

New Mexico



VOICES

for Children

## 2009 Annual Report





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## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters:

The economy runs in ever-changing cycles, but one thing never changes: children and their families need support systems in order to thrive and be successful. New Mexico Voices for Children has been another constant, working for more than 20 years on behalf of families who lack the support systems that most of us take for granted. We fight uphill battles, but we're honored to do so.

Our 2009 fiscal year (which ran from July 2008 to June 2009) was no exception. The particulars of the work we did and what we accomplished are in the "Year in Review" piece in this report. I'd like to take this opportunity to give you a broader overview of what we do and why we do it.

Child advocacy and tax and budget policy may not sound like they have much in common, but they do. A child's well-being depends on a great many things, and in a perfect world their families would be able to provide all of them—from intangibles like love and nurturing to concrete things like nutritious food and health care. Of course, we don't live in a perfect world. Children who grow up lacking things like adequate nutrition, enriching early childhood experiences, and economic stability, are less likely to reach their potential as adults. When children grow up to be contributing members of society—by becoming scientists, artists, teachers, and entrepreneurs—the quality of life is improved for everyone. But when they grow up to be a burden on society—by falling into a life of drug addiction or crime—the quality of life is diminished for everyone.

Remediation—incarceration, drug treatment, and the like—is more expensive and it involves a lot of human suffering, yet there is more agreement about the use of punishment than about common-sense prevention.

That's where fiscal policy comes in. Fiscal policy is all about how the state collects and spends its residents' money. The state's annual budget is a reflection of lawmakers' priorities—but does it reflect the people's priorities? Do we spend more money on remedial programs like special education, juvenile justice, and truancy—or do we invest in the prevention that would make remedial programs less necessary by better preparing kids for school and success in life?

At New Mexico Voices for Children we believe that the key to a better future and the most effective way to end the generational cycle of poverty is to invest heavily in a child's first five years. This means a range of policies that begin by making sure every expectant mother has prenatal care and extend to having educational supports for first-time parents, high quality affordable childcare, pre-K for every three- and four-year-old, and health care for every child. Long-term studies have shown that children who received these kinds of high-quality services did better in school, were more likely to graduate high school and attend college, less likely to become involved in criminal activities, and earned higher incomes as adults than their peers who did not receive them.

These studies show that New Mexico would benefit tremendously from investments in early childhood care and education. We would create the sort of workforce necessary for real economic development, and our lowered poverty and crime rates would also make outside investment in the state more attractive. The bottom line is—when we support our state's youngest children we all benefit because the quality of life is improved for everyone.

You'll be hearing much more from us about early care and education in the coming years as we gear our work more toward increasing the state's investment in these initiatives. Until then, accept our deepest gratitude for your ongoing generous support. It is the financial support of funders and donors that makes our work possible. Together, we are a strong voice for New Mexico's children.



## **Our Staff**

*(This list reflects only staff members who were employed during the 2009 fiscal year of July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009)*

Eric Griego, Executive Director

### **Finance Team**

Ron Valek, Finance Director

Summer Blackwell, Accountant (2006-2008)

Kwaku Sraha, Accountant (2008-present)

### **Policy Team**

Bill Jordan, Policy Director

Robert Lucero, Director of Community Partnership Development

Anne Stauffer, Policy Analyst/Outreach Coordinator (2007-2009)

Stephanie Maez-Gibson, Outreach Director (2009)

Nick Estes, Senior Policy Analyst

Myra Segal, Senior Policy Analyst

### **Research Team**

Gerry Bradley, Research Director

Lisa Adams-Shafer, Research Associate - KIDS COUNT (2007-2009)

Christine Hollis, Research Associate - KIDS COUNT (2009-present)

Jessica Fulton, Research and Communications Specialist

### **Communications Team**

Sharon Kayne, Communications Director

Lynda Chandler, Publications/IT Director

Alicia Manzano, Marketing and Media Manager

### **Operations Team**

Felicia Griffin, Operations & Development Director (2002-2008)

Ron Hidalgo, Development Director (2008)

Ric Armstrong, Development Director (2009)

Carla Chavez, Organizational Development Director

Silvia Jewell, Office Manager

Juliet Yazzie, Receptionist

Roberto Vigil, Intern

### **Programs**

Stephanie Gabriel, Director of Programs

Regina "Gina" Begay-Roanhorse, 4 Youth Program Manager

Rasa Herzog, Youth Link Program Manager

Brian Urban, Youth Link Program Coordinator

Jackie Cusimano, Youth Link Program Associate

Timea Eckerdt, Youth Link Program Associate  
Doug Rocks-Macqueen, Youth Link Program Associate  
Sha'Von Davis, FACT Intern  
Danielle Jackson, Expose Intern  
Miguel Acosta, Santa Fe Community Partnership Program Director  
Shelley Cohen, Santa Fe Community Partnership Program Associate  
Judith Peña, Santa Fe Community Partnership Administrative Assistant

## Board of Directors

*(This list reflects only board members who were active during the 2009 fiscal year of July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009)*

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

## Year in Review

(July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009)

Fiscal year 2009 began with something we won't see again, perhaps for many years: a surplus in the state budget. With gas and oil prices at an all-time high, the state was flush with money in the summer of 2008. Eager to give it away, Governor Bill Richardson called a special session in August. As always, NM Voices for Children advocated for that funding to be reinvested in the state's most vulnerable residents—its children. To that end, we fought for some of the following wins:

- An addition of \$20 million to the Medicaid/CHIP budget for children's health care, another \$10 million for children with developmental disabilities, and \$2.5 million for behavioral health. The \$20 million alone would cover the cost of providing health care to about 5,000 children.
- A transfer of \$7.2 million into childcare assistance, finally restoring eligibility to the level it was before Governor Johnson slashed it in half. This allowed more children from low-income families to get a higher quality of childcare while their parents worked.
- An increase of the Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC), which is available to working families that qualify for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The Legislature increased the WFTC from 8 percent of the federal credit to 10 percent. Having historical bipartisan support, the EITC is one of the best anti-poverty programs in the country, returning millions in income support to low-earning working families. In 2005, nearly 200,000 hard-working New Mexicans received the EITC, bringing \$368 million into the state.
- An addition of nearly \$2 million to the LIHEAP program, which helped more low-income families and the elderly pay their heating bills.

With the budget surplus of 2008 still a fresh memory, New Mexico bumped up hard against reality at the dawn of 2009 as state revenues began to decline. The Legislature had to tackle a fairly modest (in hindsight) revenue shortfall in the regular session of 2009. We worked toward these wins for New Mexico families:

- A 7 percent increase in Medicaid funding over the previous year, which allowed the state Human Services Department to enroll about 60,000 eligible kids.
- An increase in weekly unemployment benefits. For the next two years, displaced workers would receive 60 percent of their average salary in unemployment insurance (UI) benefits instead of the previous 53.5 percent. This also put \$52 million into our economy. Since the money for this legislation comes out of the UI trust fund, it was not affected by the budget shortfall.
- A statute that allows employees who are not being paid the minimum wage to sue for double their back pay. It also protects them from employer retaliation.
- Legislation to prohibit racial profiling by law enforcement officials. Minorities are vastly over represented in our criminal justice system, due in large part to racial profiling. This disparity starts with arrests and affects everything from whether juveniles are released into their parent's custody to the length of sentence they receive – even when they commit the same crimes as their white counterparts.
- A limit on how much money a candidate for the state Legislature can receive from a single source. Big money from powerful sources has been playing a larger and larger role in our political campaigns. And with money comes influence.

## Reports and Publications

We released several reports through our research arm, the **New Mexico Fiscal Policy Project**, during fiscal year 2009. We use these publications to educate policymakers, the news media, and others about some of the economic 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 Crisis*** The revenue forecast presented in December 2008 showed New Mexico in the grip of a crisis. General fund revenues had fallen below the level they were in fiscal year 2008 (FY08), and this trend was expected to continue through FY11. As the report noted, the revenue level of FY08 was not sufficient to maintain the current level of services, such as health care, public safety, and K-12 educational programs.
- ***Medicaid: An Integral Part of New Mexico's Economy*** Medicaid is good medicine for New Mexico. Besides the benefits of keeping some of our most vulnerable populations—like children from low-income families—healthy, Medicaid also boosts our economy. The federal funds that Medicaid injects into the state translate into job creation and billions in related economic activity.
- ***The Economic Impact of Increasing Food Stamp Utilization by New Mexico Families*** Just over 60 percent of the New Mexico families with children that qualify for Food Stamps were receiving them. Raising the rate of utilization to 80 percent would bring more than \$40 million in federal funding, which would create more than \$42 million in new economic activity and more than 900 jobs. And feed a lot of kids.
- ***Economic Development Tax Credits in New Mexico: Are They Doing the Job?*** Every year the state gives out tens of millions of dollars in economic development tax credits. However, as this report notes, the state does not know whether these incentives are a good investment because the state does not study their economic impact. Without this kind of scrutiny, we don't know if this money would be better spent elsewhere. For example, on the proven best economic development plan—educating our children.
- ***State of Working New Mexico*** New Mexicans had seen their personal income rise faster than the national average over the past few years. Job growth had also been strong, but both seem to have peaked and were slowing. Those and other indicators of workforce well-being were updated in this annual report.

We also published several reports through our **NM KIDS COUNT** program. KIDS COUNT, a national network led and funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, identifies and tracks indicators of child well-being. These data show where the state is both taking good care of and failing its children. We publish a comprehensive annual report on the status of children in New Mexico, as well as several special reports. Some highlights include:

- ***2008 NM KIDS COUNT*** This annual data book tracks indicators of child well-being disaggregated by county. This year's essay was on the need to replace the formula that determines the official poverty level with a Basic Family Budget, which takes into account family expenses like childcare and health care.
- ***Border KIDS COUNT*** This 6-page brief, with data by county from the Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS), was created for the two Border KIDS COUNT Conferences held in Southern New Mexico in 2009.
- ***Improving the Well-Being of New Mexico's Children*** This issue brief was released in conjunction with the annual National KIDS COUNT data book by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The brief takes a closer look at the ten indicators of child well-being that are tracked in the Casey Foundation's 2009 KIDS COUNT Data Book, what it would take to improve New Mexico's ranking, and the policies that would move us in that direction.
- ***Early Childhood Supports in New Mexico: Challenges and Opportunities*** This 4-pager offers a concise look at the challenges New Mexico's youngest residents face, as well as some of the support programs already in place. It also includes some demographic and budgetary data.

## Historic Election

The event during our 2009 fiscal year that will be remembered longest was the historic election that installed the first African American in the White House. As a 501(c)3 organization, New Mexico Voices for Children (NM Voices) can only participate in electoral advocacy in specific ways—namely educating voters and candidates about issues of importance to working families and encouraging voters to exercise their most precious right by going to the polls. Still, we were thrilled to witness a sea change in Washington toward a more progressive administration.

As part of our electoral work we partnered with Every Child Matters Education Fund (ECM) and together created **Every Child Matters New Mexico**. Like NM Voices, ECM believes that early childhood care and education programs are extremely important to a child's future success. Our mutual goal was to get children's issues on the electoral radar.

To that end we participated in the September 2008 **Step Up for Kids Day** by helping to host a congressional candidate forum and creating ballots and a ballot box so kids could cast their own vote for president and their favorite flavor of ice cream (Barak Obama and chocolate were the big winners). We also created and disseminated *A New Mexico Citizen's Guide to Children's Issues*, which took a big-picture look at some of the issues negatively affecting children such as poverty, lack of health care, racial disparities, and the country's prison system.

## Programmatic Work

Launched in 1994, our longest-running program—**Youth Link**—is still going strong in FY09. 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 (Youth Empowerment Advocacy Heroes). In FY09 between 200 and 300 youths were involved in Youth Link activities, including the annual Fame & Shame awards event.

Fiscal year 2009 was the final year of two grants that funded our **Santa Fe Community Partnership** program. The multi-year grants—Drug Free Communities Support Program and Communities Empowering Youth (CEY)—were both initiatives of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The former funded community building, and coalition- and task-force work around improving access to health care, particularly substance abuse prevention among youths, among other things.

Through the CEY grant, we helped several youth-serving Santa Fe-area nonprofits to build internal capacity through leadership, organization and program development, and community engagement training. Capacity building helped the organizations to align their work within the community and to be more self-sustaining.

## Events

Our **15th Annual Amy Biehl Youth Spirit Awards** ceremony was a theater-style event held in December 2008 at the KiMo. The keynote speaker was Amy Costello, an Emmy-nominated television and radio reporter. She gave a heart-felt talk challenging the youth to move out of their comfort zone as they worked to make the world a better place. We had a total of 28 nominees from across the state, each recognized for the community service and volunteer work they had done—in either their communities or around the globe. The award honors Amy Biehl, a graduate of Santa Fe High School, who was killed in a race riot while working to end apartheid in South Africa. Amy's mother, Linda Biehl, was also in attendance. We received excellent television, radio and print news coverage.

On tax day 2009, groups of anti-government activists, dubbed Tea Partiers after the Boston Tea Party, rallied in protest of paying federal income taxes. As a kind of counter argument, NM Voices staged our own **Tax Day Rally**, but with a decidedly different message—one of tax fairness. Our rally called for the state of New Mexico to close a loophole that allows out-of-state corporations to skip out on paying income taxes on the profits they make doing business here. We also called for a more transparent tax system—one that tracks the billions we give away every year in tax credits, exemptions and deductions so this spending can be scrutinized in the annual budgeting process.



Youth Link, along with the New Mexico Media Literacy Project, hosted their **5th Annual Fame & Shame Awards** ceremony in May 2009. Held at the historic KiMo Theatre in Downtown Albuquerque, the Oscar-style event is a creation of the hundreds of youths around the state who work to educate their peers about the harmful effects of using tobacco products. The red-carpet event shames Hollywood for its portrayal of smoking in youth-rated movies (G, PG, and PG-13) by presenting actors and directors with “Shamie” awards. The award statuette—a bucket of popcorn littered with cigarette butts—isn’t meant to be as prestigious as the little gold guys that the Motion Picture Association gives out. The event also honors the winners of the Youth Advocate of the Year Awards—middle and high school students—for their exemplary anti-tobacco work. Some youths dress as Hollywood actors to accept the Shamie awards and some put on their best glitz for this fun event.





### Of Special Note

Because we are an advocacy group, the work we do for New Mexico's children and families isn't always easy to quantify. We can't tell you how many kids were fed, slept in warm beds, or got better grades in school as a result of the legislation we helped pass. But the work we do regarding the state's tax and budget systems does have a very real impact, and you don't even have to take our word for it.

The National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP) took a look at the work that 14 New Mexico advocacy groups—including NM Voices—have done over the last several years. The resulting report, *Strengthening Democracy, Increasing Opportunities*, released in December 2008, concludes that every dollar invested in our advocacy work reaps more than \$157 in benefits for New Mexico's children and working families. That's an excellent return on investment!

Among the benefits cited in the report are reforms to unemployment insurance, the minimum wage increase, and the creation of the Working Families Tax Credit, which is a state-level Earned Income Tax Credit that lifts thousands of families out of poverty every year.

The NCRP report also reveals the progress of these initiatives:

- Between 2003 and 2008 we worked to raise state-level childcare assistance by \$13.5 million, which benefited 22,000 children
- Between 2001 and 2007 we helped win an increase in the annual state and federal Medicaid allocation by \$800 million. This increase allowed 25,000 more kids to get the health care they need.
- Between 2003 and 2007, NM Voices also helped secure funding to raise eligibility levels for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to 300 percent of the federal poverty level. This allocation benefited at least 25,000 children and adults.

The report is posted on the NCRP's website ([www.ncrp.org](http://www.ncrp.org)) as well as ours ([www.nmvoices.org](http://www.nmvoices.org)).

## 2009 Funders

### Major Grantors

The Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Bernalillo County  
Brandon Roberts & Associates  
Center on Budget & Policy Priorities  
The Every Child Matters Education Fund  
First Focus  
First State Bank  
Health Action New Mexico  
McCune Charitable Foundation  
New Mexico Attorney General  
New Mexico Department of Health  
Public Welfare Foundation  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
The W.K. Kellogg Foundation

### Golden Advocate – \$10,000 +

America's Promise  
American Cancer Society  
Brindle Boundation  
Con Alma Health Foundation  
Martha Egan  
New Mexico Children, Families and Youth Department  
Dean W. Rudoy, Ph.D.  
United Way of Central New Mexico  
Voices for America's Children

### Golden Voice – \$5,000–\$9,999

Bank of Albuquerque  
Bank of Oklahoma  
Economic Policy Institute

### Champion – \$1,000– \$4,999

John & Polly Arango  
Susanne Brown, M.D.  
Center for Civic Policy  
City of Albuquerque  
David Colton & Mary Rawcliffe Colton  
David Montoya Construction, Inc.  
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### Advocate – \$250–\$999

American Federation of Teachers-NM Solidarity Fund  
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City of Santa Fe  
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New Mexico State Employees Charities Campaign  
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Richard Romero  
Mary Shanklin  
Anne Simpson, M.D.  
Louis & Pat Stelzner  
Strascina Strascina Garcia Advertizing  
ValueOptions, Inc.  
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

### Voice – \$1–\$249

Jonathan Abrams  
Javier Aceves  
Albuquerque Publishing Company

Albuquerque Teachers Federation Teacher  
Leadership Foundation  
America's Promise Alliance  
Theresa Anaya  
Ric Armstrong  
Frieda J. Arth  
Jeanette & Augustine Baca  
Mary Black  
Bruce Blossman & Eleonor Hellmann  
Deborah Boldt, MPA/Los Alamos National  
Laboratory Foundation  
Claudia Burmeister  
Sandy Cajigas  
Kenneth J. Carson  
Gail Chasey  
Carla Chavez  
Child & Family Services, Inc. of Lea County  
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Nathaniel & Sarah Cobb  
Community Action New Mexico  
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Philip & Lee Davis  
Ruthie Dearing  
Claire Dudley  
James & Mary Dudley  
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EBSCO Industries, Inc.  
Egolf Law Firm, LLC  
Nick Estes  
Diana Faustin  
Phil & Sylvia Felix  
Joseph & Dora Fidel  
Megan Fitzpatrick  
The Food Depot  
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Todd Goldblum & Barbara Einhorn  
Mary Ellen Burns Gonzales  
Suzanne Goodwin  
Robert Greenberg, M.D. & Maggie Greenberg

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Davis & Felicia Griffin  
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Ruth Kovnat  
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Mike May  
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Dawn McCusker  
Thomas & Diana McHugh  
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Melissa Rael & Associates  
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Victoria Murphy  
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New Mexico Women's Foundation  
James & Lynn Olson  
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Presbyterian Healthcare Services  
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Elizabeth Ratzlaff/San Miguel MCH Council  
Betty Read  
Henry “Kiki” Saavedra  
Aleatha Scholer  
TC & Sharon Shaffer  
Laurence Shandler  
Betsy Sheppard  
Virginia Shipman  
Leora Siegel  
Janet Simon, DPM  
George & Vivian Skadron  
Ahene Sraha  
Laura Rifka Stern & David Broudy  
J. Paul Taylor  
Antionette Tellez-Humble  
Sally Alice & Don Thompson  
Sherry Tippett/Tippett Law Firm  
Norman Todd  
Kevin Tolman  
Celia Tomlinson  
United Way of Southwest New Mexico  
Verizon Wireless  
Viewpoint Productions  
Noel Walker  
Kent Walz  
Kelly Waterfall  
Deborah Weissman  
Ssu Weng & Peter Pesic  
Charles & Linda White  
Bill & Janislee Wiese  
Phyllis Wilson  
Julia Winterbottom  
Jane Wishner  
Erin & Diana Zavitz  
Jay Zeiger

### Event Sponsors & In-Kind Contributors

*(This list does not include those contributors who are already listed elsewhere.)*

AFSCME  
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America Tent Rental  
Amy Biehl High School  
Elias Barela  
Susan Brown, M.D.  
Buerkle & Ning Consulting  
Lynda Chandler  
City of Santa Fe/Genoveva Community Center  
City Treats Parties  
Convention Services of the Southwest  
dtl's INCORPORATED  
Eric Sedillo Jeffries, LLC  
Etched Glass Design  
Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc.  
Family Flowers  
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Hogares, Inc.  
Limited Brands Foundation  
Linda Lopez  
Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation  
NARAL New Mexico/Right to Choose  
New Mexico Commission for Community Volunteerism  
New Mexico Office of African American Affairs  
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Ray Mares Photography  
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Sandia Labs Credit Union  
Mary Ann Shaening/Shoening & Associates  
Slate Street Café  
St. Joseph Community Health Services  
Stanley Weinstein & Company  
Elsie Tenorio  
The Video Factory  
Wilson & Company  
Youth Development, Inc.

## Financial Report

June 30, 2009

### Assets

Cash	\$158,071
Accounts Receivable	\$260,913
Prepaid Expense	\$22,495
Equipment (Net)	\$82,752
Total Assets	\$524,231

### Liabilities and Fund Balance

Accounts Payable	\$118,400
Deferred Revenue	\$263,562
Other Liabilities	\$63,382
Fund Balance	\$78,887
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$524,231

### Revenue

Grants & Contracts	\$1,979,610
Memberships & Donations	\$115,849
Other	\$530
Total Revenue	\$2,095,989

### Expenses

Salaries	\$1,128,549
Fringe benefits	\$264,747
Travel	\$57,823
Supplies	\$53,242
Contractual	\$327,938
Other	\$270,757
Total Expenses	\$2,103,056
Net Profit (Loss)	(\$7,067)

### Endowments

Beginning fund balance	\$51,585.26
Additions to the fund:	
Contributions	\$0
Interest and dividend income	\$641.04
Realized & unrealized gains (losses)	\$12,650.80
Total additions to the fund	\$12,009.76
Withdrawals from the fund:	
Grants & distributions	\$0
Foundation administration fee	\$350.15
Investment consultant fee	\$104.43
Other expenses	\$0
Total withdrawals from the fund	\$454.58
Ending fund balance	\$39,120.92

New Mexico



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for Children

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