



New Mexico Children's Foundation

NEWSLETTER

Winter Spring 2019

Dear Friends,

The new year inspires us to recommit to our vision of what we can and will do together to improve the plight of children in New Mexico.

Recent reports paint a dire picture of the status of our children. The investigative journalists of the nonprofit Searchlight have devoted their efforts to highlighting the challenges facing children and families in New Mexico. Building on this information, the New Mexico Children's Foundation and Rotary partnered with Searchlight to conduct a town hall meeting on early childhood education where several substantive proposals were crafted. As the President of NMCF, I am dedicated to forwarding these non-partisan recommendations in the months ahead. Read about our town hall with Searchlight inside.

We are happy to report that our Gala, "Starry Starry Night" was a big success. We wish to again thank our wonderful sponsors and donors to the Live and Silent Auction. Our partnership with the Santa Fe Children's Museum to leverage the effectiveness of each organization is a good example of our commitment to find new ways to collaborate with others for the benefit of our children.

On August 24, 2019 we will hold our annual gala, the main fund-raising event for our grants. The location will be La Fonda Hotel and we are planning a theme that will be fun and nostalgic. Plan to dress up and dance! Thank you to our good friends at Los Alamos National Bank for their early sponsorship and to Sazon for offering the popular Dinner for Ten as one of our live auction items! More information will be forthcoming on what will be another memorable evening.

The 2019-20 Grant Guidelines have been issued. Grant proposals are due by Friday, March 8, 2019. Nonprofits that provide services to children and families are eligible to apply provided that their annual budget is less than \$300,000.

I am very pleased to announce three important grants received by the Foundation. Thank you to Bill Saubert and the Jockers Family Foundation; Edward Lopez and Delta Dental; and Molina Health Care. We appreciate your commitment to bettering the lives of children in New Mexico.

Sincerely,

Gary King, President



Estate Planning

By Donna Pedace, Vice President, NMCF

Too often, we put off planning for what happens after we are gone – what is commonly called estate planning. A 2017 survey by caring.com reports that 60% of American adults do not have estate plans in place. Your plans should be discussed with your lawyer, financial planner, tax advisor, and family members. Below are examples of some key documents that we all need to have organized and available:

***Will** – Instructions that direct the distribution of assets that you own, sets up guardians for minors, appoints an executor to administer your estate.

***Power of Attorney (POA) for Financial Matters** – Names someone you trust as the person to help manage your financial affairs if/when you are no longer able to take care of them.

***Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care** – Appoints someone you trust to make medical decisions for you if you cannot make them yourself.

***Living Will** – Often called an advance directive, instructions on your wishes about prolonging your life in case of terminal illness or a permanent incapacitated state.

***Revocable Living Trust** – Like a will and can provide some benefits that you wouldn't typically get with a will, with more privacy and without the costs and hassle of probate court.

Give copies of the above documents to those who will need them but keep the original in a secure location. It is also advisable to keep and have available:

***Current Net Worth Statement** – List all your assets and liabilities and what they are worth. It is helpful to indicate how the assets are titled. This document can be a great help to help your advisors or heirs, as well as for you to plan for the future.

***List of Professional Advisors** – Include names and contact information for important advisors such as your financial planner, attorney, CPA, insurance agents, and doctors.

We hope you will consider leaving a legacy gift to the New Mexico Children's Foundation as you make your estate plans.



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Simply type in New
Mexico Children's
Foundation.**



Meet Early Childhood Education Specialist, Cathy Mogharreban Trustee

My husband and I moved to Albuquerque in 2017 to be closer to our children and grandchildren and we are fully enjoying being New Mexico residents. My adult life has been centered on children, whether through my work as a professor of early childhood education, or as a working mom of three active kids.

In my early career in psychology I came to realize that while all developmental levels are important to our success as caring and productive human beings, the years that are most impacted by learning are the earliest years when the brain is developing at a fast and furious rate. Thus, I went on to pursue a doctorate in early childhood education and spent 20+ years teaching college students how to inspire in young children a love of learning, an openness to the diversity of our world, and a curiosity in the creative, academic and social environments they find themselves in.

Joining the board of the New Mexico Children's Foundation allows me an avenue to give my time and knowledge to an organization that understands that it takes a village to provide sound educational, social, and emotional support to children who are most vulnerable. I am proud to be part of the NMCF as we move New Mexico's children forward one program at a time.



Grant Guidelines for 2019-20: Nonprofits that provide services to children and families in New Mexico with budgets less than \$300,000 should consult www.nmchildren.org to view the requirements. Applications are due March 8, 2018.

Buckaroo Ball Celebrates 25 Years of Caring: 1994-2019

Congratulations to the Buckaroo Ball for 25 years of providing grants to programs that provide services to benefit at risk children in Santa Fe. Over 100 nonprofits have been helped in these 25 years. The Buckaroo Ball is still produced and managed by Fiddle Kirk, Kimi Green and Carol Thompson who represent the Buckaroo Ball Advisory Fund, community volunteers, and the board and staff of each year's nonprofit recipients of the event. Thank you to Buffalo Thunder for their support, assistance and the use of the stunning La Mesita Ranch as the venue.



Highlights from the Field

The programs described below were partially funded by grants from NMCF in the 2018-19 grants cycle. These are examples of the services being provided by the thirty-nine non-profits that received funding thanks to the generosity of our donors.

CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children, First Judicial District

Each year thousands of children in New Mexico are in the foster care system. Through no fault of their own, children are taken away from harmful home situations involving physical abuse and severe neglect. Many of these children are taken into custody by the State of New Mexico with nothing but the clothes on their backs. CASA steps in and provides these children with toys, blankets and other comforts at a frightening time when they are being uprooted from everything they have known.

Next, a guardian angel, the CASA Volunteer enters the picture. Appointed by a District Judge, the CASA advocates for the child in and out of court making sure the child is safe and has everything they need to thrive. The goal is to help these children overcome the trauma they have experienced. One caring adult in a child's life is the biggest predictor of a child's success. CASAs make children feel loved and protected. Although some children are able to return to their homes after this serious intervention, many will remain in foster care until they are 18. CASA works for children to have a safe permanent home. Executive Director Annie Rasquin works tirelessly with a team of 60 plus volunteers that contribute over 5000 hours to make sure that foster children in the district are safe.

Common Bond New Mexico, Albuquerque

Many LGBT youth are considered at risk. Upon "coming out" these young people can be thrown out of their homes and onto the streets where predators and other dangers are commonplace. Common Bond provides aid and connections with local services for these youth. The program provided 1300 meals, speakers on a variety of topics ranging from coping techniques for depression, stress, and anxiety to career information and public/speaking/job interview workshops. Their weekly get-togethers provide counseling and support with the philosophy of "Provide, Promote and Inspire."

Pueblo de Abiquiu Library & Cultural Center

The summer reading program Reading Rocks exposed children to enrichment activities including an ongoing class of comics history, designing characters, creating story lines and learning the techniques of comic art. The Wildlife Center, The Bug Lady, Ghost Ranch Paleontologist, and others visited the group. In addition the students had a thrilling and entertaining night attending the Santa Fe Opera. Interns worked with the younger students which provided an excellent learning opportunity for all.

The Bikeworks, Silver City and area

In the community of Silver City the Bikeworks Earn-A-Bike program is all about hands-on education. Each participant gets a complete workstation: tools, a bike stand and a work bench. Each child gets to pick out the bike that they will be working for. Of the 120 kids who participated in 2018, 64 kids earned, repaired and rode away on their new bikes with new helmets. The Mobile Bike Repair Workshop program was created for children in the rural communities near Silver City. The primary goal is to educate and empower kids by guiding them in the process to fix their own bikes. The most common problem is flat tires because the area has lots of thorns. The second most common problem is brakes that don't work. In one instance, a boy in San Lorenzo named Carlos had no brakes on his bike and so had worn big holes in his shoes. His mom shared that those were the third pair of shoes he has gone through. By helping him fix his brakes, not only were shoes saved but his life may have been saved since no brakes can have catastrophic consequences. The Bike Works is gearing up for a vibrant spring when kids get back on their bikes.

Operation School Bell, Assistance League of Chaves County

This fall, Operation School Bell provided new school clothing to 574 of the neediest children in Chaves County from 22 schools in grades PreK through 8th. Over 170 volunteers and Assistance League Members assist with children trying on the new clothes which include pants, shirts, underwear, socks, a warm jacket, hygiene kit, age appropriate book and gift card for new shoes. One of these volunteers is Mary, a school bus driver from the valley schools. Each year she gets permission from parents and the schools to bus the eligible students to the Assistance League Chapter House to be clothed by the program. After they receive the new clothing, she buses the students to Target to redeem their gift card for a new pair of shoes. She returns the children to school with new clothes and shoes in hand. Grateful parents, huge smiles and thank yous of the children reward these dedicated volunteers. Having nice new clothes for the school year make an important difference for these children.

Children's Reading Alliance Las Cruces

Early childhood education begins with engaged parents. The Children's Reading Alliance shares with parents everything their child needs to know before entering kindergarten and helps parents understand how children learn. The program gives each family 19 bilingual books and various learning tools such as puzzles, stringing beads and sets of numbers and letters, and guidance on how to use them. Program managers reach out to neighborhoods to recruit families.

After completing the course, over 96% of parents read, talk and play much more with their children, understand to a greater degree how their child learns and enjoy learning time with their child more or much more. These are great results that teach parents to support their children's educational success.

Town Hall Meeting Examines Early Childhood Education in New Mexico

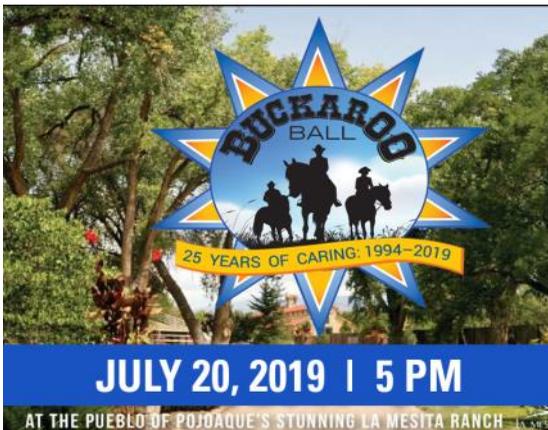
by Cathy Mogharreban

Last October, New Mexico Children’s Foundation co-hosted a town hall meeting on early childhood education in Albuquerque. **Searchlight New Mexico**, a nonprofit, nonpartisan investigative news organization launched *Raising New Mexico*, a year-long series on the challenges children in New Mexico face. NMCF and Rotary clubs organized a meeting open to the public and invited local children and family services leaders to attend. The purpose of the town hall was to share information and educate the public on critical issues in early childhood as well as to solicit ideas from the public on how to address those issues.

The meeting was opened by Sara Solovitch, Executive Editor for Searchlight, who introduced the speaker, Kelly Klundt. Ms. Klundt, senior fiscal analyst at the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee, serves on the Prenatal-to-Three Legislative Advisory Group of the National Conference of State Legislatures. Ms. Klundt outlined New Mexico’s Early Childhood Care and Education System and the agencies/funding sources under which each is housed. This was followed by a participant question and answer session. Strengths and challenges were highlighted in the Q & A and participants were then asked to work in small groups to brainstorm priority challenges and action steps necessary to address those challenges.

A special thank you to our NMCF and Rotary table monitor volunteers – John Freeman, Barbara LeGree, Kathy Schulz, and Bridget Condon. Lively and engaging discussions took place at each table. The group then came back together and Cathy Mogharreban, NMCF board member and professor emeritus of early childhood education, facilitated a larger discussion summarizing key points made by each group. A synthesis of the findings is forthcoming.

Overall, the evening was informative, invigorating, and engaging. Special thanks also to Donna Pedace, VP for NMCF and Rob Dean, Executive Director for Searchlight New Mexico for their efforts in organizing a successful meeting of bipartisan discussion on critical issues for New Mexico’s children.



The 2019 Buckaroo Ball’s Grantees:
Adelante SFPS
Communities in Schools
Earth Care
Resolve

For more information, on the 2019 Buckaroo Ball, please call Carol Thompson at 505-603-0833.

The Buckaroo Ball Advisory Fund is a fund of the New Mexico’s Children Foundation.

Molina Health Care Gives Grant to NMCF

Molina Healthcare donated \$5,100 towards the well-being of New Mexico's children. Carolyn Ingram, Senior Vice President of Policy and Government Affairs for Molina Healthcare, presented the donation to Gary King, President of the NMCF. Molina is proud to partner with NMCF because of its key role in improving the health of children. Molina Healthcare, Inc., provides managed healthcare services under the Medicaid and Medicare programs and through the state insurance marketplaces. Through its locally operated health plans, Molina Healthcare served approximately 4 million members as of September 30, 2018.



Thank you to Edward Lopez, Jr., CEO of Delta Dental of New Mexico for a generous contribution. Delta Dental's core purpose is to promote the advancement of health care through the provision of dental benefit programs and philanthropic efforts.

Jockers Family Foundation

Many thanks to the Jockers Family Foundation for their ongoing generosity to the NMCF. Their longstanding support includes underwriting our fabulous profile video in memory of Jockers family member Carol Bradley, wife of Santa Fean Bill Saubert. Watch the video at www.nmchildren.org.

2019 AUGUST						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

www.calendar-to-print.com

Night in CASABLANCA At La Fonda August 24, 2019

Here are some quotes from the movie to entice you.

"Here's looking at you, kid."

"It's still the same old story/a fight for love and glory..."

"Of all the gin joints, ..she walks into mine..."

"Round up the usual suspects."

"Kiss me. Kiss me as if it were the last time."

Thanks to **Los Alamos National Bank** for being our first Sponsor! Please plan to join us for a great night.



THANKS: Once again, Los Alamos National Bank is sponsoring our Annual Gala which provides funding for our grants.

New Mexico Children's Foundation

P O Box 8182

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

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Carol Robertson Lopez, Executive Director
PO Box 8182, Santa Fe, NM 87504
505-986-2043

2019 Resolution:

Be kind to Mother Earth.

Go GREEN!!! Send your email address to info@nmchildren.org to start receiving communications by email. Save trees!

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



New Location

The NMCF Office has moved to a new location: 466 W. San Francisco, in the same building as CASA First.