

# New Mexico Friends of Foster Children Annual Report 2023



**Dear Friends community,**

**Thank you so much for helping us increase our impact in building community for children and youth in foster care and helping them thrive.**

**In 2023, we more than doubled the number of children we served through just our Expanding Horizons (general support) and It's Your Birthday! Programs from 2022. We also launched two new programs - Piggy Bank connecting foster youth to financial literacy and access to banking, and Community Building in the Community with eight events (in Albuquerque, Mountainair, and Gallup) for foster families to come together and have new experiences in our community at no cost to them. This year, we were able to serve children in 19 different counties; we look forward to reaching foster children in all of New Mexico's counties.**

**Volunteers helped us assemble over 200 birthday boxes and gathered numerous in-kind donations, including supplies like cake mix, frosting, candles, and decorations, to help make birthday celebrations even more special. We are excited to be expanding our volunteer program in 2024 with opportunities for volunteers to receive more training and to engage with families at outreach/community events.**

**I'd like to invite you to join us in celebrating our 15th birthday as a non-profit in 2024. Recurring donations, corporate sponsorships, or community connections are all on our birthday list. We so appreciate your time, talent, and resources as we strengthen the village which supports these children and youth in having positive experiences and role models.**

**With gratitude,**

**Pat Briggs, NMFFC Board President**





# It's Your Birthday!

New Mexico Friends of Foster Children



With your help, we celebrated

# 211

birthdays this year!

**We were able to celebrate more foster children on their special day in 2023 than we have in any previous year.**



As expressed by foster parents or other involved adults:

- Thank you for making [child's] birthday special. When he opened his gifts, he said, "I love my birthday!"
- She loves her new gifts. We already have sun catchers drying in the window. She really likes the LOL surprise and unicorn squishy. She says she plans on keeping it forever and ever.
- We are new to foster care (not new to being parents) as of this year and I can tell you because of that package our foster son's first birthday was absolutely perfect. Thank you all so much for what you do.



## Birthday Benefactors:

Alexandra C.  
Mary G.  
Sara J.  
Kathleen Q.

Traci S.  
Jennifer S.  
Jamie W.  
Mary W.



# Expanding H-o-rizons



New Mexico Friends of Foster Children

**In 2023, we fulfilled 70 Expanding Horizons requests, more than double the number (30) we did in 2022. The awards included dance, gymnastics, and martial arts classes; musical instruments; travel funds; bikes; and equipment/supplies to start a business (lawn service and jewelry making). This impact was shared:**

- **He was floored, absolutely floored! He had a blast checking out all of the [instruments] and selecting his very own special one.**
- **It made him extremely happy!**
- **He gained confidence, work experience, people skills, and income management.**
- **Your support helped us get mobile with a wagon with seat belts. They are safe and love going for a ride in it.**



# THANK YOU!



**to PNM for choosing us as a recipient of your PowerKick support!**

# Scholarships

New Mexico Friends of Foster Children



**We awarded 24 scholarships this year. Young adults who experienced foster care during their childhood received assistance with their post-high school plans, including academic study, EMS training, and technical training. One 2023 recipient shared, "I want to thank you so much for allowing me to have this opportunity! I appreciate it so much."**

# THANK YOU to





# Style & Fit

New Mexico Friends of Foster Children

**135 children and youth in foster care got to pick out clothes which fit their bodies and their sense of style in 2023. We were excited to fund mini-awards of \$75 for children under the age of 4 this year. One CASA said: As budding teenagers, they were able to pick out what they liked. In the teen years this is important and these children care about such things a lot.**



# Summer Fun

New Mexico Friends of Foster Children



**We fulfilled 40 Summer Fun requests. Feedback from recipients/foster families:**

- We are thankful for the program and staff for making kids' wishes happen.
- It makes them feel valued.
- Huge impact! Kids are more active and independent.
- He had so much fun. Thank you!!
- We were able to have more fun. Things are expensive so anything helps a lot. We appreciate a helping hand.



# Piggy Bank

New Mexico Friends of Foster Children



**This year, we launched our Piggy Bank program providing financial empowerment courses and safe banking options for foster youth. Three teens opened solely owned bank accounts with seed money from Friends. A special thank you to these financial institutions who helped us give this amazing, life-skill building opportunity:**



**And our program sponsor:**



# Community Building in the Community

New Mexico Friends of Foster Children

**This program is designed to provide accessible opportunities for foster families to come together, have fun, share experiences, and build community at no cost to the families.**

**We had **8** opportunities for community building this year!**

**We were able to:**

- **Learn cooking tips and prepare recipes with Kids Cook - twice!**
- **Watch an Isotopes baseball game.**
- **Work with horses from Cloud Dancers.**
- **Watch a flamenco performance hosted by the National Institute of Flamenco.**
- **Attend a power concert with the NM Philharmonic Orchestra.**
- **Learn at a mental health workshop in Mountainair.**
- **See Santa visit and bring toys in Gallup.**



## Open House

**In January, we moved into a new office and welcomed our partners to visit us!**



## Seeding the Future

**In May, our community joined us to plant mini herb gardens and raise money for our programs!**



## Halloween Block Party

**In October, we partnered with Casa Leal Realty to provide a free trick-or-treating community space and play bingo!**



## Organization Events



# Sponsors

Thank you for helping us fulfill hundreds of requests:

Impact Creator



Joy Creators



Community Creator



# Grants

Community organizations supported us with

**18** grants in 2023!

**THANK YOU!**



**FHL Foundation**



**Nancy Ann Mellen Foundation**



**Maggie's Giving Circle**

# Individual and Organization Donors

100 Women ABQ, ACF - Effective Families Fund, Linda Alongi, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 44, Anonymous - Schwab Charitable, Sophie Asher, Nicole Banks, Benevity, Chris Boortz, Bebeann Bouchard, Nancy Bowen, Pat and Chris Briggs, Randi Buck, David Bull, Frances Bull, CAF - Xcel Energy Foundation, Corinne and Larry Carmony, Center for Action and Contemplation/Jodi Johanson, Charity on Top, Julia Clarke, Lisa Conry, Rex and Linda Davis, Teddy Dorland, Miriam Efroymsen, Julie Errickson, G. T. Evans American Legion Post 44, Shannon Figueroa, Lillian Fitzpatrick, Judy and Tim Flynn-O'Brien, Michael Flynn-O'Brien, Andrea and Patrick Freeman, Kathleen and Robert Fucile, Sue George, Carole Glade, Colleen Goff, Rebecca Guevara, Gail Guss, Carlie Hornback, Andrew Hsi, Miranda Jijani, Jeffrey Kauffman, Molly and Tim Kraft, LANL Foundation, Legacy Church, Zach Lepard, Elizabeth Leung, Kate Leung, Susan and Jimmy Leung, Los Alamos National Laboratories Employees, Matthew Makofske, John Martin, Sophie Martin, Andrew Mathis, Linda McCormick, Anne McKinney, Judy Miller, Dennis Moeller, Melissa Montoya, New Mexico Trial Lawyers Foundation, Network for Good, Anne Nokes, Nusenda - Indirect Lending Team, Christina O'Brien, Christopher Papaleo, Sidney Park, Diana C Paul/D.C. Paul Recordkeeping, PNM, Janice Quinn, Rio Rancho United Methodist Quilters, Terry Roberts, Jane Ronca-Washburn, Lynette Rose, Rotary Club of Moriarty, Joanne and Scott Schiabor, Rachit Sengupta, Mary Ann Shaening, Paige Sindt, Ryan Siu, Amy Skorheim, Jessica and Jarin Smith, Genaro Soto, Souder, Miller & Associates, Liz Sri, St. Timothy's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Joan Cole Sterne, T or C Lodge #2050 Loyal Order of the Moose, United Way, Sheila Van Luchene, Angie Wagner, Shelley Walden, Adair Waldenberg and Jon Peck, Alan and Kristin Watson Charitable Fund, Nancy Whiteman-Davenport and Carlton Davenport, Jade Wolf, Women of the Moose 1646, Terri Yoakum

## In-Kind Donations

Throughout the year, we also received over

# \$17,000

in donated items to support our programs!

And, thank you to everyone who helped NMFFC celebrate our 14th birthday by bringing birthday gifts for foster kids on August 6!



Thank you, Bill and I Scream Ice Cream, for hosting us!





# Our Volunteers

In 2023, we launched our “Wrap Events,” where volunteers join us to wrap presents and write birthday messages to foster children.

Our volunteers contributed almost

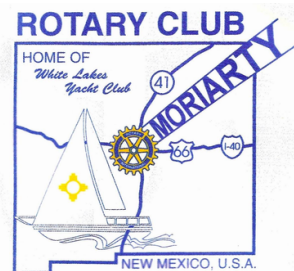
# 300

hours of work this year. Thank you!

Nancy Bowen, Alex Cervantes, Bryan Cordova, Lauren Doupe, Lillian Fitzpatrick, Judy Flynn O'Brien, Kevin Gonzalez, Mary Gonzales, Hannah Herr, Elizabeth Leung, Alanna Levy, Alexandra Lilley, Keely Lundy, Sabrina Maestas, Linda McCormick, Dolores Medina, Leslie Montoya, Noshin Nawar, Don Newlon, Irene Newlon, Anne Nokes, Nusenda: La Orilla Branch and Member Solutions, Linda Palko, Ruby Palko, Thor Palko, Sidney Park, Robyn Pease, Camarian Rivera, Arelys Rodriguez, Johannah Saavedra, Traci Sailer, Jennifer Schmidt, Debbie Sisson, Jo Stein, Patricia Timpane, Enzo Torres, Jessica Trumble, Lisa Waddoups, Jamie Walker, Suprita Wellington, Mary White, Grace Wolf, Jade Wolf, Terri Yoakum

# Our Partners

Thanks to all these organizations that helped us host events, fulfill requests, connect with community, and much more:





## Our Mission

To meet identified needs of children and youth who experience state or tribal foster care across New Mexico in order to strengthen their sense of community and help them thrive.

## Our Vision

Meeting needs and bringing joy to New Mexico's children in foster care.

## Our Values

- Value the voices of those with lived experience; listen to those with direct experience.
- Respect the individuality and privacy of the children and youth in foster care that we serve as well as the families, placements, and other adults who support them. Support the foster parents and professionals who care for the foster children and youth through our programs.
- Be inclusive in our work, striving to eliminate barriers to access. Promote equity in our work, working to reduce systematic inequalities due to race, gender, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, physical ability, religion, language, religion and other categories.
- Demonstrate the worth of those who support our organization as employees, contractors, donors, and volunteers by striving for equitable compensation, timely recognition, and respectful utilization of their time and talents.

# Our Board of Directors

Carlie Hornback



Pat Briggs



Judy Flynn O'Brien



Terri Yoakum



Sophie Asher



Matt Makofske



Jade Wolf

## Make a Match!

Our Board of Directors provided the seed funding for the match campaign we ran in spring 2023.

Together, our Board and our network - YOU! - raised



**\$8,000**



to benefit our programs.

Thank you for being the missing piece of our puzzle!

## 2023 Financials

As of November 30, 2023

**Total Income: \$116,533**

**Direct Program Awards: \$109,809**

Our Board has committed to a growth plan with the goal of expanding both how many children and youth in care we serve and how we support them.

This year, we made **498** awards!