

New Mexico



VOICES
for Children

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



Speaking Up for Children

Shaping Public Policy

Strengthening New Mexico Families

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



New Mexico Voices for Children doesn't just work on behalf of children and families—we are a family. Our staff and Board of Directors are bound together not by genetics, but by the belief that the world can be a better place.

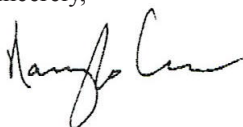
I begin with this family analogy because several of our long-time staff members left us in 2008 to pursue other interests and opportunities, and losing them is like losing family. The four of them—Lynda Chandler, Stephanie Gabriel, Felicia Griffin, and Robert Lucero—combined, gave us nearly 40 years of dedicated service. I mention them not just to thank and honor them, but also to make a point about NM Voices. It is rare, I believe, in an organization with never more than two dozen full-time employees, to have so many who have stayed so long. It is a testament to the organization itself, and, more importantly, to the work we do. Those who do work they believe in, that also makes a difference, tend to find great career satisfaction.

While we're saddened by changes to the NM Voices' family, we have suffered two much more tragic losses. Two wonderful child advocates passed away in recent months. Alice King, wife of former Governor Bruce King, was a tremendous champion for children. Alice's accomplishments on behalf of children are too numerous to detail here. Suffice it to say that she was a great ally of NM Voices, a dear personal friend of mine, and her work undoubtedly changed many lives. New Mexico also lost Patty Jennings. Patty served on our Board of Directors years ago, and worked closely with her husband, Senator Tim Jennings, on behalf of children in foster care and kids with special needs. Alice and Patty are both sorely missed.

Even though four long-time employees have left, we still have many core staff and Board members who have been with NM Voices for at least ten years each. The combined experience and continuity they provide are at the core of NM Voices' success, and lets you know that your financial support of our work is well shepherded.

The years ahead will certainly bring more changes in NM Voices' staff and Board, but one thing will remain constant. NM Voices will continue to work to make the world a better place. And we'll continue to need—and deeply appreciate—your support.

Sincerely,



Nancy Jo Archer
Chairperson, Board of Directors

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Fiscal year 2008 had many highlights, but the brightest had to be the marking of our 20th anniversary of advocating for New Mexico's children. We celebrated the occasion with a gala and awards ceremony and we released our New Mexico Children's Charter, which lists 20 outcomes we hope

to achieve over the next 20 years. We also took the opportunity to honor 20 individuals and organizations by presenting them with Voice for Children Awards for their outstanding work on behalf of New Mexico's children, and honored 20 legislators with Legislative Champion Awards for their tireless work on public policies that improve the lives of children and their families.

The grand event also featured entertainment by talented local children and a silent auction. The evening was capped off with a deeply moving talk by actor Victor Rivas Rivers on surviving horrific abuse in his childhood. Copies of a commemorative book printed for the occasion, which contains a history of the work we did in our first 20 years, are still available.

The year wasn't all celebration, of course. We continued our policy work with the state Legislature, and the offices of the governor and lieutenant governor, advocating for full funding of Medicaid, an expansion of the pre-kindergarten program, and reforming corporate income tax, among other things. We do this kind of work because we believe the well-being of New Mexico's children is directly tied to the public policy decisions made in Santa Fe and Washington, D.C.

As always, our policy work was backed up by dedicated research and data analysis, and our policy and research work continued to be informed by our community- and youth-based programs. This work, programmatic news, and a recap of our other events are covered more extensively in the "Year in Review" piece.

We could not have done this work without the generous support of funders and donors like you. FY08 marked my very first year at NM Voices for Children, and I look forward to continuing the fight for New Mexico's kids and working families.

Sincerely,



Eric Griego
Executive Director

YEAR IN REVIEW

RESEARCH, ANALYSIS AND ADVOCACY

POLICY ADVOCACY is one of our key strategies. By working with state legislators and other state, local and national leaders, we influence the public policy that impacts New Mexico's children and working families. This work goes beyond advocating for more than just government spending on programs that benefit children. We also look at tax structures so we can advocate for family-friendly tax codes, as well as revenue sources to support programs that benefit children.

Members of our staff conducted 40 presentations and trainings, addressing a total of 1123 people. These presentations ranged from expert testimony before legislative committees to trainings with our popular series of citizen guides.

Our **FISCAL POLICY PROJECT** backs up our policy advocacy by providing timely, credible analysis of tax, budget, and related policy issues, and their impact on New Mexico's families – particularly those that are low-income. Our Fiscal Policy Project is part of two national efforts – the State Fiscal Analysis Initiative (SFAI) and the Economic Analysis and Research Network (EARN).

The **WORKING POOR FAMILIES PROJECT** addresses poverty by advocating for work supports, which help stabilize low-wage families while assisting their climb up the job ladder. Work supports include income tax credits, funding for adult basic education, and unemployment insurance benefits.

NM Voices played an active role in securing state budget resources for the children and families of New Mexico by advocating for and supporting funding of the following programs in the 2008 legislative session:

- \$5.4 million for New Mexico Pre-K program, which helps get 4-year-olds ready to start school. Children who are prepared for school have greater academic success throughout their schooling, are more likely to graduate, and earn higher incomes. New Mexico has more than 139,000 children aged zero to four. Fewer than 40 percent of our 3- and 4-year-olds are enrolled in school.
- \$2 million for the Housing Trust Fund, which assists families with affordable housing needs.
- \$1 million for a voluntary visitation program for first-time parents. Such programs help address developmental delays, lower the incidence of child abuse, and result in better outcomes for children and their families. Professionals with New Mexico's



Above: Board Chair Nancy Jo Archer congratulates Lt. Gov. Diane Denish, who was honored with a Voice for Children Award at our **20th Anniversary Gala**. Below left: Actor Victor Rivas Rivers captivates the crowd with his talk on domestic violence. Below right: A youth performer from Niños Flamencos entertains.

photos by Ray A. Mares



several newborn visitation programs made a combined 6,222 home visits in 2007.

- \$150,000 for the state's TEACH program, which improves child care quality by providing scholarships to child care professionals. In 2008, 404 early care educators were receiving TEACH scholarships.
- \$270,000 for youth mentoring programs.
- \$10,000 for bullying prevention programs in schools.
- \$150,000 for the state's adult basic education and English as a second language (ESL) programs, which provide working parents with skills that help them earn better wages. These programs serve some of the 229,510 New Mexican adults who did not finish high school and the 198,397 who do not speak English or do not speak it well.
- \$500,000 for individual development accounts (IDAs), which help low-income working families accrue savings.

We also released several Policy Advocacy and Fiscal Policy Project reports, which are used to educate

(Continued on page 4)

YEAR IN REVIEW CONTINUED

(Continued from page 3)

policymakers, the news media, and others about some of the challenges New Mexico's children and working families are facing, as well as to offer policy solutions that would improve child well-being. Those reports include:

- ~ ***New Mexico's Revenue Forecast: The Coming Drought*** warns that the state's recent tax cuts, and our resulting over-reliance on tax revenue from oil and natural gas extraction, will lead to budget shortfalls.
- ~ ***Citizen's Guide to New Mexico's Tax System, Citizen's Guide to the New Mexico State Budget, and Advocate's Guide to the New Mexico State Budget*** are a trio of publications that explain the state's tax and budget processes and how to influence them. It has proven popular with legislators and lay people alike and is used extensively in trainings.
- ~ ***The Federal Economic Stimulus Package and the New Mexico Impact*** shows that the stimulus package passed by Congress in early 2008 would mean a reduction in state revenues due to the tax breaks for businesses. The package also failed to include direct supports—such as funding for unemployment insurance and Food Stamps—which are far more effective at stimulating the economy.
- ~ ***The State of Working New Mexico 2007***, an annual report, shows that New Mexico's corporate profits comprise a larger share of the state's economy than they do in most other states. Likewise, wages comprise a lower share. This is not a good formula for working families.
- ~ ***Immigrants and the New Mexico Economy: Working Hard for Low Wages*** discusses the workforce contributions and challenges faced by the state's immigrant population.

NM KIDS COUNT identifies and tracks indicators of child well-being through research and data analysis. KIDS COUNT is a national network led and funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. We publish a comprehensive annual report on the status of children in New Mexico, as well as several special reports. Some highlights include:

- ~ We delivered more than 150 copies of our **2007 New Mexico KIDS COUNT** to all 112 New Mexico legislators, as well as members of the executive branch, for their use when considering state legislation, tax policy and budgeting.
- ~ We updated our **Native American KIDS COUNT** report and sent copies to all Native-American Tribal governments in New Mexico.
- ~ Our **Immigrant KIDS COUNT** report details some of the challenges faced by children of foreign-born parents.
- ~ Our special report, ***The 2000 Census Undercount and What it Means for New Mexico***, shows how much New Mexico was shorted in federal funding for critical

child-serving programs as a result of the census undercount.

- ~ We distributed 1,000 copies of the Casey Foundation's **National KIDS COUNT** data book to policymakers, professionals, and other groups.

YOUTH- AND COMMUNITY-DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Launched in 1994, **YOUTH LINK** is our longest-running program. It trains middle- and high school students in public policy advocacy and the legislative process using the tangible issue of preventing tobacco use among peers. It works with existing youth groups across the state through the YEAH! Coalition. In FY08, YEAH! had between 323 and 428 members from 77 different communities. Two Albuquerque-area coalitions (FACT and Expose) served approximately 249 youth and 65 adult members. Highlights of our Youth Link work include:

- ~ Youth Link hosted more than 20 meetings, trainings and events to improve the leadership skills of the state's youth.
- ~ More than 100 students from across the state attended our youth advocacy conference in



Above: The crowd awaits "celebrity" red-carpet arrivals at the 2008 **Fame & Shame Awards** ceremony. Below: Youth advocates pose in front of the "Shamie" award—a huge container of popcorn, studded with giant cigarette butts.

photos by Ray A. Mares



February 2008, which is held every year during the legislative session. The conference teaches peer-to-peer education skills, team building, and legislative advocacy. Participating youths also meet with their respective senators and representatives.

- Conference participants educated some 22,500 of their peers about the dangers of tobacco use.
- Some 400 youths and their families attended the fourth annual **Fame & Shame Awards** ceremony, held in June 2008. The youth-directed Oscar-style event shames Hollywood for making youth-rated movies that depict smoking, and dispenses the Youth Advocates of the Year Awards.
- Youth Advocates of the Year were Megan Lawrence of Clayton, Jonathan Martinez of Los Lunas, and Lucero Montes of Belen. Martha Soto of Hatch and Maria Quezada of Socorro received Honorable Mentions.

NATIVE YOUTH VOICES, an offshoot of Youth Link, examines the challenges and barriers that prevent Native-American youth from reaching their full potential, and looks for solutions.

- 48 youths from the counties surrounding Albuquerque took part in the Native Youth Leadership Workshop Series. These youths went on to educate and work with some 450 peers.
- Participating youth created the **Native Youth Agenda**, a brief report that addresses the high suicide, poverty and obesity rates of Native youth. The report also poses solutions, such as better access to health care via school-based health centers, and more Native-based curriculum in urban public schools.
- The **Native Youth Agenda** was sent to each of New Mexico's tribal leaders, as well as disseminated to the state Legislature and the governor's office.

The **SANTA FE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP** convenes a coalition of more than 30 local organizations, agencies and residents that builds community capacity to address the issue of substance-abuse prevention in Santa Fe. In FY08 the Partnership held the first in a series of Community Conversations about working together to support children through healthier communities, stronger schools, and child-friendly public policies. Some 60 people attended the three-day event, which led to the creation of Santa Fe Community Builders, a network that has grown to more than 250 people engaged in transforming the lives of children in our community. The Partnership was also a leader in the Santa Fe Underage Drinking Prevention Alliance, and hosted the Surgeon General at an event that drew more than 300 people.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

4 YOUTH, a public policy program of the New Mexico Alliance on School-Based Health Care, works to improve the health outcomes for Native-American youth, and

empowers young people to advocate for services and policy changes to improve sustainability and culturally appropriate care in school-based health centers.

- A total of 68 youths participate from the Pueblos of Laguna and Acoma, and the Navajo communities of To'Hajiilee and Shiprock.
- More than 150 youths and adults attended a two-day suicide-prevention training, called Native H.O.P.E.

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT helps four Santa Fe-area nonprofits serving youth to build internal capacity. It is funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Communities Empowering Youth (CEY) initiative and run out of our Santa Fe Community Partnership office. The four nonprofits are:

- Envision Your Future** guides kids toward a positive direction for their future.
- Fine Arts for Children and Teens (FACT)** empowers and transforms lives by teaching art-making, literacy, and life skills in an innovative learning environment.
- Campaign 2020** empowers youth to be a part of creating a better future and educates lawmakers about the needs of today's youth.
- Youth Shelters and Family Services** provides shelter, transitional housing, and street outreach to homeless youth and comprehensive mental health services to children, youth and families in Northern New Mexico.

FY08 also saw the launch of our first annual **Roundhouse Comedy Revue**, performing in Santa Fe just after the legislative session opened. The comedy show featured skits and songs performed by several talented and very versatile young performers, and comedy sets by local actor/comedian Steven Michael Quezada. Several brave legislators also joined in the fun, taking parts in skits that lampooned New Mexico's unique brand of politics.



Youth performers lend their comic and vocal talents to the **Roundhouse Comedy Revue**, lampooning politics in New Mexico.
photo courtesy of the Daniels family

FINANCIAL REPORT

JUNE 30, 2008

ASSETS	
CASH	\$144,105
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	\$223,402
PREPAID EXPENSE	\$32,308
EQUIPMENT (NET)	\$44,095
TOTAL ASSETS	\$443,910

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$147,845
DEFERRED REVENUE	\$171,744
FUND BALANCE	\$85,954
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$443,910

REVENUE	
GRANTS & CONTRACTS	\$2,174,901
MEMBERSHIPS & DONATIONS	\$231,243
OTHER	\$6,515
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,412,658

EXPENSES	
SALARIES	\$1,330,326
FRINGE BENEFITS	\$299,468
TRAVEL	\$124,363
SUPPLIES	\$54,792
CONTRACTUAL	\$296,978
OTHER	\$411,908
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,517,833
NET PROFIT (LOSS)	(\$105,175)

ENDOWMENTS

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	\$65,243.50
ADDITIONS TO THE FUND:	
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$50.00
INTEREST AND DIVIDEND INCOME	\$1572.51
REALIZED & UNREALIZED GAINS (LOSSES)	(\$1500.87)
TOTAL ADDITIONS TO THE FUND	\$121.64
WITHDRAWALS FROM THE FUND:	
GRANTS & DISTRIBUTIONS	\$0
FOUNDATION ADMINISTRATION FEE	\$562.46
INVESTMENT CONSULTANT FEE	\$104.11
OTHER EXPENSES	\$0
TOTAL WITHDRAWALS FROM THE FUND	\$666.57
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$64,698.57

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SANTA FE SOUTHERN
RAILWAY
JOYCE SHAFER
SHAMPOO ALLEY
SHOGUN SUSHI RESTAURANT
LINDA SIEGEL
CHRISTOPHER J. SMITH-
LOPEZ
SOUTHWEST ORGANIZING
PROJECT
HOWARD SPIEGELMAN
STEAKSMITH AT EL GANCHO

STRONECIRCLE MASSAGE
TEMA CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE
TFV, INC.
TWO FOOLS TAVERN
UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL
VIVACHE
JOSEPH ANTHONY WASSON, JR./JAMS
UNLIMITED
WEEMS GALLERIES & FRAMING
WHITE FEATHER TRADING COMPANY
WILDLIFE TRADING CO. GIFT SHOP AT
THE AQUARIUM
WORKING CLASSROOM



OUR STAFF

(This list reflects only staff members who were employed during the 2008 fiscal year of July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008)

ERIC GRIEGO, *EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*

FINANCE TEAM

RON VALEK, *FINANCE DIRECTOR*
SUMMER BLACKWELL, *ACCOUNTANT*

POLICY TEAM

BILL JORDAN, *POLICY DIRECTOR*
ROBERT LUCERO, *DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT*
ANNE STAUFFER, *POLICY ANALYST/OUTREACH COORDINATOR*

RESEARCH TEAM

GERRY BRADLEY, *RESEARCH DIRECTOR*
LISA ADAMS-SHAFFER, *RESEARCH ASSOCIATE - KIDS COUNT*

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

SHARON KAYNE, *COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR*
LYNDA CHANDLER, *PUBLICATIONS/IT DIRECTOR*

OPERATIONS TEAM

FELICIA GRIFFIN, *OPERATIONS & DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR*
CARLA CHAVEZ, *ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR*
SILVIA JEWELL, *OFFICE MANAGER*
GUILLERMO DIAZ, *INTERN*
ROBERTO VIGIL, *INTERN*

PROGRAMS

STEPHANIE GABRIEL, *DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS*
REGINA "GINA" BEGAY-ROANHORSE, *4 YOUTH PROGRAM MANAGER*
RASA HERZOG, *YOUTH LINK PROGRAM MANAGER (2008-PRESENT)*
KESI PEREA, *YOUTH LINK PROGRAM MANAGER (2006-2008)*
BRIAN URBAN, *YOUTH LINK PROGRAM ASSOCIATE*
ERIN ZAVITZ, *YOUTH LINK PROGRAM ASSOCIATE*
DOUG ROCKS-MACQUEEN, *YOUTH LINK PROGRAM ASSOCIATE*
SHA'VON DAVIS, *FACT INTERN*
DANIELLE JACKSON, *EXPOSE INTERN*
JARON KIE, *NATIVE YOUTH VOICES INTERN*
MIGUEL ACOSTA, *SANTA FE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM DIRECTOR (2007-PRESENT)*
CHRISTINA MAXWELL, *SANTA FE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM DIRECTOR (2005-2007)*
SHELLEY COHEN, *SANTA FE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM ASSOCIATE*
JUDITH PEÑA, *SANTA FE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT*
T.C. SHAFFER, *NORTHWEST PROJECTS MANAGER*

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(This list reflects only board members who were active during the 2008 fiscal year of July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008)

NANCY JO ARCHER, *CHAIRPERSON*
ANNE SIMPSON, M.D., *VICE CHAIRPERSON*
CAROL JONES, *TREASURER*
POLLY ARANGO, *SECRETARY*
SUSANNE BROWN, M.D., *MEMBER*
LISA CHAVEZ, *MEMBER*
CONROY CHINO, *MEMBER*
MAYRA FRANCO-VASQUEZ, *MEMBER*
JAVIER GONZALES, *MEMBER*

JULIUS HARRINGTON, PH.D., *MEMBER*
DANNY LOPEZ, *MEMBER*
NANCY LOPEZ, PH.D., *MEMBER*
JOSEPH MAESTAS, *MEMBER*
ROBERT P. MCNEILL, J.D., *MEMBER*
JANICE D. PASTER, J.D., *MEMBER*
DEAN WILLIAM RUDOY, PH.D., *MEMBER*
DONALD SIMONSON, PH.D., *MEMBER*
ANTIONETTE TELLEZ-HUMBLE, *MEMBER*

THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS: NURTURING A NEW GENERATION

THE NEW MEXICO CHILDREN'S CHARTER

With our 20th anniversary behind us, we look ahead to the next 20 years with renewed determination to nurture a new generation of New Mexico children. We will continue to work toward a world in which: everyone's human rights are protected and respected; our communities are healthy, safe environments; economic opportunity is available to everyone; and we all work together to guide our elected officials and public institutions, and keep them accountable.

If we are to stay on track, we must chart a course for the next 20 years. We see the following outcomes as the destination of that course:

- NO CHILD LIVES IN POVERTY • EVERY CHILD AND ADULT HAS ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE, INCLUDING MENTAL HEALTH CARE • EVERY FAMILY HAS ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, SAFE AND HIGH QUALITY EARLY CHILDCARE AND EDUCATION • EVERY CHILD HAS ACCESS TO A PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM THAT IS FULLY FUNDED AND IN WHICH RESOURCES ARE EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTED • EVERY NEW MEXICAN CAN AFFORD TO GO TO COLLEGE • OUR YOUTH HAVE ACCESS TO POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION • OUR YOUTH HAVE ENOUGH POSITIVE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THEM THAT THEY PUT OFF PARENTHOOD UNTIL THEY ARE OLDER AND ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT • EVERY FAMILY HAS SAFE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SUFFICIENT, NUTRITIOUS FOOD • OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PROVIDES FOR JOBS THAT PAY LIVING WAGES, GUARANTEE FAMILY LEAVE, PROTECT WORKERS' RIGHTS, AND PROVIDE ACCESS TO EDUCATION TO IMPROVE SKILLS AND SUCCESS IN THE WORKPLACE • OUR TAX SYSTEM IS TRANSPARENT, EVERYONE PAYS THEIR FAIR SHARE, AND IT GENERATES ENOUGH REVENUE TO MAINTAIN NECESSARY PROGRAMS • CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ARE A HIGH PRIORITY IN FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL BUDGETS • EVERY FAMILY HAS ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE CREDIT, AND PREDATORY LENDING PRACTICES ARE ABOLISHED • OUR STATE HAS AND ENFORCES STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS THAT PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE FUTURE OF THE PLANET • ALL COMMUNITIES, REGARDLESS OF DIVERSITY, SIZE OR PLACE, HAVE A VOICE IN STATE GOVERNMENT • OUR VOTER RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED • OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE THROUGH CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM AND ETHICS LAWS • ALL NEW MEXICANS ARE ASSURED PROTECTION OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES • NO ONE EXPERIENCES DISPARITIES IN EDUCATION, HEALTH, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, HOUSING, CIVIL RIGHTS, SELF DETERMINATION OR PERSONAL POWER BECAUSE OF THEIR RACE, ETHNICITY, RELIGION, DISABILITY, GENDER OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION • ALL IMMIGRANTS TO NEW MEXICO ARE PROTECTED BY JUST AND HUMANE IMMIGRATION POLICIES • EVERY COMMUNITY IS A SAFE, WELCOMING PLACE FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN •



In order to realize this vision of a better future, we will continue to collaborate with our many allies, partners and elected officials, but we will hold ourselves accountable for reaching our goals. As this is a living document, we will revisit this charter and make course corrections as needs change. And we will ask the community to join us in these efforts. We hope you share our vision for New Mexico's children and families. And we hope that if you do, you will raise your voice with ours and speak for the children. ~

NEW MEXICO VOICES FOR CHILDREN

2340 ALAMO AVE. SE, SUITE 120

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87106-3523

505-244-9505 • 800-671-KIDS • WWW.NMVOICES.ORG