Education) provides educational, behavioral and social skills to families (especially those with loved ones incarcerated) and to adults and juveniles in detentions.

Young Fathers of Santa Fe, \$2000, *Santa Fe*. Provides young fathers with support in choosing healthy lifestyles for themselves and their families and assists young fathers in sustaining stable and nurturing relationships that promote their children's well-being.

Zona del Sol, SF Youth & Family Center, \$3,000, *Santa Fe*. Provides low cost facilities in which youth and family serving agencies can provide collaborative programs in southwest Santa Fe which has the highest percentage of low income families.

New Trustees join the Board of Directors:

The New Mexico Children's Foundation is pleased to have four new members join our Board of Directors. These members bring a wealth of expertise in business, non-profits and fundraising. They are: Jack Campbell, Diane Thompson, H. Patrick Jack and Nora Miller. All are retired from their fulltime careers with the exception being Nora Miller who is a Vice President of Wealth Management at Wells Fargo in Santa Fe. Ann Kenyon, Past President and Chair of Nominating Committee, said, "We are always on the lookout for new members particularly outside of Santa Fe. NMCF is a 'working' Board and if you or someone you know might be interested, email: info@nmchildren.org."

GRANDE GALA, Party at the Drury!

Our annual gala was held on August 8th at the Drury Plaza Hotel. Ours was the first event to be held at the Drury and they did a terrific job. Randy Randall, former Vice President of the NMCF, was our Master of Ceremonies. He is now the Director of TOURISM Santa Fe, previously known as the Convention and Visitors Bureau. As always, Randy did an excellent job conducting our live auction and soliciting donations. We are so appreciative of his support. Joining us were Mayor Protempore, Peter Ives and his spouse, Patricia Salazar. Representing the Governor was Veronica Gonzales, Secretary of Cultural Affairs and her spouse, Senator John Ryan.

Our sponsors were: Armstrong Energy Corporation, Basham and Basham, PC; Drury Plaza Hotel; Montgomery & Andrews; Sotheby's International Realty; SVH Support; and Fabene J. Welch. Thank you to all!

The event raised close to \$60,000 and will be used to fund grants to non-profits located all over New Mexico!

WHY GIVE TO the NMCF?

Close to 85% of our budget is used for grants to small non-profits. By small, we mean those with budgets less than \$300,000. Our grantees are grass-roots organizations that were formed to fill a special need in their communities. Most have budgets far less than \$100,000. However the needs they fill are truly unique. For example, Young Fathers of Santa Fe teaches men how to be fathers and how to develop a healthy relationship with their children. It is the only organization in Santa Fe providing this assistance. Make your donations count by giving to NMCF!

NMCF Grants for 2014-2015

Andele Tutors, \$3000, *Southern Dona Ana County*. Summer program that trains and uses college students to serve as mentors and tutors in order to raise skills in reading and math for 200 children during an eight week summer program.

Asombro Institute for Science Education, \$3000, *Las Cruces*. To promote science and leadership skills, fifth grade students acquire skills to present hands-on science activities for younger students at their schools.

Boys & Girls Club of Bloomfield, \$4000, *Bloomfield*. Afterschool program provides Kidz Lit Reading, that increases motivation to read and builds literacy, and programs on healthy eating, internet safety and community service activities.

Boys and Girls Club of Roswell, \$4000, *Roswell*. Project Learn engages young people in learning, encourages them to succeed in school and helps them become lifelong learners.

Canones Early Childhood Center, \$3000, *Canones*. Project Literacy Outreach brings early childhood education, child development and early/emergent literacy services to the underserved population of rural, isolated, minority families in northern New Mexico.

Children's Grief Center of New Mexico, \$3000, *Central New Mexico*. Provides free support groups for children, teens, young adults and their care givers that are grieving the death of a loved one.

Compassionate Touch Network, \$3000, *Santa Fe & Albuquerque Area*. Trains facilitators for classroom presentations on mental illness, to recognize its symptoms, get appropriate treatment, understand the importance of early diagnosis and treatment and promote compassion and remove stigma.

Down Syndrome Foundation of SE NM, \$2500, *Roswell & Southeastern New Mexico*. Summer day camps to strengthen children's physical skills as well as provide therapy opportunities including speech. Goal is to help support families of individuals with Down Syndrome of all ages.

Eagles' Wings Youth Ranch, \$2000, *Mountainair*. Summer camp and mentoring program focused on prevention and early intervention centered around relationships to help youth succeed.

El Rito Library, \$2000, *El Rito*. Promotes literacy for 3-5 year old toddlers who come to the library twice a week for different activities that include math, science and story time. Pre-literacy is a key element of helping children enter school ready to learn to read.

Embudo Valley Library, \$2000, *Rio Arriba and Embudo Valley*. Fizz, Boom, Read! Summer Reading Program combines free reading initiatives with activities that foster a love of learning. Events include presentations, field trips and hands-on activities.

Equine Spirit Sanctuary, \$1000, *Taos area*. Horses helping kids combines therapeutic riding and equine-assisted learning to help special needs kids gain life skills.

First Born of Northern New Mexico, \$3000. *San Miguel, Mora & Guadalupe Counties*. Provides support for first time parents and their child from pregnancy up to 3 years old with weekly visitations to promote well-rounded children with developmental assessments and referrals when necessary.

First Tee of Santa Fe, \$2000, *Santa Fe*. Through golf, youth are taught life skills to help them thrive socially, academically and athletically with measureable results.

FEEDING Santa Fe, \$2000, *Santa Fe*. Provides supplemental food on a weekly basis, year-round to hungry families with children.

Galloping Grace Youth Ranch, \$2500. *Rio Rancho*. The ranch functions as a working, sustainable farm ranch where children are empowered to lead, teach, work and play alongside others.

Gila Valley Library, \$2000, *Gila Valley in Northwestern Grant County*. Promotes children's literacy through library programs developed by one paid staffer and community volunteers.

Gerard's House, \$4000, *Santa Fe*. Provides emotional and psychological support for children who are experiencing a life crisis because of the death of a loved one. The long-term goal is to help end self-destructive behaviors because of unresolved grief and loss.

Interfaith Leadership Alliance of Santa Fe, \$3,000. *Santa Fe*. Provides homeless families with the support they need to become stable and sustainable through a two year plan for independent living.

Imagination Library of Grant County, \$3,000. *Silver City and Grant County*. Delivers books every month to children's homes promoting language and reading and establishing the basis for future learning success. Affiliated with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Junior Service League of Hobbs, \$2,000. *Hobbs*. Project Superstar provides shoes to students in elementary, junior high and high school boosting self-esteem of needy, at risk students.

Keres Children's Learning Center, \$2,000. *Cochiti Pueblo*. Preschool in which children learn native language of Keres and learn through culturally appropriate activities reflective of traditional practices to build a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

Kirtland Youth Association, \$2,500. *Kirtland & San Juan County*. Afterschool program serves children in a safe educational environment in which to grow and develop educationally and emotionally.

Los Alamos Arts Council, \$500, *Los Alamos*. Through theatre program, offers children the opportunity for self-exploration, development of social and communication skills, self-discipline, strong work ethic and understanding of team concept.

Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project, \$1000, *Velarde*. Creating a curriculum and materials on Mesa Prieta Petroglyphs to foster cultural identity and promote STEM, science, technology, engineering and math.

Mesilla Valley CASA, \$2,500. *Dona Ana County*. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) trains community volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in the foster care system.

NM Suicide Intervention Project, \$4,000. *Santa Fe and Rio Arriba Counties*. Provides school based suicide prevention education and skills training to school communities through crisis teams which provide an organized response in the event of a youth suicide.

Northern Youth Project, \$4,000. *Rural Communities around Abiquiu*. Program combines art, agriculture, community service and leadership to create a well-rounded and youth-centered organization that includes a productive, large garden.