

# The NMAG Journal

*A newsletter for the members of the  
New Mexico Association of Grantmakers*

**Winter 2009**

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NEW MEXICO  
ASSOCIATION OF  
GRANTMAKERS

[www.nmag.org](http://www.nmag.org)

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Please join us in welcoming the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as a new NMAG member. Senior Program Officer Teresa Rivero, in the Foundation's Washington, DC office, is serving as our primary member. We look forward to having her and members of her staff join us at upcoming programs.

## Recent Grants to NMAG

Many thanks to the following NMAG members for grants and contributions:

### **Brindle Foundation**

for general operating support.

### **W. K. Kellogg Foundation**

for conference underwriting.

### **W. K. Kellogg Foundation**

for a special projects grant for Board training in scenario planning.

## Executive Director's Report

NMAG is exploring the audacious belief that given the vast knowledge and experience NMAG members represent, if we work together we can do better. You and I both know that as grantmakers, our insights into poverty, education reform, water, budget priorities & public policy choices are transformed by the funding work we do. Perhaps it is part of the "culture of individualism" that permeates philanthropy that so much knowledge that's gained is never shared outside of formal studies.

So first, NMAG wants to help bridge the knowledge gap between interested colleagues. How? Call us. We may surprise you as a first resource to your grantmaking question. Second, we will encourage members to write and to sponsor informative forums of interest to you, and help you perfect the craft of grantmaking through our re-vitalized affinity groups. Third, staff will bring you thought leaders in the field of philanthropy as well as analysts on cutting edge social issues.

And finally, NMAG will strive to be a place that grows leaders for the field of philanthropy. I won't repeat the lament of Chronicle of Philanthropy commentators like Pablo Eisenberg (see his Nov. 9, 2009 Wall Street Journal article: "What's Wrong With Charitable Giving and How to Fix it!") And I won't dwell on his and others' perceptions about the lack of bold, strategic risk taking leadership in philanthropy. Nor will I fixate on how this lack of leadership is turning what should be an exciting venture of discovering ever new ways to address humanity's age old ills of poverty, violence, addiction, imbalance with the environment, sustainable economic development, intolerance, and lack of civic engagement, into a dull gray science of incremental band-aids. Instead, if you are willing, together, you and NMAG, will produce those leaders right here in New Mexico. Leaders whose hearts burn with compassion and whose aspirations for solving humanity's ills drives them to influence philanthropy in this state, the nation and the world.

So in 2010 you can look forward to NMAG staff offering at least three programs on topics that improve your grantmaking and bring you cutting edge social issues and innovative philanthropic strategies addressing them. [See some details in this newsletter.] And, as a new aspect of our outreach NMAG will do programming in the Southern parts of the state. These forums will be followed by our membership conference. 2010 will also see NMAG experiment with conference calls, teleconferences, webinars and other technological ways to make NMAG's knowledge accessible and available on your time schedule regardless of your location. Ain't technology grand?!

In addition to this programming NMAG will present time for members to network, socialize and let their hair down together. Currently, we're looking at two such events during 2010, hosted and funded by members.

**THANK YOU!**

If you'd like to invite your fellow NMAG'ers to Rock Out or simply Mellow Out, we'll assist you in reaching out.

**NMAG Holiday Closing**

New Mexico Association of Grantmakers will be closed from December 24 through January 3, re-opening Monday, January 4, 2010.

**We wish you all a safe and happy holiday season!**

We count on you to keep us informed of any news regarding your organization.

*Letters to the Editor are welcome and encouraged.*  
Send to [rwhite@nmag.org](mailto:rwhite@nmag.org)

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That's what NMAG is pledging to do for you in 2010. And, since as a membership organization we count on reciprocity, naturally the question arises what will you do for NMAG? I have several suggestions:

1. **Support us.** Without your financial support and good ideas, NMAG simply won't be able to be the best it can be. You'll be receiving an invitation to renew membership and general support grants shortly. Receiving your quick response will tell us of your enthusiasm as well as your support.
2. **Show up.** Come to our programs, come to our board meetings, join our committees and affinity groups. Let us know when we're getting it right and how we can do it better next time. The process starts with an email, a note or a call to your NMAG office.
3. **Seek synergy.** NMAG is well aware that philanthropy alone has been tried and found wanting when it comes to the really big issues. So, in a desire to be more successful we are forming partnerships with the Office of Philanthropic Outreach and some national funders. We have a cooperative relationship with UBS Bank and we hope to develop similar relations with others in the business community as well as state and local governments.

I genuinely believe that with your insights, connections and energies, NMAG will produce a synergy of positive outcomes for New Mexico's vulnerable children and their families that will exceed our wildest imaginings.

**2010 Upcoming Programs**

*The following is a partial list of some of the exciting programs we hope to bring you in the new year:*

- The Center for Cultural Entrepreneurship
- Arts, Education, Creativity and the Civil Society
- PRIs and Financial Sustainability
- Essential Skills for Grantmakers
- The New Mexico Centennial Committee

We look forward to bringing ideas from our affinity groups to the membership as a whole; more on this later.

Look for program announcements with dates and details beginning in January 2010.

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