

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

## NEWSLETTER

### Fall/Winter 2013

Dear Friends,

I am very excited to announce that the New Mexico Children's Foundation has been selected by the New Mexico Centennial Foundation to be the steward of the New Mexico Centennial Children's Legacy Fund. This fund of \$176,000 will be carefully managed and placed in a permanent endowment.

We are so grateful to the members of the Centennial for selecting us. Enclosed you will read how these funds were raised and I wish to thank everyone for their incredible effort to create a Lasting Legacy for Children.

Our annual gala, Margarita Villa, was a tremendous success. We raised \$49,000. Once again the members of the Board of Directors worked together to create a successful event. The silent auction, chaired by Linda Ferdig-Riley, raised almost \$30,000. Lois Chiarito did her usual excellent job with food and decorations. Kathy Basham designed very fun invitations. We also want to thank Paul Margetson and the staff of the Hotel Santa Fe; Vicky Speer and Soulstice; Larry Keeran of Silver-Coin Tequila; and our friends at the Scottish Rite Center.

This year, we awarded \$102,500 to 36 deserving non-profit organizations. This is a record amount for the Foundation. Inside you will read about the non-profits selected for these grants.

This has been a record year in fundraising and in the amount we were able to give, but there is still so much to be done. It was so distressing to learn that when compared with other states the welfare of our children of New Mexico ranks last in the country. So I hope you will consider a donation to help improve the outlook for our children.

Holiday Greetings and best wishes to you for a wonderful New Year.

David Dodge, President  
Board of Directors

#### New Mexico Children's Foundation

Alice King, Founder 1930-2008

#### Board of Directors Officers:

David Dodge, President  
Linda Ferdig-Riley, Vice President  
Richard Sandoval, Treasurer  
Katherine Basham, Secretary  
Sara Armstrong, Immediate Past President

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Aaron Enloe	Kathy Schulz
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Caroline Gaston	Kristi Wareham
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Carol Robertson Lopez, Executive Director



[www.nmchildren.org](http://www.nmchildren.org)  
505-986-2043

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

# A Lasting Legacy

Last year the State of New Mexico celebrated its centennial. Among the yearlong activities to commemorate our statehood was a **Grand Centennial Ball** which was held on January 6<sup>th</sup>. This Grand Ball was truly an event befitting the occasion and has made a lasting impact on our state.

When the NM Centennial Foundation Committee was considering their goals, it was decided that their legacy should include the creation of a fund that would help New Mexico's children. Lisa Barker, Chair of the Grand Centennial Ball, dedicated her efforts to not only stage this extraordinary celebration but to do so in a way that the event would raise money to create such a fund.

Lisa Barker is a talented and determined woman. In spite of a depressed economy, no start-up funds for the Grand Centennial Ball, not knowing who the next Governor would be, and with limited time, she did what many had doubts could be done. After attending several Centennial Foundation Board meetings where the year of statewide activities was being planned, Lisa could see that someone needed to take charge of the Grand Centennial Ball. Lisa was still on leave from her career at Barker Realty which she had taken to care for her mother. After asking others who was going to lead the committee, she herself was drafted for the job as Chair of the Grand Centennial Ball.

Lisa quickly called on two good friends, Les Samuel and Shannon Boniface, to co-chair. (The three appear in the photo above taken by Daniel Nadelbach.) Then an excellent committee was formed that as Lisa stated, "rolled up their sleeves and got to work. Fidelity Investments was the first corporate sponsors that got the ball rolling, no pun intended. Although the contract for the food was awarded to the Eldorado, Jenny Kimball of La Fonda Hotel insisted on La Fonda being involved and underwrote the entire VIP Century Club Party with lovely food and drink. Mayor David Coss, City of Santa Fe, offered the Convention Center and parking as well as the assistance of City and Convention Center staff, Rosalee Grace, Jim Bradbury and others. The Grand Centennial Ball began to fall in to place in spite of the obstacles.

Shannon Boniface penned the tag line, Step Back in Time for the Future of New Mexico. Mary Switzer designed the special invitation and evening program using historic photographs and 1800 invitations were mailed. The committee could have spent thousands on store-bought decorations. Instead Lisa Samuel utilized her design talent to create decorations using farolitas and natural materials like chamisas that she, her assistant Pablo and the entire committee gathered and with drills and glue in hand assembled the decorations. As Chair, Lisa Barker continued to find ways to keep expenses as low as possible in order to raise funds for a lasting gift to New Mexico.



## New Mexico's Children—Rock Bottom in Health, Education and Welfare

By Linda Ferdig-Riley, Vice President and Chair of the Development Committee

Our children are our future...that is a simple fact. It is a fact that does not bode well for New Mexico because our children are last, ranking fiftieth in our nation in child health, education and welfare. How we got here is complicated, but we must improve conditions for our children if New Mexico is ever going to attract the businesses that will bring the jobs that may well be the stepping-stone to further improving conditions for New Mexico's children. Future businesses must see that there is the potential for an educated, competent work force right here in New Mexico.

The New Mexico Children's Foundation does what it can to improve poor conditions for children throughout the state. We fund small non-profits statewide that benefit the children in their areas. Shoes for children in Hobbs so they can attend school, after school bike rides for latchkey children in Silver City, additional educational support for underprivileged children in Roswell, Torrance, Sandoval, Valencia and Bernalillo counties, grief counseling for young people who have lost a relative, Court Appointed Special Advocates for foster children in Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, Los Alamos, Mora, San Miguel and Guadalupe—these are just a few examples of efforts we help communities fund. The need is great, however, and we cannot provide the help needed without you.

We know many appeal to you for support and that some of you are "donation weary". But when you consider the stakes involved here—the future of our children, of our state, what better place to invest? Yes art is important, as are museums, gardens, and parks... but when you have to make a choice about where your donation dollars go—the priority seems pretty obvious, at least it does to us. So, we hope you will consider making a difference in a New Mexican child's life, and send in your check today. You might even make it \$50.00, \$500.00 or \$5000.00 for improving the lives of children currently ranked fiftieth!

***Let's all work together to improve conditions for our young people.***

## Grants Awarded 2013-2014

- Mesilla Valley CASA**, \$2,500. *Dona Ana County*. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) 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.
- Ojo Sarco Community Center**, \$2,000, Ojo Sarco. Support for the Blue Spring Book Club which promotes reading with book-related art activities for children at the Community Center.
- REEL Fathers**, \$2,000. *Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and Los Alamos Counties*. Fathers in Focus Campfire Program provides at risk youth a clearer understanding of how their relationship with their father and related family issues have influenced their behavior, decisions and life aspirations.
- Samaritan House**, \$2,000, *San Miguel County*. Provides emergency shelter, food, clothing, and support services for families and their children that have become homeless and assists in process to find permanent and secure housing.
- SF Youth & Family Center, Zona del Sol**, \$3,000, *Santa Fe*. Provides low costs facilities which youth and family serving agencies can provide collaborative programs in southwest side of Santa Fe which has highest percentage of low income families.
- 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.
- Spirit of Hidalgo**, \$3,000, *Hidalgo County*. The Youth Leadership Team support the expansion of the availability of donated food and fresh foods for children while providing opportunities for participants for achievement and creation of successful food supply and 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 preschool for children 2 to 5 which 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.
- 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. Promotes positive self-images and self-betterment.
- Youth Heartline**, \$3,000, *Taos County*. Family Empowerment Program provides group therapy and aftercare advocacy on behalf of children and families dealing with issues of child abuse and trauma. The goal is break the cycle of abuse through free group support and therapy.

For information on how to apply for a grant, please consult our website, [www.nmchildren.org](http://www.nmchildren.org) or email Carol Robertson Lopez, Executive Director, at [carol@nmchildren.org](mailto:carol@nmchildren.org).

In the end, the committee was able to secure sponsorships and assistance from: Santa Fe New Mexican, Intel, Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Mexico, El Dorado Hotel, La Fonda on the Plaza, Albuquerque Journal, Barker Realty, Clear Channel Radio, Fidelity Investments, First National Bank of Santa Fe, Hutton Broadcasting, Los Alamos National Bank, New Mexico Magazine, Sandia National Laboratories, Stephen and Kathy Elliot, Thornburg Investment Management, TVC, Wells Fargo, The Bank of Las Vegas, Brewer Oil Company, Century Bank, Cottonwood Technology Fund, Innovate & Educate, Mack Energy Corporation, New Mexico Educators Federal Credit Union, New Mexico Military Institute, Packard's on the Plaza, The Payroll Company, Santa Fe Audio Visual, Sotheby's, State Employees Credit Union, US Bank, Santa Fean Magazine, Trend Magazine, Don Chalmers Ford, New Mexico Tech, In Honor of Christus St Vincent Medical Center, National Distributing, New Mexico Pinon Coffee Company, ABC Cake Shop, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Mary Sweitzer Design, Whole Foods, and Old Santa Fe Inn.

The committee budgeted for 600 paying guests and determined that there would not be complimentary tickets. Their tireless work resulted in an amazing sellout of 880 tickets —some of which were sold at the last minute necessitating that tables be added the day of the event. VIP tickets which included special perks were also sold. But Lisa wanted more and convinced the committee to hold a silent auction. Stephen and Kathy Elliot stepped forward and donated several pieces of fine art. The committee obtained numerous items that were turned into a lovely silent auction display by the talented Lisa Samuel.

The event itself was very special and worthy of New Mexico's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Dressed in period costumes and finery, attendees included three centenarians, well over 100 years of age, and a surprising number of young people. People from all over New Mexico connected with old friends and other attendees to create such a magical celebration that when the band stopped playing people didn't want to leave. Through sponsorships, ticket sales and the hard work of Lisa and her committee, just under \$200,000 profit was made for the creation of the NM Centennial Children's Legacy Fund.

When asked about her experience, Lisa said, "It has been an honor to chair this committee. I'm not easily impressed, and the work of the committee with their fortitude and tenacity was astounding. It was all about celebrating our past and the firm belief that our children are our future."

Through Lisa's leadership and the dedication of the NM Centennial Foundation, the New Mexico Centennial Children's Legacy Fund was established with a current balance of \$176,000. The New Mexico Children's Foundation has been selected as the steward of this fund. The Foundation will continue to accept donations and to carefully administer this fund for the benefit of New Mexico's children.

David Dodge, President of the Board of NMCF stated. "We are honored that the hard-working and dedicated men and women of the NM Centennial Foundation and Grand Centennial Ball Committee selected the NM Children's Foundation to administer these hard-earned dollars on behalf of New Mexico's children."

## A Lasting Legacy (continued)

The NM Centennial Foundation was staffed by executive director Jody Delaney, Niecy Taylor and Sarah Ives. The Board was composed of Stephen Elliott, Chair, Randy Randall, Suzanne Cisneros, Chip Chippeaux and Manuel Lujan. The Grand Centennial Ball Committee included:

Lisa Barker	Suzanne Cisneros	Nancy Long
Shannon Boniface	Sherry David	Peter Lovato
Les Samuel	Michael D'Alfonso	Kristina Lindstrom
Charmay Allred	Sherry Davis	Thomas Maguire
JoAnn Balzer	Larry Delgado	Paisley Mason
Susan Berk	Karen Durkovitz	Christine McDonald
Paula Berthelot	Kelly Egolf	Michael Namingha
Jamai Bliven	Calvin Fields	Megan Perkins
Patricia Brewer	Debra Garcia y Griego	Janey Potts
Elva Bush	Stefan Lark	Nivia Thames

The New Mexico Children's Foundation will be accepting donations for the NM Centennial Children's Legacy Fund and will report in this newsletter activities related to the Fund. In this article we wanted to record how this fund came about and thank Lisa Barker, the NM Centennial Foundation Board, the Grand Centennial Ball Committee and all those who contributed.

## Grants Awarded for 2013-2014

**Andele Tutors**, \$3,000, *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.

**Assistance League of Chaves County**, \$3,000, *Roswell*. Operation School Bell provides new school clothes and supplies for children in need from grades K through 8.

**Bikeworks**, \$3,000, *Silver City*. The Earn-a-Bike Program allows youth the opportunity to obtain a bike in exchange for volunteering at the facility where participants learn how to maintain and repair their bicycles as well as how to safely and efficiently ride bicycles through bicycle-related activities.

**Boys & Girls Club of Bloomfield**, \$4,000, *Bloomfield*. Afterschool program provides Kdz-Lit Reading, that increases motivation to read and builds literary skill, and other programs on healthy eating, internet safety and community service activities.

**Boys & Girls Club of Roswell**, \$4,000, *Roswell*. Project Learn engages young people in learning, encourages them to succeed in school and helps them become lifelong learners.

**Camp Corazones**, \$4,000. *Santa Fe and Statewide*. Provides a summer camp at no cost to children age 5 to 12 years and their families with or impacted by HIV/AIDS.

**Children's Grief Center of NM**, \$3,000. *Torrance, Sandoval, Valencia & Bernalillo Counties*. Provides free support groups for children, teens, young adults and their care givers that are grieving the death of a loved one.

## Grants Awarded for 2013-2014

**Compassionate Touch Network**, \$2,000. Trains facilitators for classroom presentations on mental illness, to recognize its symptoms, to get appropriate treatment, to understand the importance of early diagnosis and treatment, and to remove the stigma of mental illness.

**Down Syndrome Foundation of SE NM**, \$2,500. *Southeast New Mexico*. Summer day camps to strengthen physical skills as well as provide therapy opportunities including speech. Goal is to help support families of individuals with Down syndrome of all ages.

**First Born of Northern NM**, \$3,000. *San Miguel, Mora and Guadalupe Counties*. Provides support for first-time parents and their children from pregnancy up to 3 years old with weekly visitations the first year to encourage well-rounded childhood.

**First Judicial District CASA**, \$3,000. *Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and Los Alamos*. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) provide qualified, well-trained and committed volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children and to mentor youth aged 14-18 on probation in juvenile justice system.

**Fourth Judicial District CASA**, \$3,000. *Mora, San Miguel and Guadalupe*. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) trains community volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in the foster care system.

**Future Foundations Family Center**, \$2,000. *Grants*. Weekly cooking classes in afterschool program to reduce the incidence of childhood obesity by increased awareness of dietary habits and overall wellness.

**Gerard's House**, \$4,000. *Santa Fe*. Provides emotional and psychological support for children who are experiencing a life crisis because of the death of a loved one.

**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.

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

**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 conducted in the native language of Keres where children learn through culturally appropriate activities reflective of traditional practices in order to build a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

**Kirtland Youth Association**, \$3,000. *Kirtland and San Juan County*. Afterschool program serves children with a safe education environment in which to grow and develop educationally and emotionally.

**Los Alamos Arts Council**, \$1,000, *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.

**Many Mothers**, \$3,000. *Santa Fe County*. Provides free, in-home care and support to any Santa Fe family with a newborn to improve the health and development of our youngest residents.