

The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children.
~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Children are the living messages we send to a time we will
not see. ~John W.Whitehead, *The Stealing of America*, 1983

The bond that links your true family is not one
of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's
life. ~ Richard Bach

While we try to teach our children all
about life, our children teach us what
life is all about. ~Angela Schwindt

Children's talent to endure stems
from their ignorance of
alternatives. ~Maya Angelou,
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, 1969

There are no seven wonders of the
world in the eyes of a child. There
are seven million.
~Walt Streightiff

If our American way of
life fails the child, it fails us
all. ~Pearl S. Buck



2006 Annual Report



Letter from the Board Chair



March 2007

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The new year promises to bring many challenges and rewards, just as 2006 brought numerous successes and a few disappointments. As you may know, Kay Monaco, our executive director of many years, left in February 2007. This presented both a great loss to us and a new opportunity. Kay's leadership took this organization beyond what I thought possible. By focusing on research and analysis, Kay positioned NM Voices for Children as the preeminent authority in the state on matters of child well being. Our data and reports are used by countless other organizations and have led us in many of the policy successes we've enjoyed. I cannot communicate how much we are indebted to Kay and how much she will be missed.

A departure, no matter how unwanted, does make way for a new beginning. The Board recently hired Catherine Direen as the new executive director. The hiring process was not an easy one as our dedication to this organization dictates that we settle for nothing less than stellar leadership. We believe we've found that in Catherine.

Meanwhile, we continue our work at making New Mexico the best place in which a child can grow up. This past year has seen some extraordinary successes in that regard. As the research arm of the New Mexicans for a Fair Wage coalition, we provided data and expert testimony that helped win a minimum wage increase for the city of Albuquerque. When fully phased in, the raise will mean a total of \$53 million to more than 40,000 minimum wage earners – many of whom have children. Bernalillo County followed suit with a raise of its own.

Although the 2006 legislative session was a short one, we championed and won more funding for Medicaid and childcare assistance, and we're seeing great progress toward Medicaid expansion and a universal health-care plan.

In 2006 we also began our work to end structural racism by convening the first ever Race Matters conference using materials developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. From this conference, a statewide coalition has formed which is pursuing a memorial in the 2007 legislative session that would require future legislation be studied for any unintended negative impact on New Mexican youth of color.

Our work for 2007 will focus more and more on tax and budget issues. People often ask us why a child advocacy organization cares so much about such policies. The fact is, children do better when their families do better, and families do better when the tax structure is fair and works for them instead of against. Currently, this country's tax structure offers many more benefits to middle- and high-income Americans than to low-income workers. Unfortunately, far too many New Mexico families with small children fall into the latter category. We become more and more convinced that one of the keys to ending child poverty – and all the ills that accompany it – is in reforming the tax system. Fortunately, on both the state and federal level, we're beginning to see more lawmakers who understand that, in order to secure a hopeful future, we must invest in our children.

Of course, we cannot do this critical work without generous support from people like you. We thank you again for investing in us and hope you believe the returns on that investment to be as worthy as we do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Jo Archer".

Nancy Jo Archer, Chairperson
New Mexico Voices for Children Board of Directors

The Year in Review

Over the 2006 fiscal year we intensified our focus on **expanding opportunity for all**. Building a case for inclusion, we published papers that described some of the biggest obstacles to family and child wellness. These obstacles include economic isolation, which can be tempered by higher wages, and low educational attainment for working adults, which keeps them in low paying jobs, usually without benefits like health insurance or paid sick leave.

At the same time, we addressed some of the myths that perpetuate such exclusion. Through solid analysis of available data we demonstrated that undocumented immigrants in New Mexico pay for the education their children receive through the gross receipts taxes they pay on goods and services. This report, "**Undocumented Immigrants in New Mexico: State Tax Contributions and Fiscal Concerns**," received wide reportage, even being picked up by an Australian website.

With the first annual **Race Matters** conference, we launched an initiative to examine structural racism and its evidence in the disproportionate numbers of children of color in our state who are in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. **Structural racism** has also affected teen birth rates for young women of color in our state, as well as the educational achievement of our non-white children. With all of these outcomes, structural racism is yet another way that a group of people, this time children of color, are marginalized and excluded from opportunity. A committed core of community members has continued working after the conference on collecting data on and developing policy solutions for structural racism. A memorial prepared by this group has been introduced in the 2007 legislative session. If passed, it would require a study of the feasibility of creating racial impact statements that could help illuminate structural racism in proposed changes to state policies.

The public Voice of New Mexico Voices for Children got louder last year, too. We more than doubled our presence within the state's media outlets, particularly among radio stations with newscasts. Thus, **our messages are reaching more New Mexicans** who live in cities outside the Albuquerque/Santa Fe metro area. Many of our key state legislators live outside this metro area, so it is imperative that we reach them and their constituents.

Some of the impact of New Mexico Voices showed up during the 2006 legislative session when **Medicaid was fully funded**, and **childcare assistance was increased**. Also, **115 young people advocated for \$2 million more for youth smoking prevention – and got it**.

Post session, we tracked the impact of changes to the **unemployment insurance system** that were passed in 2003, and discovered that while the policy changes had translated into \$15 million more in unemployment insurance for displaced workers, it was not the \$25 million in benefits we had targeted. We participated on a task force through the spring and summer to develop additional revisions to the UI laws.

Overall, it was a good year. We made progress on some of our key initiatives, including **Medicaid, childcare assistance, and raising wages**. Support for other work, like **helping adults get the education and skills they need** for better paying jobs, and **tax relief for low-income working families**, gained momentum going into the 2007 legislative session. Finally, **ending structural racism** took a step forward through the work of the community coalition that grew out of the Race Matters conference. We believe that accumulating wins for low-income children and their families can, and someday will, reach the tipping point, resulting in **less poverty and shared opportunity for all**.

Financial Report

June 30, 2006



| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Assets | 6/30/2006 |
| Cash | 317,631 |
| Accounts Receivable | 228,098 |
| Prepaid Expenses | 10,818 |
| Equipment (Net) | 102,564 |
| Total Assets | \$ 659,111 |
| Liabilities and Fund Balance | |
| Accounts Payable | 154,401 |
| Deferred Revenue | 312,356 |
| Fund Balance | 192,354 |
| Total Liabilities and Fund Balance | \$ 659,111 |
| Revenue | |
| Grants & Contracts | \$2,741,710 |
| Memberships & Donations | 179,981 |
| Other | 4,383 |
| Total Revenue | \$2,926,074 |
| Expenses | |
| Program Services | 2,472,393 |
| Management & General | 303,031 |
| Fundraising | 160,047 |
| Total Expenses | \$2,935,471 |
| Net Profit (Loss) | (\$ 9,397) |

New Mexico Voices for Children Endowment Fund Statement July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Beginning fund balance | \$46,501.69 |
| Additions to the fund: | |
| Contributions | 0.00 |
| Interest and dividend income | 962.79 |
| Realized & unrealized gains (losses) | 3,380.18 |
| Total additions to the fund | <u>4,342.97</u> |
| Withdrawals from the fund: | |
| Grants & distributions | 0.00 |
| Foundation administration fee | 417.62 |
| Investment consultant fee | 101.17 |
| Other expenses | 0.00 |
| Total withdrawals from the fund | <u>518.79</u> |
| Ending fund balance | <u>\$50,325.87</u> |

To make a contribution to the New Mexico Voices for Children Endowment at the Albuquerque Community Foundation, please contact the Development Department.

Thank you to our 2005-2006 supporters.....

Voice

\$0.01-\$249.00

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Albuquerque Pride
Susan Alkema
Christina Allen
Patricia Alvarado
Silvia Alvarez
Viola and Daniel Amador
Theresa Anaya
In Memory of Barbara Ansorg
Leigh Arnett
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Adriann Barboa
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Ruth Hoffman
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San Juan College Library
San Miguel MCH Council
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Kevin and Judy Sweeney
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Teen Parent Services
Gretchen Test
In Memory of Rosalea
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Alice Thompson
Tippett Law Firm
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Angie Vachio
Ron and Sandy Valek
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Suzanne Winsor
Julia Winterbottom
Steve Wirtz
Jane Wishner
Robert Woltman
Kristin Woodruff
Karen Zachariah
Zia Community Services
Zuni Public School District
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Advocate

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For more information or to find out
how you can be a VOICE for New Mexico's children,
contact us:

**New Mexico Voices for Children
2340 Alamo S.E., Suite 120
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106**

(505) 244-9505

www.nmvoices.org