



# New Mexico Children's Foundation NEWSLETTER

Fall — Winter 2017-2018

Dear Friends,

Twenty-five years ago, my mother, Alice King, realized her vision to help the children of New Mexico by establishing the New Mexico Children's Foundation. The Foundation has supported thousands of children and their families with grants to more than 160 organizations, primarily to small, grassroots groups, which work to make their communities better for our children. NMCF has accomplished this without government funds by raising money from the private sector, which is given in grants to deserving non-profits for programs directly benefiting local children.

As President of the Board of NMCF, I am excited to have the opportunity to carry on my mother's passion for uplifting New Mexico's children. In many communities, the need is more desperate now than it was 25 years ago.

We celebrated the 25th Anniversary beginning with special proclamations from the New Mexico Legislature and a birthday party to thank everyone who has served on our Board of Directors. We could not have been as successful as we have without the countless hours of service donated by our Board members. Last fall we held a very special gala and benefit concert with Taj Mahal and Keb' Mo' at the Santa Fe Opera. Alice would have loved the music and fun. In December we had High Tea for the holidays at the Ranchers Club in Albuquerque, an elegant way to complete our special year.

In honor of our 25th Anniversary, some very special anonymous donors offered a challenge to match each dollar we raised in 2017 up to \$50,000. I am delighted to announce that we raised over \$71,000! The \$50,000 match will be deposited in the Alice King Endowment Fund to support the work of the New Mexico Children's Foundation for years to come by increasing annual earnings we are able to donate to worthy organizations.

In recognition of our 25<sup>th</sup> we gave a record number of grants to thirty-nine organizations totaling \$73,500. Our grant cycle for 2018-2019 will begin with our Grant Application Guidelines which can be found on our website at [www.nmchildren.org](http://www.nmchildren.org). The deadline for applications is March 9, 2018.

In the coming year our Trustees will be holding a retreat to update and develop our strategic plan for the future. My goals include expansion of our statewide presence and building on our special anniversary to significantly increase our support of New Mexico children.

All we do is made possible by our generous donors. Thank you for caring about the children of New Mexico and supporting Alice's vision to improve the lives of New Mexico's children.

My sincere wishes to you and your family for a Happy New Year!

Gary King, President  
Board of Directors



## Donor/Development Committee by Donna Pedace

### *Your Legacy*

As with anything, having a good estate plan can bring great peace of mind. Making advance decisions around such things as beneficiaries, guardianship, power of attorney, and health proxies takes some thought but it is time well spent to ensure that your goals for taking care of the people and causes you care about are accomplished in the way that you would like. Professional advisors serve clients well by providing helpful options and sound advice on all matters, including charitable planning.

The New Mexico Children's Foundation has earned an exemplary reputation as a very effective partner and steward for individuals, families and institutions throughout New Mexico for the benefit that flows to our state's most vulnerable children. Our endowment fund provides valuable support for the annual grants that are given out each year to programs that benefit our most in-need children throughout New Mexico.

We hope that you will consider and discuss the New Mexico Children's Foundation with your professional advisors and your family as you make important decisions regarding your legacy.

I am very excited to report that we have reached our \$50,000 goal to achieve a \$50,000 match from two very generous families who support the mission of the NMCF in this, our 25th Anniversary Year. Thank you to all our wonderful donors who contributed. By building our endowment, we are helping to ensure that we will be able to continue to help New Mexico's children and families in future years.

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

Thank you to Bill Saubert and the Jockers Family Foundation for their generous gift. NMCF has benefitted from an annual gift through a three year commitment. These funds have been used for our annual grant program. In addition, our acclaimed Profile Video was funded in memory of Carol Bradley, Bill Saubert's spouse.

**Like us on Facebook!!!!  
Simply type in New Mexico Children's  
Foundation.**



**Please send us your email.**

**We are building our email list as an environment-friendly and cost-savings measure. Email: [kate@nmchildren.org](mailto:kate@nmchildren.org). You will be entered into a drawing for restaurant gift certificates.**

## Roswell Celebrates 25th Anniversary

A reception was held to celebrate the New Mexico Children's Foundation 25th Anniversary in Roswell. Over 50 women came together to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the New Mexico Children's Foundation and the nonprofits that have received funding. Hostesses were Yasine Armstrong, Licia Hillman, Diane Leven, Mary Alice Lysak, Dyanna Treat, and Maria Wiggins. Representatives of some of the nonprofits funded by NMCF attended. Numerous organizations in Chaves County have benefitted from startup grants such as the SENM Down Syndrome Foundation which is featured in our Profile Video on our website:

[www.nmchildren.org](http://www.nmchildren.org).



Sara Armstrong, surrounded by Roswell Non-Profits funded by NMCF: Bethany Johnston (SENM Down Syndrome Foundation), Sara Johnson, (CASA) Joan Boue (Assistance League), Sara Armstrong (NMCF Trustee), Representative from Reins for Life, Adrienne Fields (First Tee of SENM) and Jaynan McKelvy (Boys & Girls Club)



### Ancient City Open Benefits New Mexico Children's Foundation

Our heartfelt thanks go to Rocky Royer, Director of Tennis at the Santa Fe Tennis and Swim Club. In July the Ancient City Open was held and the New Mexico Children's Foundation was the beneficiary of the Tournament! Thank you!

## HOLIDAY TEA CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The Rancher's Club of Albuquerque was the enchanting location for the NMCF Holiday Tea. Attendees were treated to a traditional tea with lovely tea sandwiches, scones, clotted cream and delicious treats all served on beautiful dishes. Donna Pedace, Vice President and Chair of the Event, reports that \$6,718 was raised. Guests viewed our Profile Video and enjoyed the spirit of the Holiday Season. Several guests were overheard hoping that the Holiday Tea becomes an annual event.



## WHAT YOUR DONATIONS FUND

Our mission statement is to support small programs state-wide that serve the physical, mental, educational and social needs of children and their families. Most of the programs we fund address multiple needs and the nonprofits featured in this article have different approaches to serving children. All have budgets below \$300,000 and most are below \$100,000. Our small grants have great impact for these organizations that rely on a minimum of paid staff that are augmented by volunteers.

**The First Tee of Southeastern New Mexico** provides a summer camp program that uses golf as vehicle to teach core values of honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, responsibility, courtesy, perseverance, judgement and confidence. Participants are partnered with trained coaches to learn the basics of golf and core values. NMCF funding was *“an integral part of making the program a success and giving these young people an opportunity to experience a sport that will keep them healthy and active throughout life as well as reinforcing the importance of the 9 Core Values in their day to day lives, both on and off the golf course.”*



**Literacy Links** in Silver City distributed 9,902 age appropriate books to Grant County school children this fall. A fourth grade teacher writes: *On behalf of my fourth grade students, I thank Literacy Links for their ongoing support of reading and children. When children see books as gifts and as treasured objects to own, their love of reading gets a boost. This is critical for students from lower social economic status. Unlike others, they may have never been to a bookstore and thus have not felt the excitement of the world of book ownership. In a few homes these books make up most a child's book collection. As you know, books in homes have been linked to improved literacy.*



The smiles and enthusiasm that the opportunity to select books brings to children is priceless. Books are donated by the First Book National Book Bank and Literacy Link pays for shipping and handling fees. Volunteers catalogue and distribute these books.

## Northern Youth Project of Rio Arriba County

The summer and fall program, Mentoring Youth through Leadership in Art and Agriculture connects rural youth of Abiquiu and the area with the wealth of talent and knowledge the community has to offer in the areas of arts and land-based agricultural traditions, while connecting teens to diverse cultural heritage resources and contemporary societal issues and environmental issues.

A total of 165 children participated in the garden and arts program that included cooking classes, garden tours, gourd making, mural creation, design classes, micaceous pottery workshops, t-shirt dyeing, farm and garden programming. The project used teen interns and provided mentorship to these young leaders. The Garden Open House, Plant Sale and Seed Exchange and Harvest Brunch collectively invited community participants to celebrate teen leadership accomplishments.



## Food Bank of Eastern New Mexico

According to the most recent Feeding America report released last summer, 124,980 or 25% of New Mexico Children are at risk of hunger in New Mexico. Our state is tied for second place for childhood hunger. The Food Bank provides more than 470 students in 17 schools a food bag each weekend with its Backpack Program. These students have been identified by educators as being in danger of not having food on weekends away from school. In addition the Food Bank provides monthly food boxes as part of the Feeding Families Program.

## Boys and Girls Club of Bloomfield, New Mexico

With funds from NMCF, the Club has provided youth the opportunity to participate in various programs geared toward healthy eating and exercise as well as afterschool activities to support academic success. **Power Hour** supports youth with homework and tutoring and the Club's reading program allows youth a safe, quiet space to focus on literacy and motivates youth to explore interests. This fall, when the Bloomfield Executive Director resigned, the Boys & Girls Club of Farmington stepped in to assist during the on-going transition demonstrating shared commitment for children to have a safe and nurturing environment. The Boys and Girls Club of Bloomfield is the ONLY youth organization in Bloomfield. The Club serves approximately 840 youth with three-fourths of the youth the Club serves classified as "at-risk" for a variety of reasons, including income, family status, and problems at school at home or law enforcement.

## **New Mexico Kids Matter, Bernalillo County**

This project provides Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) for Native American Children who are in foster care due to child abuse and neglect in Bernalillo County. There are currently 250 Native American children in foster care in the Albuquerque metropolitan area and there is a need for services focused on the special needs of these children and the legal requirements that apply when Native American children are taken into foster care. These children find themselves in a world filled with social workers, lawyers, judges and courtrooms where life-altering decisions are made on their behalf and they are often re-traumatized by a child welfare system that is foreign to them and their parents. Not only being separated from their families but they also face a disconnection from their cultural needs. New Mexico Kids Matter through CASAs and other resources seeks to help these children.

## **High Mountain Youth Project in Ruidoso, Lincoln County**

A few years ago a group of concerned community members became alarmed by the growing number of homeless students. Homeless students are 87% more likely than their peers to leave school, making homelessness the highest risk factor in determining if a student leaves school before graduation. In addition these youth are more likely to be exposed to sexual trafficking, abuse, hunger and denial of their basic needs. Through collaboration with the schools, social service programs & agencies, businesses, faith-based groups, and other agencies who support at risk youth in the region, an Evening Drop In Center for high school youth opened at the beginning of this year. Students are able to access free resources that help them have better attendance, increased academic performance and graduate with their peers. The Evening program offers a quiet place for homework and rest, access to computers, school supplies, assistance with homework, laundry facilities, showers, evening meals, counseling, and other support services in a positive environment with trained caring adults.



### **The 2018 Buckaroo Ball's Grantees:**

**Gerard's House  
Santa Fe Mountain Center  
Solace  
The Sky Center**

**For more information, on the 2018 Buckaroo Ball, please call Carol Thompson at 505-603-0833 or Kimi Green at 699-6720**

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

# 25th Anniversary Party & Benefit Concert A FANTASTIC NIGHT!!!

The Party and Benefit Concert were a huge success and a great time was had by all. Two hundred guests attended our pre-concert party where guests enjoyed a delicious meal provided by Alexandra Burke of Walter Burke Catering. Our auctioneer, Mark Johnson did an outstanding job. And we raised more than \$60,000 in our special appeal. Our thanks to the Santa Fe Opera for their support and the beautiful venue, Jamie Lenfestey of AMP Productions, Keb' Mo' and Taj Mahal and band, RKW Enterprises. Trustee David Dodge chaired the event. The Gala Special Appeal raised \$23,000.



Gary & Yolanda King,  
Honorary Chairs



## THANKS TO OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA SPONSORS

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### Table Sponsors

Bridget Condon  
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Dorothy King  
Yolanda & Gary King  
Megan Perkins



### Live Auction Donors

Sazon, Four Seasons Resort, Costa Cayeres, & Keb' Mo' guitar donated by Mary Pointer Blankenship & Thomas Schadegg of Oklahoma.



**New Mexico Children's Foundation**

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**Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504**

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PO Box 8182, Santa Fe, NM 87504  
505-986-2043

2018 Resolution:

**Be kind to Mother Earth.**

Go GREEN!!! Send your email address to [kate@nmchildren.org](mailto:kate@nmchildren.org) to start receiving communications by email. Save trees!

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



**25th Anniversary  
Matching Fund  
Challenge Met**

Thanks to our generous donors, over \$71,000 was raised in our campaign and our appreciation to those anonymous donors who provided the \$50,000 challenge!