



New Mexico Friends of Foster Children Annual Report 2024

Dear Friends,

In 2024, with your help, New Mexico Friends of Foster Children made a difference. Thank you so much for sharing your time, talent, and treasure with foster children this year – you allowed us to create stories like this one:

“[He] felt like his voice mattered and that HE mattered.”

– Caseworker speaking about a youth in foster care who received program support from NMFFC

Together, we fulfilled over 800 requests of foster children across New Mexico this year. These requests not only help meet the needs of foster children; they also show the kids in our community that they **matter** to us. Through our programs, we provided clothes and essential needs, birthday presents, scholarships, bank accounts, and more. The impact of your support speaks for itself:

“Picking out clothes... build[s] their self esteem” – *Foster Parent*

“It always makes them so happy to know that they will receive the box with their gifts; it always makes them feel important knowing there are people who care.” – *Foster Parent*

“She felt fully supported and was extremely grateful for the assistance. She loved the bank training and commented multiple times that it was helpful to her.” – *CASA celebrating a teen in foster care who completed our Piggy Bank program and now has start-up funds in her own bank account*

Over 2,000 children in New Mexico experience foster care. As these children move between homes and living spaces, most of their support services focus on ensuring that they have food, clothes, and education. We recognize that childhood is more than essential needs. In addition to clothing and basic need support, NMFFC also works to ensure that these kids can **just be kids**. Our programs help foster children have fun, positive childhood experiences, like having a birthday party. As foster youth get older, we help them have crucial coming-of-age experiences like opening a bank account.

We could not do any of these things without your support. Thank you for reaching out a hand to foster children even as you care for your own families and networks. Your generosity creates a community where foster children can feel safe and welcomed.

Next year, we will continue serving New Mexico’s foster children while we grow and expand in new, exciting ways as we strengthen our programs and services with The Foster Alliance. We are so appreciative that you are a part of our village and we are excited to continue our impact and share updates with you in 2025.

Sophie Asher
Board Chair
(January–August)

Jay R. Spector
Board Chair
(September–December)

Leadership

January - August 2024

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Sophie Asher
President

Carly Hornback
Secretary

Patricia Briggs
Past-President

Matthew Makofske
Treasurer

Jade Wolf
Vice President

MEMBERS

Judy Flynn-O'brien

Terri Yoakum

STAFF

Susan Leung
Interim Chief Executive Officer

September - December 2024

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Jay Spector
President

Nicole McDaniel
Treasurer

Matt Makofske
Vice President

Tom Moring
Secretary

MEMBERS

Sophie Asher

Bronwyn Beabeau

STAFF

Maureen Noe
Chief Executive Officer

Susan Leung
Program Manager

AMBASSADORS

Sophie Asher **Matt Makofske**

Pat Briggs **Terri Yoakum**

Carlie Hornback

Our Mission & Vision

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.

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

 **Building Capacity**

2024 was a year of building capacity with the help of The Foster Alliance. The Foster Alliance is the largest provider of essential services to foster families in Arizona; their programs provide items such as beds, cribs, car seats, diapers, safety equipment, hygiene products, and clothes to foster families. Working with The Foster Alliance will expand the way we serve the foster community by providing essential support for the families as well.

Birthday Dreams

315 Birthday Dreams came true this year, which is **100 more** than 2023!



“He really appreciated receiving the birthday presents. This is his first birthday while in foster care and this gift box really helped him feel special.”

“He was able to buy the Crocs he really wanted with the Walmart card that was sent to him.”

“My foster child was very excited to request birthday presents and stoked when they arrived in the mail. It helped her trust that the gifts she asked for would indeed arrive.”

“I have now used the It's Your Birthday program at least 6 or more times and each time my clients are so excited with their gift especially when it can be addressed to them! Each box has been exactly what the child requested and it has been so meaningful for them to know they are special and that someone in New Mexico cares about them. I cannot thank the program more for the joy it brings to my clients' little lives.”

Birthday Benefactors:

Elissa C. Angel E. Sara J. Samantha S. Henri S. Julie W.

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



nUSENDA
CREDIT UNION

Expanding Horizons

72 Expanding Horizons requests fulfilled!

Awards included:

- Activities (art supplies, zoo passes, event tickets, musical instruments/lessons, PlayStation)
- Bikes/bike equipment
- Clothes/shoes
- Phone/phone service
- Driver's ed
- Travel with foster family
- Camp
- Tutoring
- Beds
- Car seats
- Tablets
- Sports equipment
- DNA/ancestry tracing
- Business start-up

"My foster son has been through a lot of trauma, etc. and the Expanding Horizons program gave him the equipment he needed to pursue his hobby and interests. This is something I could not afford on my own."

"Receiving this [award] helped him to feel like his voice mattered and that HE mattered."

Scholarships

11 scholarships awarded!

One scholarship recipient wrote about the goals they hope to reach in the next five years:

"I hope to have achieved a sense of fulfillment, growth, and contribution in both my personal and professional life. I aspire to be a well-rounded individual who is making a positive impact on the world around me and living a life that aligns with my values and aspirations."

THANK YOU to the Jim and Ann Nelson Student Aid Fund for Foster Youth housed at the Albuquerque Community Foundation and Dion's!



THANK YOU!

CARL C. ANDERSON SR.
& MARIE JO ANDERSON
Charitable Foundation



THANK YOU to the Anderson Foundation for inspiring our community to meet the challenge match in support of foster kids in NM!



Piggy Bank Training

10 youth completed the Piggy Bank training.

Our Piggy Bank program provides financial empowerment courses and safe banking options for foster youth. One participant...

“... felt fully supported and was extremely grateful for the assistance. She also loved the bank training and commented multiple times that it was helpful to her.”

A special thank you to these financial institutions who provided financial education in 2024:



Summer Fun Requests

57 Summer Fun requests fulfilled.

- **“More outdoor experiences!!”**
 - **“They now have a great outlet, resource, and fun way to occupy their time over the [summer] holiday.”**
 - **“Made child feel so special and worthy!!!”**
- 

Style & Fit

73 children and youth picked out clothes that fit their bodies and their sense of style!

- **“Both kids were so excited to pick out their own clothes and then give us a fashion show once they received them.”**
 - **“Provided new clothing for this youth to attend school and continue looking for a new job.”**
 - **“They love picking out clothes, and getting exactly what they will wear. It does build their self esteem knowing they have updated brand new clothing.”**
 - **“It helped them to get clothes that they didn't have and to get warm clothes now for the winter.”**
- 

THANK YOU to our donors and



Community Building Events

90 children and youth participated in community building events this year!

- “Being able to spend a fun night with his [foster] uncle and he enjoyed going to his first game! He hasn't quit talking about it.”
- “They got to interact with other kids in care, which was very helpful.”
- “Our child was so happy and said he learned a lot. He really enjoyed being a part of the whole experience.”



Thanks so much to our hosts and partners:



Holiday Toy Drive

200+ children received holiday gifts this year!

We could not have done it without these amazing partners!



And, these wonderful organizations who attend our holiday event in Albuquerque: Nusenda Credit Union, Roadrunner Driving School, CNM, Moxi Hair Studio, Albuquerque Parks and Recreation, Rotary del Sol, and Jump in2 School Bash.

Grants

17 grants awarded by foundations and community organizations in 2024.

CARL C. ANDERSON SR.
& MARIE JO ANDERSON
Charitable Foundation



Lineberry Foundation



LANL FOUNDATION
Investing in Learning & Human Potential

Nancy Ann Mellen Foundation

THANK YOU!



for being an Impact Creator and helping in so many ways!



Individual and Organization Donors

Linda and Carl Alongi, Sophie Asher, Jim Baca, Bebeann Bouchard, Nancy Bowen, Pat and Chris Briggs, Randi Buck, Fran Bull, Van Bullock, Allegra Carpenter, Julia Clarke, Stephanie Clauson, Christopher Crater, Pamela Daves, Bianca-Kim Del Porto, Peter Doane, Patti Drake-Talbott, Effective Families Fund, Miriam Efrogmson, Elks BPOE Lodge #1119, Julie Errickson, Susan Ettinger, Lillian Fitzpatrick, John Steven Flynn, Judy Flynn-O'Brien, William Flynn, Colleen Goff, Patricio Herring, Nikki Hooser, Carlie Hornback, Chad Hovey, Michelle Iandiorio, Gretchen Jaramillo, Sara Jensen, Jeffrey Kauffman, Molly and Tim Kraft, Sarah Kunkel, LANL employees, Elizabeth Leung, Jimmy and Susan Leung, Matt Makofske, Patrick Malley, Linda McCormick, McHugh-Kerr Fund/ SF Community Foundation, Marian Merritt, Chena M. Mesling, Judy Miller, Patricia Miller, Gary Mulryan, NM Trial Lawyers Association Foundation, Irene and Don Newlon, Anne E. Nokes, Toni Olson, Kat and Conrad Page - TRACS, Sidney Park, Lynn Paul, PEO Chapter V, Realtor Fund of GAAR, Bonny Reinhart, Terry Roberts, Rotary del Sol members, Jessica Rothfuss, Royce Family Fund, Diana Salopek, Samantha Santillan, Suzanne D Schutze, Ruthie Schwed Memorial Fund, Jarin Smith, Nancy Sneed, Megan Speck, Jay Spector, Liz Sri, Candice Stanford, Olivia Sutherin, Anne Strong, Chris Stynen, Andras Szantho, Claudia Templeton, Theta Omega, Trembly Associates, Steven Vernon, Lisa Waddoups, Jade Wolf, Terri Yoakum

Our Volunteers

Our amazing volunteers helped create a caring community through their work in support of our birthday program, outreach, and holiday toy drive. Together, they contributed over

500 hours of work this year. Thank you!

ABQ Academy 9th graders, Shalom Bridges, Maria Brunet, Kyanna Cabrera, Elissa Cordero, Bryan Cordova, Jennifer Damner, El Dorado Key Club, Megan Flanagan, Anthony Gallegos, Deborah Gianelli, Girl Scout Troop #1680, Chris Hermasillo, the Jensen family, Angela Ke, Susan LaBarge, Sharon Lutheran, Matt Makofske, Evelyn Martinez, Rosemary Mayberry, Linda McCormick, Nicole McDaniel, Patricia Milner, Tom Moring, Noshin Nawar, Mike Nelson, Don Newlon, Irene Newlon, Kathy Ngo, Tina Ngo, Anne Nokes, Jeslyn Nordquist, Hannah Owens, Carl Palko, Linda Palko, Ruby Palko, Thor Palko, Mena Patel, Therese Pena, Kathleen Quirk, Bonny Reinhart, Angela Roberts, Johannah Saavedra, Samantha Santillan, Aalana Sena, Stefane Sena, Carlie Showalter, Scott Sibigtroth, Jennifer Sowers, Jay Spector, Henri Standing, Jennifer Swallow, Breanna Trevizo, Diana Trevizo, Jessica Trumble, Evelyn Vidal Blanco, Lisa Waddoups, Grace Wolf, Jade Wolf, Terri Yoakum, and the employees at Nusenda Credit Union (Community Service Day, Cottonwood Branch, Member Services, and Ladera Branch)

In-Kind Donations

Throughout the year, we received approximately

\$17,000 in donated items to support our programs!

Thank you for the many ways you supported foster kids this year!



Advanced Home, Health & Hospice, Alpha Xi Delta, Amanda, Stephanie Arellano, Beta Psi, Pat Briggs, Susan Buffington, Calvary Church, Color Wheel Toys, Elissa Cordero, Craft for a Cause, Desert High Healing, El Dorado High School, Angel Estala, Laura Frey, Friends of the Public Library, Deborah Gianelli, Janelle Groover, Insomnia Cookies, Sara Jensen, La Montanita Coop, Susan LaBarge, Samuel Leguizamon, Susan Leung, Erin Lindsey, Matt Makofske, Sophie Martin, Linda McCormick, Debbie McKelvey, Amy Miller, New Mexico Kids Matter/Ticket to Dream, Morgan Family, PEO Chapter V, Polly McNeill, Don and Irene Newlon, Nusenda Credit Union, Hannah Owens, Linda and Carl Palko, Payette Family, Therese Pena, Lisa Reid, Rio Grande Credit Union, Samantha Santillan, Sena Family, Victoria Serna, Rachel Shields, Sotheby's International Realty - Santa Fe, Jay Spector, Henri Standing, Telemundo, Texas Roadhouse #216, UNM Student Affairs, Volunteer Attorney Program/Legal Aid, WAC Upfitters, Walsh Anderson, Grace Wolf, Jade Wolf, Julie Worthington, 377th WSSS

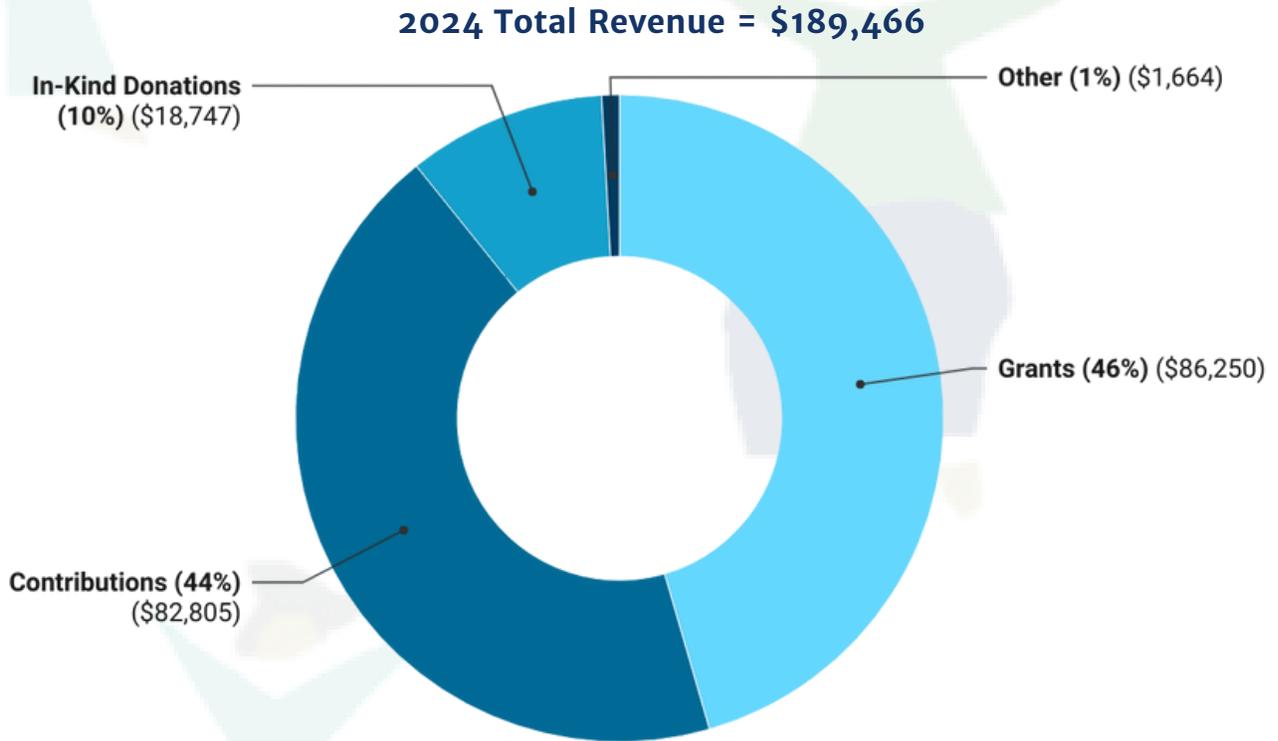


2024 Financials

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 841 awards to 648 children and youth!

That's almost 70% more than in 2023!!



2024 Total Expenses = \$189,466

2024 Program Expenses = \$95,857

