

# The NMAG Journal

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

Summer 2008

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NEW MEXICO  
ASSOCIATION OF  
GRANTMAKERS

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

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## Summer Soiree

The NMAG Summer Soiree is Wednesday, August 20, from 5:00 - 8:00 pm at the home of Board Chair Gay Dillingham and Andrew Ungerleider. Invitations are in the mail.

## Guest Column

Daniel Schreck  
President  
Abelard Foundation-West

Last week in Memphis, Tennessee we had the opportunity to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Abelard Foundation. My question to the older generation, as Board president, was how did the foundation go from funding people's pet projects to having social justice criteria? The answer was the civil rights movement of the 1960's.

I asked our staff to prepare both a power point picture presentation of key grants from 1969-2008, and distribute a print-out of our grants list. We funded roughly eight million dollars in over a thousand grants at an average of eight thousand dollars. Initially, the Ablelard Foundation funded through a family donor cluster called Joint Foundation Support of New York City. Helen Buttenweiser gets credit for coming up with the idea of having a common staff to

## President's Report

We are pleased to announce both a new website - [www.nmag.org](http://www.nmag.org) - and on it the *New Mexico Grantmakers Directory*, a searchable online database developed in collaboration with the Center for Nonprofit Excellence. Please check them out and get back to us with your comments.

Planning and initial creation of the *Directory* was funded by NMAG members, the Con Alma Health Foundation and the Daniels Fund, to which we are most grateful. NMAG is also delighted that the Albuquerque and Santa Fe Community Foundations, as well as the United Ways of both Central New Mexico and Santa Fe are underwriting further additions and the maintenance of the *Directory*. Billie Blair, Katherine Freeman, Jack Holmes and Randy Royster of these four NMAG member institutions have taken the lead in initiating an ambitious campaign to bring all the community foundations and United Ways in the state into this exciting project that provides essential, timely information to grantmakers and nonprofits about your funding criteria, geographic and programmatic foci.

NMAG is partnering with the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP) and their Grantmaking for Community Impact Project (GCIP) which seeks to increase philanthropic resources for advocacy, organizing, and civic engagement work that benefits low-income communities, communities of color, and other disadvantaged groups by documenting the impact of grants and engaging stakeholders in dialogue. You may have heard directly from Melissa Johnson, NCRP's Field Director, who is in our State this week. We are looking forward to a November release of the report. New Mexico is the first of several states to be studied, and a pilot for the general methodology of NCRP's ongoing research.

I have been involved in public policy work on the Children's Cabinet and with a special Early Childhood Investment Committee, appointed by Lt. Governor Diane Denish and co-sponsored by the Early Childhood Action Network (ECAN). The Children's Cabinet met once in the last quarter with lively discussion on workforce development starting in the earliest years. The ECAN special committee has been quite labor intensive with long meetings every two weeks. It is co-chaired by the Lt. Governor and Katherine Freeman of the United Way of Santa Fe County. The Lt. Governor has asked the Committee, composed primarily of representatives of the business community, to devise a short-term and long-term plan for fully funding, from both government and private sources, programs for children 0-5 years old which we already know to be effective.

## Mini-Conferences

On July 14, some 48 people - grantmakers; nonprofit representatives; government and policymakers including federal, tribal, and state; and other experts, actively participated in NMAG's daylong mini-conference on *New Mexico's Water Future: Renaissance or Ruin*, at the Pritzlaff Ranch, north of Las Vegas, NM. Many thanks to the Biophilia Foundation, their New Mexico Project Manager, Sterling Grogan and his esteemed wife, Anne Watkins for their hospitality and assistance with planning. Funding was also provided by the Livingry, Messengers of Healing Winds, Thaw and Wallace Genetic Foundations.

Going into the convening, our assumptions were that:

- Climate change is real and will result in severe reductions in water quantity and quality affecting agriculture, ecosystems, and human consumption and that

service smaller family foundations. David Hunter, as an individual, and Leslie Dunbar of the Field Foundation helped advise as well.

One example from the grants list may serve to illustrate our methodology. The National Farmworker Center approached then executive director, Margie Fine, on obtaining a grant. This allowed Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta to continue operations until they could sign the contract with the California growers in Delano on July 29, 1970.

Our next executive director, Patricia Hewitt, met with Willie Velazquez of South West Voters in 1975 in San Antonio, Texas. I hope that Willie would be pleased to know that we just funded the organization he founded again at the aforementioned meeting so that Jaime Chavez can recruit voters for Lydia Camarillo in New Mexico and Colorado.

Closer to the present, Abelard recently joined the Hispanics in Philanthropy funding collaborative for its second cycle in New Mexico, with Kate Seely from the head office, and Dolores Roybal, coordinating us locals. We funded groups like the Taos County Economic Development Corporation, Somos Un Pueblo Unido (a past Abelard grantee), Espanola Habitat for Humanity, New Mexico Environmental Justice Working Group (funded by Abelard at our Memphis meeting), Southwest Organizing Project (a past Abelard grantee), the Archdiocese of Las Cruces' Catholic Charities, Centro Campesino (with their innovative time banking concept), and Centro Cultural para Justicia y Poder, a multicultural organizing effort, the Border Book Festival, Chimayo Boys and Girls Club, New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition, Women's Intercultural Center of Anthony, Young Women United, and Youthworks.

Other Abelard grantees in New Mexico or nearby include: Dineh C.A.R.E., the New Mexico Alliance (a native American, Mexican-American anti-nuclear alliance), Tewa Women United, Tribal Environmental Watch Alliance, the New Mexico Acequia Association, the Mexicano Land

- New Mexico needs to develop water policies and practices that meet the challenges of the future by being both adaptive and proactive.

We sought meeting outcomes including:

- A stronger shared understanding of New Mexico's climate change/crisis and water issues;
- Clarity for funders, about what might be the greatest potential strategic and practical leverage points, and hoped to
- Find agreement and commitment on potential next steps.

The NMAG Environmental Affinity Group, under the leadership of Board Chair Gay Dillingham, will be sorting through the many undeveloped suggestions that emerged. Look for more on potential initiatives in future communications.

The Health and Human Services Affinity Group, under NMAG Board member Dolores Roybal's guidance, is planning another mini-conference to educate grantmakers and others on Health Reform issues in the State on **October 2 in Santa Fe**. The planning group of Dr. Charlie Alfero, who founded Hidalgo Medical Services in Lordsburg; Matt Brix, Center for Civic Policy; Dr. Norty Kalishman, McCune Foundation; Dianne Rivera of the Con Alma Health Foundation; Charlotte Roybal, Health Action New Mexico; and Dr. Jim Tryon, the provider representative on the governor's recent "Health Coverage for New Mexicans Committee." While health reform is an issue equally as complex and contentious as water in our State, the planning for this meeting is nearly complete and moving smoothly. Our next step is to find a venue.

**NMAG's focus on issues**

Why are we focusing our efforts on only two funding areas?

In order to serve all funders well, we have usually put on a variety of programs which different grantmakers attend. Last year the Board and Staff participated in a productive day-long strategic planning retreat and reached agreement that the primary purpose of NMAG is to: 1) Educate grantmakers; 2) Create statewide impact; 3) Facilitate collaborations by bringing in multiple entities to affect policy/systemic change; and 4) Develop more philanthropy in New Mexico. Four key goals for NMAG in the next three years were to: 1) Identify and take action on specific issues that would benefit from focused grantmaking; 2) Influence public policy toward systemic change; 3) Increase and diversify membership, particularly recruiting funders from outside New Mexico that take an interest in our state; and 4) Enhance leadership, structure and technology. We have been creatively working on all the goals. Please let us know how we can serve you better.

**Finances, Fundraising and Membership**

Our financial situation remains reasonably good, although we still have work to do in order to complete our fundraising goals. As of July 31, we had raised over 76 percent of our budget and spent some 55 percent. I am happy to report that our membership dues category has exceeded 101 percent, obviously surpassing our projections.

On July 29, the NMAG Board of Directors approved the following three membership applications. We extend a hearty welcome to:

- Suzanne Brown Gollin, who recently moved permanently to New Mexico and longtime NM colleague Jim Gollin of the Angelica Foundation, a small private family fund that supports progressive activist organizations working for democratic change, environmental sustainability, and social justice. Since its inception in 1994, it has focused efforts in the United States (specifically California and New Mexico), Mexico, and Central America;
- Eiichi Fukushima and his children, Craig and Noelle, of the Chiyo Fukushima Charitable Lead Trust, established in 2003. The total grants last year in New Mexico were \$100,000, largely to community and human service organizations, as well as animal welfare, the environment, humanitarian and scientific efforts; and
- United Way of Central New Mexico, in Albuquerque, which works to identify and develop new services, provide leadership for

Conservation and Education Trust, (otherwise known as the land grant movement); Colonias Development Council, the Las Trampas Land Grant, the Santa Cruz de la Canada Land Grant, the Truchas Land Grant were included for technical assistance in that grant, the Embudo Watershed Association, La Jicarita News, (which keeps organizers informed of each others activities), Picuris Mining Project, the San Jose Awareness Council, and the Sawmill Advisory Council. Abelard's website, included in the new *New Mexico Grantmakers Directory* database on the NMAG website includes a full list.

In conclusion, all I can say is that it's all about the grantees.

## Grants Awarded to NMAG

*On behalf of the Board, Staff, and entire Membership, we are most appreciative of recent general operating grants from:*

**Cudd Foundation**  
**Lapides Foundation**  
**Messengers of Healing Winds**  
**New Cycle Foundation**  
**Nirvana Mañana Institute**  
**Oppenheimer Brothers Foundation**

*We also received program grants in support of the recent water mini-conference from:*

**Livingry Foundation**  
**Messengers of Healing Winds**  
**Thaw Charitable Trust**  
**Wallace Genetic Foundation**

## Restoring New Mexico's Watersheds

**From Mountaintop to River Bottom:**  
**Sept 30 - Oct 2**

**Marriott Uptown, Albuquerque, NM**

Come share your grant programs at the **first ever New Mexico Watershed Forum!** We would like to invite all foundations and grantmakers funding water

corporate community initiatives, with total funding in 2007 of \$5,203,594. Their [Priority Focus Areas](#) are:

- Helping Children and Families Succeed
- Improving Health and Wellness
- Increasing Self-Sufficiency
- Empowering Victims of Violence.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Terry Odendahl  
 August 5, 2008

## NMAG Member Programs

- On **Wednesday, August 27**, NMAG will be co-sponsoring a Foundation Learning Circle (FLC) with the Conference of Southwest Foundation's and hosted by the Con Alma Health Foundation. A FLC is a small group of foundation leaders engaged in an interactive facilitated roundtable discussion with peers. FLCs provide great opportunities for foundation leaders to discuss common issues and find support for future endeavors. Dialogue centers on successes and challenges related to: foundation governance and management, strategic grantmaking, and grant evaluation as well as organizational learning. FLCs typically involve five to seven foundations per session. Two leaders from each foundation are encouraged to attend so that more than one perspective is captured from each organization. Ideally, the two foundation representatives are the board chair and chief executive. ***There is still time for a few more people to sign up for the FLC.***
- NMAG has two campaign season programs scheduled. On the morning of **Wednesday, September 10**, we are offering another workshop with the Abby Levine and the Alliance for Justice on legal issues surrounding advocacy, campaign and public policy funding. Then, from 3 to 5 that day, with a reception following, NMAG is co-hosting a workshop with Nonprofit Vote, the Con Alma Health Foundation, the Center for Nonprofit Excellence and NM Vote. Nonprofits have inherent assets making them strong civic intermediaries to encourage voter and citizen participation.
- **Thursday, October 2**, NMAG will present our second mini-conference ***Bridging Funding and Healthcare*** in Santa Fe. Time and location TBA.

## Conferences of Interest

### Essential Skills and Strategies for Grantmakers

August 18, 2008 - La Jolla, CA  
[www.cof.org](http://www.cof.org)

### Association of Small Foundations Annual Conference

September 18-20, Denver, CO  
*Registration is full - we hope you've already signed up.*

### Grantmakers for Children, Youth & Families Annual Conference

October 15-17, 2008, Chicago, IL  
[www.gcyf.org/annualconference](http://www.gcyf.org/annualconference)

### Women Donors Network Annual Conference

November 6-9, 2008, Boston, MA  
[www.womendonors.org](http://www.womendonors.org)

and watershed projects to join us for as for a workshop session on the afternoon of **October 1** entitled "**Meet the Funders.**" This workshop will allow you to directly meet informally with groups working on water and watershed issues all over New Mexico, and share your grant opportunities and information.

For more information, contact:

Eliza A. Kretzmann  
River Source  
[eliza@riversource.net](mailto:eliza@riversource.net)  
505-660-9221

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

*Letters to the Editor are welcome and encouraged.*

Send to [todendahl@nmag.org](mailto:todendahl@nmag.org)

## The NMAG Quarterly, Summer 2008, Volume VI, Number 2

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## Recent News and Reports

The New York Association of Grantmakers (NYRAG) recently compiled a series of articles on "**Grantmaking in a Recession.**" Download an edited version [here](#).

**FOUNDATION GIVING:** Almost one-third of foundations say they have stepped up their giving this year to help families, provide human services, or support economic development -- and 37 percent said they planned to increase such grant making next year, according to a study released by the Council on Foundations. See: [foundation giving](#)

Plus: More than half of foundations say they plan to increase their giving in 2008, according to a study released today by the Foundation Center. See: [study](#)

A new edition of the **Nonprofit Almanac 2008** is available from the Urban Institute Press. For more information go to [almanac](#)

## NMAG Library

Selected Periodicals/Reports from the Field: All available in our small lending library.

***Collateral Damage: How the War on Terror Hurts Charities, Foundations, and the People They Serve***, OMB Watch and Grantmakers Without Borders, July 14, 2008. This new paper offers a comprehensive analysis of the War on Terror's toll on charities, foundations and underserved populations. It makes clear that shortsighted, undemocratic policies are constraining the critical activities of the charitable and philanthropic sectors, stifling free speech, and ultimately impeding the fight against terrorism. While this may be of less interest to NM grantmakers, its findings have far-reaching implications for the field.

***2007-2008 Foundation Operations & Management Survey: A tool for small foundation benchmarking***, Association of Small Foundations. Foundations with less than \$50 million in assets account for 90 percent of the 71,000+ foundations in the country. They are run by combinations of paid staff and volunteers, operating differently from their large foundation counterparts. This annual survey offers valuable insight into the practices of small-staffed or volunteer-run foundations.

***Foundation Giving Trends: Update on Funding Priorities, 2008 Edition***. The Foundation Center reports that foundation giving grew across all program areas. Health tops all giving areas for the first time ever; Funding for International affairs/Development/Peace shows the fastest growth.

***LGBTQ Grantmakers 2008 Report Card on Racial Equity***, Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues, July 1, 2008, examines how a subset of 19 LGBTQ grantmakers address racial equity across grantmaking, governing documents, policies and practices, demographics and leadership, and strategic communications.

***Philanthropy Annual: Premier Issues***, The Foundation Center, covers the top 2007 stories in the news, the philanthropists who make a difference, the state of foundation giving and more. May be intended as a replacement of the Council on Foundations defunct, *Foundation News and Commentary*.

***What Drives Foundation Expenses and Compensation: Results of a Three-Year Study*** by The Urban Institute, Foundation Center and GuideStar, 2008. This report presents results of the first large-scale, long-term, systematic study of independent, corporate, and community

foundations' expenses and compensation patterns and the factors behind them. Documenting the varying characteristics of the 10,000 largest U.S. grantmaking foundations, the study finds these differences -- including foundation type, size, and operating activities - essential to understanding foundation finances. Not necessarily an easy read, but full of all the pertinent facts.

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