Great Grant – VSA Arts Adventures
This program provides an enriching learning experience for children with autism, including a supportive social environment, while offering families a period of respite to conduct household business, participate in the community, and engage in leisurely activities that would prove difficult while directly caring for a child with autism.

Great Grant – Oasis Veterans History Project
The Veterans History Project initiated by the Folklife Center of the Library of Congress, is establishing a web-based archive for the research and education of oral testimonies of veterans nationally. With a grant from the Foundation, Albuquerque OASIS administered the Veterans History Project in Albuquerque by training volunteers to conduct the interviews, recruiting veterans for the interviews and delivering the testimonies to the Library of Congress.

Great Grant – Project Heart Start
This grant provided CPR training for senior citizens. Heart Start volunteers teach hands-only CPR to a group at the Encino Terrace meal site. Encino Terrace provides low-income seniors with lower rent apartments.
As the new Chair of the Board of Trustees, I am looking forward to 2014! The Albuquerque Community Foundation inspires me because it is a diverse organization that serves so many in the Greater Albuquerque community. As you look through this communiqué, you will see grants from our Health Field-of-Interest ranging from exercise “Zumba” classes designed to decrease the incidence of diabetes, to CPR training for seniors to educational opportunities for hearing-impaired children. You’ll read again about Running Start for Careers, the organization we chose last year for our first ever Impact Grant in the Education Field-of-Interest. This time we introduce the Construction segment of the program. I hope you remember Running Start is focusing on high-school age students by offering opportunities to receive hands-on career mentoring and training so that they have a better sense of direction and focus when they graduate.

Of course, we continue to make grants in our other Fields-of-Interest: Arts & Culture, Environmental & Historic Preservation and Human Services. This year, we have added a sixth Field-of-Interest - Economic and Workforce Development - to address the needs of jobs and business growth.

You are receiving this just about the time of our Great Grant Giveaway on April 4th. If it’s not too late, you should make every effort to attend. The Foundation and its partners will give out over $60,000 in grants to six local nonprofits that day! Call the Foundation today, 505.883.6240 to see if there are any tickets left.

Thank you for all you do for the Foundation. Sincerely,

Kevin Yearout
Chair

One hundred years ago, in 1914, the first community foundation was established in Cleveland, Ohio giving rise to a new philanthropy, a new way of participating in the community, and a new vision for the future.

Today, there are more than 700 community foundations in the United States collectively managing more than $48 billion in assets and making grants of approximately $4.5 billion a year to improve life in their communities. There are more than 1,700 community foundations worldwide.

The Albuquerque Community Foundation is much younger than that. Established in 1981, we are growing and giving every year. In our 33 year history, we have:

• made grants of $38 million to 1,000 organizations addressing pressing needs and important local causes through the generous gifts of our donors
• established nearly 400 funds to improve life in Albuquerque
• partnered with 97 other local nonprofit organizations to manage their endowment
• grown our endowment to $64 million dollars with the help of investment returns averaging 7.69% over the last 23.5 years

We’re proud to be part of this vibrant field of community philanthropy—100 years and growing!
Running Start for Careers Gives Students a Path to Future

As we’ve been writing about in past communiqués, the Foundation awarded our 2013 Impact Grant of $50,000 to Running Start for Careers. This remarkable grant gives high school students a head start into a successful future. Running Start is a collaborative effort between out-of-state funders, including the Kellogg and Daniels Foundations, the city of Albuquerque, local business and philanthropy. High School Juniors and Seniors who are at-risk for dropping out of school are given the opportunity, through dual-credit classes, to begin working toward a career they have a particular interest in.

Local industry leaders have come together to create curricula that will inspire students to consider heading straight into careers instead of jumping from job to job after graduation. One such program is Construction 101, which introduces students to a wide variety of options available within the industry. Students get hands-on learning time with tools, blueprints and materials while learning how to be a member of a construction team. They also are introduced to math concepts, such as working with metric units, that are core to the industry.

Students completing this course will:
• Gain a better understanding of the construction industry and the employment opportunities it offers as well as learning how a “construction team” (i.e. laborer, field superintendent, project manager and owner) work together productively on a construction project.
• Identify and demonstrate safe working conditions, procedures and requirements, both in a construction shop and on a construction job site.
• Understand and demonstrate some of the basic hand and power tools and their proper uses in the construction trade.
• Communicate effectively verbally in on-the-job situations and demonstrate critical thinking skills in job interview situations.
• Understand the next steps to continue education and gain employment within the construction industry.

Upon completing the nine modules in this course, students will obtain their certificate of completion from the nationally accredited National Center for Construction Education and Research.

Shelly and Rafael Colón Memorial Fund

In 2006, Aleli and Brian Colón along with the support of their teenage son, Rafael, established this fund in memory of Brian’s parents. Gifts of all sizes have been donated to the fund to honor the love Brian has for his parents, and to also recognize Brian for his outstanding community service, his commitment to mentoring younger aspiring community leaders and his personal involvement in donating and raising money for the many, many causes he cares about.

Recently, Brian made the first three grants from this fund to acknowledge the kindness of those who cared for his parents and to the organizations that have been important in his and his family’s life.

These three grants were given--Muscular Dystrophy Association, Presbyterian Healthcare Foundation for the Hospice Program (pictured here) and UNM Foundation for Popejoy Hall.

Linda K. Estes Giraffe Award

The Linda K. Estes Giraffe Award, established in 2004, honors individuals who take personal or professional risks to stand up for their beliefs and make a difference.

The most recent award was given to Ona Porter and Miriam Rand who have set an example of community care in their chosen professional fields. Ona is the Founder, CEO and President of Prosperity Works. Miriam is the Director of Adoptions for Family Matters.

Ona and Miriam received their Giraffe Award for their courageous stand on marriage equality. When denied a marriage license in February, 2013, they filed a lawsuit, which they won on August 26, 2013 claiming the current ban on same-sex civil marriage violates the New Mexico Constitution and equal rights for all.
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Today’s customers and clients want to do business with companies that help make the community in which they operate a better place to live and raise a family. Supporting the Foundation sends a visible message to your current and prospective employees and customers that you care about your community and want to be a part of positive change.

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Great Grant - East Central Ministries
Sixty-five women keep moving four evenings a week through Zumba! Classes are offered as part of the diabetes prevention program designed to address health with holistic support in education, nutrition, and exercise.

Great Grant - Presbyterian Ear Institute
This grant provided tuition support for children with hearing loss in the School for Oral Deaf Education. According to the Institute, the majority of infants born deaf or hard-of-hearing can develop exceptional speech and language skills. The expectation of the school is that each child will make more than a year’s growth in language so they can catch up with their hearing peers.