

2019

# Report to Donors

for the years 2017 and 2018



New Mexico Friends  
of Foster Children  
www.nmffc.org | [f](#) nmffc

**Over 2,000 children find themselves in foster care in New Mexico on any given day because of parental abuse or neglect.** The children find themselves facing new challenges: living in other people's homes, moving from home to home or living in group homes.

***Here are some of the ways in which you, our donors, make a difference for these children:***

***The Magic Kingdom:*** We happily bought tickets to Disneyland for six girls, ages 5 to 13, who had been placed in the same foster home. The family takes their grandchildren and their foster children to Disneyland every year and covers as much of the costs as they can afford. Your donations gave six very excited young girls a trip to Disneyland they will always remember.

***A fresh start:*** In the middle of the school year a young teen was moved to a new foster home and school. She played clarinet in the band but could not take her instrument with her. She did not want anyone to know she was in foster care. Her Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) contacted NMFFC and this young woman had her own clarinet within one week of enrolling in her new school.

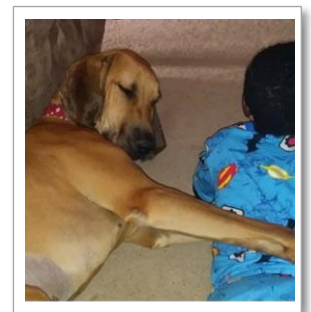
***A vision for the future:*** Navajo Tribal Social Services requested assistance for a young teen living in a group home whose schoolmates were going on a trip to visit colleges. We paid the trip fees and provided spending

money. She was able to participate just like the kids whose expenses were covered by their families. She returned from that trip with a picture of herself going to college – a new vision for her.

***A swimmer's ears:*** A five-year-old with cochlear implants loved to swim. A cover was needed to protect the device from the water and keep the child safe while swimming. We purchased a cover that allowed this little guy to swim as much as he wanted!

***Set for success:*** An older teen in foster care was working on her GED in preparation for living independently when she turned 18. One of our former scholarship recipients was this young woman's counselor and knew about our awards program. The counselor applied to NMFFC for assistance to help this young woman obtain her GED, which we gladly provided.

***A special companion:*** An emotional support animal was recommended for a young boy with special needs. His foster parents identified a dog through a group here in New Mexico and asked if we could assist with training costs, which we did. They reported later that the dog had a very calming effect on the child. Talk about two happy campers!



***A family trip:*** A foster family had a family trip planned. They wanted to include a child who had

*(story continued on page 3)*



## BICYCLES HELPING KIDS

In 2017 and 2018, your donations purchased bikes for kids simply so they could be kids, but you also purchased bikes for some very special situations:

- *a preteen's therapist determined that the young person would benefit from a bike with training wheels and other safety equipment*
- *a youth in a residential shelter needed a bike so he could get to his high school*
- *a ten-year-old child in treatment foster care needed a focused physical activity*
- *a pre-diabetic youth with medical and emotional issues needed a bike for exercise and an energy outlet.*

*Each of these children received a bike because you care.*

## Supporting Older Youth

Youth who have been in foster care often lack a support system to help them transition into adulthood. Because of its donors, Friends has helped fund activities that bring these youth together to learn, to share ideas, to laugh, to celebrate – to build community.

- **Independent Living Youth Conference**

Planned by youth, the annual **Independent Living Youth Conference** brings together older and former foster youth from around the state. In 2018, a grant from Friends helped the planners bring in a keynote speaker who addressed topics close to the hearts of these youth: love, heartbreak, and “the ongoing battle between closing yourself off to the world or choosing to stay open to love.” Friends also helped with funding in 2017.

- **NMCAN Scavenger Hunt**

The nonprofit NMCAN pairs young people who were in foster care with adult mentors. It organizes an annual scavenger hunt that brings the youth and mentors together for a fun day of exploring the community, culminating with lunch and an awards ceremony. Friends helps with the expenses for these events.

- **Festivus**

The holidays can be a hard time for young people who have been in foster care. In both 2017 and 2018, Friends helped with **Festivus**, an annual gathering organized by NMCAN that brings together youth and their chosen family, friends and mentors to enjoy a holiday celebration unique to them and their community of people who support them.

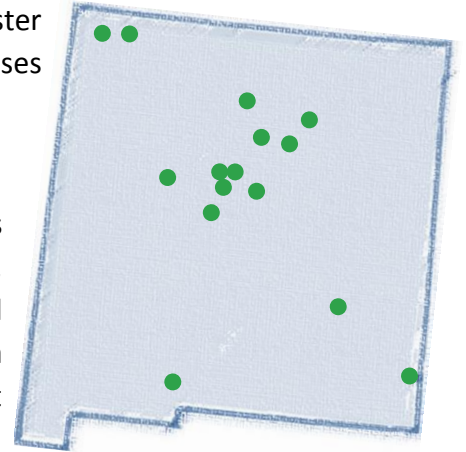
***The goal of New Mexico Friends of Foster Children is to help foster children succeed in their education and engage in activities that will make a difference in their lives.***

# NMFFC Scholarships Continue to Reach Youth Statewide

Our scholarship program is flourishing. Young people who were once in foster care are seeking and using these scholarships to help them with their expenses as they work toward their college degree or training certificate.

*Thanks to all of our donors, we were able to award 40 scholarships in 2017 and 2018.*

The applicants awarded scholarships continue to come from communities around New Mexico, including Farmington, Mora, Santa Fe, Ohkay Owingeh, Albuquerque, Laguna Pueblo, Roswell, Hobbs, and Las Cruces. Most had been in foster care through CYFD but several had been in the custody of a tribe or pueblo. Foster care didn't necessarily mean one foster home but could mean multiple placements, including group homes. The vast majority aged out of the system and were on their own; a number had been adopted, some while in their late teens. The young people had all suffered hardships growing up; their perseverance was remarkable to behold.



Applicants were going to CNM, ENMU Roswell, New Mexico Junior College, Doña Ana Community College, UNM, and NMSU. Two were going to music school in Colorado while one was going to Notre Dame in Indiana. Regardless of their primary focus, most of these young people are determined to do something that will help children and youth who grew up as they did.

We continue to see scholarship recipients who became counselors or social workers and are now helping other youth access funds from Friends to help meet their needs. In 2018, we were excited to see a letter of recommendation for one of our scholarship applicants come from a former scholarship recipient, who went to work for CYFD after college. We also have a scholarship recipient who is slowly but surely getting herself through college while she works as a counselor for a group home. We've written about how she applied to NMFFC for assistance to help one of the teens obtain her GED. It is so rewarding to see our recipients use Friends as a resource to assist others.



*continued from pg 1*

recently been placed in their home. We helped cover the additional cost so everyone in the family could go on vacation together – as a family – an experience that is often new to children coming into foster care.

## Maximizing resources for kids

One of our goals is to maximize your dollars by working with others to meet the needs of children and youth in foster care, needs that might not be met without others partnering with NMFFC.

A lovely example of this type of collaboration involves a teen who has a passionate interest in pursuing a medical career. She was able to attend a specialized medical career training camp, thanks to the efforts of several people and groups, including NMFFC, working together to collect the needed funding.

We coordinate with CYFD and others to find the best solution for each child who comes to our attention. A youth attending a special camp needed his motorized chair to participate fully in camp activities. NMFFC and his case worker partnered to access existing funds to pay for a special van designed to transport motorized chairs. We did not provide funding but we helped find a solution.

## Helping Kids Be Kids and Students Be Successful

Every dollar that Friends spends to make awards to support young people who have been in foster care is provided by our donors. The generosity of our donors never ceases to amaze us but we had some exceptional surprises in 2017 and 2018. These unexpected gifts added \$46,000 to our fundraising:

Early in 2017, Dr. Andrew Hsi of **A Step Ahead** announced that this nonprofit group was making a substantial donation to New Mexico Friends of Foster Children. What attracted A Step Ahead to Friends was its scholarship program – Friends’ effort to support young people who have experienced foster care and who are going to college or technical school while often struggling to make ends meet.

Shortly after receiving the news about A Step Ahead, our program manager received a phone call from the **Notah Begay III Foundation**. Mr. Begay had chosen New Mexico Friends of Foster Children to be one of three local nonprofits to receive donations from the New Mexico Grande Slam, the signature golf tournament that the Foundation organizes annually to raise money for its initiatives for kids. At the pre-tournament dinner, Mr. Begay said the beauty of Friends is that it keeps things simple -- it’s about helping foster kids be kids.



The owners of **Sadler & Son Monument Works Co.** in Hobbs heard about Friends from one of our board members and promptly wrote a very generous check to our program.



In early 2018, we received yet another wonderful surprise. The parent organization for **Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Mexico**, through its Management Steering Committee, awards grants to organizations making a difference in their communities in the states they serve. Friends was honored to receive the award for New Mexico.

Later in 2018, the **Albuquerque Community Foundation,**



**Junior League of Albuquerque Charitable Endowment Fund**, awarded a grant to Friends for two \$1,000 educational assistance awards (scholarships) specifically for young people who have experienced foster care. Two youth residing in Albuquerque at the time of their applications received these awards.



And as 2018 turned into 2019, the board of directors for the **Center for Action and Contemplation** informed us that it was making a gift to New Mexico Friends of Foster Children to support Friends’ mission and vision.

*We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to each of these organizations for their compassion and their vision for the future of children and youth who have been impacted by abuse or neglect.*

### Special Gifts to NMFFC in 2017 and 2018

#### IN HONOR OF

Jay and Lori Chambers  
Will and Laura Chambers  
William and Mary Chambers  
Mary Ann Copas  
Fred and Patricia Jaeger  
Sally and Ed Pais  
NMFFC Board of Directors

#### IN MEMORY OF

Vincent Distasio  
Janice Trujillo  
Hank Fisher  
Artie Kysar  
Karen Mogen



# 2017 and 2018 Donors

We want to thank all of our donors for their generous support, both financial and in-kind.

We look forward to acknowledging those who gave in 2019 in our next report.

## Individuals

Anonymous Donors  
Adair, Marie  
Aguayo, Susan E  
Alongi, Linda  
Anstedt, Michelle  
Anton, Jim & Carol  
Arndt, Sheryl  
Aronson, Rita & Eugene  
Asher, Sophie D  
Baca, Christa  
Barton, Clyde & Sheila  
Berger, Diane  
Blake, Virginia & Tom  
Bouchard, Bebeann  
Briggs, Pat & Chris  
Buck, Randi  
Bullock, Cheryl & Butch  
Bullock, Van & Collette  
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Cantrell, Kenna & Pace,  
Karen  
Carmony, Larry & Corinne  
Carnell, Robert  
Castillo, Ruben & Nancy  
Chambers, Joe & Sara  
Copas, Mary Ann & Hammer, Vic  
Corcoran, Alina  
Cordova, Elizabeth  
Cordova, Lorraine  
Dadig, Roberta  
Daves, Pamela G  
Davis, Linda  
Day, Pat & Ron  
Diener, Marla  
Dorland, James & Teddy  
Dowling, Margaret V  
Dunn, Pat  
Durkin, Laura  
Edward, Mary Lou  
Efroymsen, Miriam  
Fenoglio, Ella Joan  
Ferguson, Mandy  
Filosa, Mark & Ann  
Flewelling, Barton  
Flynn, William  
Flynn-O'Brien, Judy & Tim  
Freeman, Patrick & Andrea  
Frye, Sharon  
Fucile, Kathleen & Robert  
Fule, Susan  
Garcia, Elreena  
Garcia, Joshua T  
Garcia, Mary & Ruben

Garcia, Renee V  
Gillia, Beth Ann  
Goodfellow, Robert  
Gose, Michelle  
Hacsi, Brian  
Hames, Patricia  
Hamilton, Virginia  
Hanson, Carl & Mary Ellen  
Herd, Linda  
Holguin, Katherine A  
Houston (Tesky), Steve & Laura  
Hoy, Dennis & Beth  
Hsi, Andy & Steffgen, Kristin  
Hubka, Ryland & Melanie  
Iandiorio, Michelle  
Johanson, Jodi  
Johnson, Byron  
Kauffman, Jeff  
Kaye, Carolyn Glen  
Kileen, Pamela  
Kirchhevel, Lindsey  
Koenig, Tiffany  
Kraft, Molly  
Leitner, Pamela  
Logsdon, Lisa  
Lumia, Beverly  
Martin, Sophie  
Martinez, Tiffany  
Martinez-Cano, Viola  
McGrath, Elizabeth  
McWhirter, Lou  
Mendez, Odilia  
Mercer, Joann  
Michalski, Candy  
Mimovich, Jan  
Miura, Monica & Adrian  
Morrison, Shirley  
Morrow, Cary & Evelyn  
Nenno, Linda  
Network for Good Donors  
Nokes, Anne  
Novak, Linda  
O'Brien, Christina  
Olmos, Letha Sue  
Orell, Jessica  
Pace, Bridgette  
Padilla, Mariaelena  
Pecotte, Michelle  
Philpot, Heather  
Piwko, Mary F  
Poffenberger, Michael  
Porch, Thad  
Potter, Mark  
Quinn, Janice

Ramirez, Eddie  
Reilly, Mary  
Reinhart, Bonny  
Render, Mary  
Ritacca, Rita & Frank  
Robbins, Desirae  
Roberts, Terry E  
Robie, Ananda  
Romero, Claudia  
Ronca-Washburn, Jane  
Rose, Lynette & John  
Ross, Steph  
Roussell, Mike E, DMD  
Sanchez, Judy  
Schriever, Delma  
Schutze, Suzanne  
Schwanfelder, Nan  
Sheche, Judith N  
Stynen, Christopher  
Vandeventer, Terry & Sharon  
Wolf, Valerie  
Wrede, Lois  
Wright, T Spencer  
Young, Karla A  
Young, Sharissa  
Zimmerman, Shona L

## Organizations

A Step Ahead  
Adoption & Foster Care Alliance of NM  
AmazonSmile Foundation  
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 44  
Center for Action & Contemplation  
Community Link ABQ  
Elks Lodge, #1119 Las Cruces  
For the Kids Fund/20-30 Club of ABQ  
Friendship Force Toronto  
G.T. Evans American Legion Post 44  
Junior League of Albuquerque  
Notah Begay III Foundation  
Project Linus, ABQ Chapter  
Sandia Mountain Lions Club  
Sons of the American Legion Post 44  
TorC Lodge 2050 Loyal Order of Moose  
Optimist Club of Alamogordo  
Women of the Moose TorC Ch 1646

## Businesses

A Little Slice of Heaven  
Bartoo Sand & Gravel, Inc  
Bedroxx Bowling Center  
Big Food Express  
Blackstone Hotsprings  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of NM

Bullocks Shur Sav  
C & K Automotive  
Carmen's Kitchen  
Classic Products  
Cobblestone  
Dialogue Brewing  
EB Locksmith  
El Faro Restaurant  
Eyes of NM Family Optometry  
Elephant Butte Inn and Spa  
Farina Alto Pizzeria & Wine Bar  
Golden Needle Tailor Shop  
Haltom Orthodontics  
Hodge's Corner Restaurant  
Holiday Inn Express TorC  
hONEYhoUSe/Sister Beez LLC  
Il Vicino Wood Oven Pizza  
Indian Pueblo Cultural Center  
Ingo's Art Café  
International Hairport  
I Scream Ice Scream  
Iron Man Construction  
JohnnyBoards LLC  
Johnny B's Restaurant  
Kirikos Family Funeral Home, Inc.  
La Cocina Restaurant  
Lakeside True Value  
Lynn's Landscape  
M & Company Hair & Color Lounge  
Martha's Gifts  
Michele's Salon and Spa  
Monroe's New Mexican Food  
Pacific Grill  
Papa Felipe's Mexican Restaurant  
Passion Pie Café  
Red Fox Realty & its Agents  
Reviva Band  
Riverbend Hot Springs  
Round 1 Bowling & Amusement  
Sadler & Son Monument Works Co.  
Salon del Rio  
Seasons 52 Fresh Grill & Wine Bar  
Sierra Del Rio Golf Course  
Sierra Grande Lodge  
Southwestern Title & Escrow Inc  
Spectrum Pottery  
Sumthins'  
Sunset Grill  
Sun Valley Hardware  
Tony's Restaurant  
TorC Municipal Golf Course  
Trembly Associates Corp  
Whitehead Chevrolet  
Zendo Coffee

## NMFFC Board of Directors – Transitions

Over the past two years, new and exciting opportunities have come for three of our long-time board members, Pat Dunn, Corinne Carmony, and Lynette Rose. NMFFC and the children of New Mexico have benefitted immeasurably from the commitment of these three women, who will be greatly missed. Fortunately, the energy and talent of our new board members allowed Pat, Corinne and Lynette to shift their personal focus with confidence, knowing that NMFFC will continue to grow and thrive as the board takes on new tasks and explores new opportunities.

**Three new board members have joined Friends since mid-2018, bringing new skills and diverse experience to the organization.**



### Sophie Asher

I got involved in NMFFC because I worked in criminal law and saw that almost every client had a difficult childhood. I wanted to be part of an organization that helped kids have hope. I want to bring my knowledge of the issues facing foster children to the organization and, through the organization, to the larger community. That is also my hope for the coming year – for the organization to inform the community about foster care and inspire the community to make a difference.

*Sophie is an Attorney at Pegasus Legal Services for Children.*

### Elizabeth Cordova

I got involved in NMFFC because I was interested in learning more about the foster care system in New Mexico. It's been very rewarding for me to gain an understanding of the systems of support surrounding CYFD, and to better understand the needs of our foster youth. I also joined the Board in order to work with a nonprofit that I hadn't yet had the opportunity to engage with. I'm excited to support the organization by thinking through our systems, processes, and tools so that we can be ever more effective in accomplishing our mission.

*Elizabeth is a Strategic Support Manager for UNM's Project ECHO.*



### Matthew Makofske



I became interested in Friends because my parents welcomed several children with difficult lives into our home to be members of our family. We were fortunate and could share experiences with them that had positive impacts on their lives. Now, I'd like to continue giving back through

NMFFC. I hope to help Friends technically – using my skills in data and website management to make Friends accessible and efficient. Ultimately, I would like to expand NMFFC's impact on youth around New Mexico, and build our network in a sustainable manner.

*Matt is a Senior Business Analyst at UNM's Project Echo.*

### Financial Snapshot 2018

#### Income

Private Gifts	\$ 22,841
Special Events	\$ 3,747
Inventory Sales	\$ 831
Contracts	
<i>Assisting CYFD with statewide adoption events and foster parent appreciation events.</i>	\$ 87,795

**Total Income 2018** **\$ 115,214**

#### Expenses

Program*	\$ 114,255
Management & General	\$ 7,682
Fundraising	\$ 3,662

**Total Expenses 2018** **\$ 125,599**

*Note: Carry-over gifts from 2017 allowed us to spend more than we raised in 2018.*

#### \*Program includes...

- Awards to kids for things like bikes, sports, music, educational services, birthday parties, *and more*
- Scholarships to former foster youth
- Support for youth conference and events
- Support for adoption events and foster parent appreciation events (*non-donor funds*).

*Thank you* to everyone who helped make our 2017 and 2018 fundraisers a success:

**Bedroxx Bowling Center** in Truth or Consequences continued to host bowling tournaments to raise money for Friends and the children we serve. The tournaments drew bowlers from around the state and beyond, while the communities of **T or C** and **Elephant Butte** provided sponsorships and supported the raffles and silent auctions.



In 2017, the band **hONEYhoUSE** played its second concert to raise funds for Friends, again on the patio at the **Indian Pueblo Cultural Center's Pueblo Harvest Café**.



The reggae band **Reviva** performed a benefit concert for us at Dialogue Brewing the next year. Fans of both bands enjoyed wonderful afternoons of music and fun while raising money to help New Mexico's children in foster care.



## Meet some of our partners

New Mexico Friends of Foster Children is made possible only by the involvement and donations of community members. Thank you to everyone who has supported us!

### **Kenna and Karen**

Kenna and Karen first heard about Friends at a hONEYhoUSE benefit concert. "The musicians of hONEYhoUSE care about the community, and we feel many of their followers are not only fun but share the same sense of caring and community. We were excited to find out about Friends." The couple works hard to learn about issues facing foster children. They want to give hope to kids in a dark place, and remind them there is good in the world. They are happy to make monetary donations to support Friends' activities because Friends knows where donations can be best used, and the people involved are passionate about the work. Kenna and Karen hope to be "caretakers of our fellow humans," and the Friends community is stronger for their involvement.

### **Red Fox Realty**

Red Fox Realty and its agents, led by Mary Ann Campbell and Kirsten Brown, contacted us in mid-2018 to ask if we could use volunteers and other assistance. Since then, Red Fox agents have helped at fundraisers, donated great raffle baskets, raised money for Friends at the Balloon Fiesta, and inspired a title company partner and others to donate to us. Thank you, Red Fox, for giving back to the community so generously.





# New Mexico Friends of Foster Children

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## Board of Directors

Patricia Briggs, President  
Mary L. Garcia, Vice-President  
Elizabeth Cordova, Treasurer  
Sophie Asher, Secretary  
Judy Flynn-O'Brien, Director  
Matthew Makofske, Director  
Letha Sue Olmos, Director

## Program Manager

Mary Ann Copas

## Lead Volunteers

Bebeann Bouchard  
Corinne Carmony  
Pat Dunn  
Andrea Kemp  
David Montoya  
Deborah Sant

To receive e-updates from Friends, sign up at [www.nmffc.org/news-events/subscribe](http://www.nmffc.org/news-events/subscribe)  
or send your email address to [info@nmffc.org](mailto:info@nmffc.org)



## Announcing the Bouchard Family Scholarship

In 2018, the NMFFC Board of Directors created a scholarship in honor of Bebeann Bouchard, who brings many years of passion, dedication and work experience to helping children, youth and families survive and thrive in their homes and communities. We are particularly grateful for her work with Friends. Bebeann has volunteered with Friends since it was founded, not least as a member of the Awards Committee, where she read numerous scholarship applications that made her deeply concerned that we support these remarkable young people. It was she who brought her concerns to A Step Ahead, a nonprofit organization with which she had been involved for years.

The first Bouchard Family Scholarship was awarded in 2018 to Ivanna Cubero, who aged out of the foster care system and was working toward her second Associates degree, a degree in welding technology. Despite the challenges she faced growing up, this motivated and talented young woman won art awards in high school, attained Dean's List status in college, and was obtaining the skills she needed to become a welder so that she could support herself as she pursued her dream of an advanced degree. She planned to use the scholarship to acquire the equipment she needed for her courses.

The recipient of the Bouchard Family Scholarship for 2019 has been selected  
and will be featured in our next report.