What an exciting time it is at the Albuquerque Community Foundation. The first two months in my role as Board Chair have been quite exhilarating! From grants to continued consolidation of operations talks to community listening sessions, we look forward to the future with optimism and opportunity for our community.

With the idea in mind that conversations can change communities, Foundation donors were invited to join in discussions about Albuquerque’s biggest needs. From those conversations, six follow-up sessions were scheduled on individual topics to “dive deeper” into the challenges that garnered the most attention: Hunger and Homelessness; Health; Education; Economic & Workforce Development; Arts and the Environment. These deep-dives were open to the public; attendees included nonprofit organizations, business owners, individuals, public sector employees, volunteers and educators.

Suffice it to say, we learned a lot. To summarize in three words, I would say the communities we serve are asking for Collaboration, Communication and more Convenings. We intend to do all three. Read more in this newsletter for a summary of these meetings.

Coming soon is the Foundation’s 3rd Annual “Great Grant Giveaway.” This is the exciting day when six nonprofit organizations compete for $500 grants from each of the 70 tables in the room. Every organization is a winner, guaranteed to take at least $5,000 back to their nonprofit. The Great Grant Giveaway Recipients are: Albuquerque Youth Symphony, ABQid, PB&J Family Services, New Mexico Water Collaborative, Paws and Stripes & Meals on Wheels of Albuquerque.

During this year’s luncheon, an exciting announcement will be made - one that is sure to have a positive impact on Albuquerque’s economic recovery and growth. Just a hint: it has to do with collaboration leading to collective impact!

On behalf of the Foundation’s entire Board of Trustees, I invite you to join us as we work together with a dedicated Foundation staff in doing what we can to make Albuquerque better.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Thomas
Chairman & CEO, Bank of Albuquerque

Mayor and First Lady’s Charity Gala

One of the most exciting events of the year is the Mayor and First Lady’s Charity Gala! We are proud to be one of the four nonprofit recipients:

Accion New Mexico • Albuquerque Community Foundation - The Bright Futures Fund
Homework Diner - ABC Community School Partnership • PB&J Family Services - Fathers Building Futures

WHEN:
Saturday, April 25th, 2015 • 6:00 pm – 11:00 pm

WHERE:
Albuquerque Convention Center

This elegant black tie affair will be an evening to remember! For more information and to purchase tickets, visit mayorscharitygala.com
“Driving to the Future”

Last September, during the Foundation’s annual fundraising event Concours du Soleil, over $207,000 was raised - the most in the event’s history. Of that amount, $113,000 was reserved for the “Driving to the Future” technology laboratory/classroom.

Thanks to a collaborative partnership between the Cinco Amigos (organizers of Concours du Soleil), the Mayor’s office, Nusenda Credit Union, and UNM, the “Driving to the Future” technology lab is under construction in the “Epicenter” - the center focusing on workforce development, entrepreneurship and economic development. The Epicenter is located in the old Noon Day Ministries building in downtown Albuquerque, in the Innovation District.

The interior build-out of the Epicenter will be completed by mid-April and will be the site for the first technology camp of the year offered by Microsoft for underserved Albuquerque middle-school students.

“Driving to the Future” Sponsors are:

The Cinco Amigos - Jerry Roehl, Steve Maestas, Kevin Yearout, Jason Harrington & Mark Gorham
Jack Vigil – Harmonix Technologies Inc.
Shalini & Abinash Achrekar
John & Heather Badal
Bill & Sharon Bice
Wallace J. Bow
Pamela & Oliver Brooks
Robin Brule & Lonnie Talbert
Joshua & Jessica Carothers
Hugo Carson
Greg & Barbara Ellen

First National Rio Grande
Ed Garcia
Colby & Ashley Geer
Laura & Bob Gustin
Irwin & Debbie Harms
John Hemphill
Mickey & Ann Hollingshead
Bill & Elizabeth Lang
Mr. & Ms. Armand Losinski
Bruce Malott & Marla Wood
Mr. & Mrs. Stan Mason
Karen Molzen

Roberto Ortega & Dr. Loretta Ortega de Cordova
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Rainosek
María Griego-Raby & Randy Royster
Ken & Anne Sapon
Mr. & Mrs. Chester F. Stewart
Suzanne Strong
Steve & Bridget Taylor
Peter & Alicia Touché
U.S. Eagle Federal Credit Union
Value Add Southwest Inc.
Michael & Stacey Walker
Todd & Felicia White

“Social Giving Club”

For several years we’ve been wanting to find an opportunity for past members of our young donor group and all others who like to combine their social life with their giving life. We’ve come up with just the right thing!

The Social Giving Club. Membership is $1,000 annually. $500 of this contribution goes to an endowed fund for future grantmaking. The other $500 is pooled with that of other members for an immediate grant made to one organization that year. Each year, members will choose a focus area, and the Foundation will provide suggestions for the nonprofit organization to receive the grant. Members will vote, and the chosen nonprofit will receive a substantial impact grant. The Social Giving Club will celebrate with two fun social events each year. 48 inaugural memberships are now available. For more information, contact Kelli@albuquerquefoundation.org or 505.883.6240 to add your name to the invitation list.
At the beginning of 2015, we hosted eight meetings around the city and saw hundreds of people attend. And our community had a lot to say: we wrote down nearly 40,000 words spread over 70-plus pages of notes. Some themes arose again and again, including a need for collaboration among agencies, increased educational opportunities, strong support for community-based services and a plea for more conversations such as these. Below are some highlights of what we have gleaned so far.

**Collaboration, collaboration, collaboration.**
It’s the word that came up most frequently across all convenings, from meetings with donors to roundtables with nonprofits and invested volunteers.

Nonprofit agencies and donors want to see groups work together to try to tackle major issues facing the city. Organizations recognize they have a lot to learn from each other as well as a lot to offer. Donors and other interested citizens want to know they are “moving the needle” on some areas.

“It is frustrating when we have so many organizations doing the same thing but they don’t work together,” one donor said at our first meeting. “We should share and collaborate and figure out how to do things better and smarter, instead of just making waves in the water.”

**Get to the root.**
Donors and organizations are keenly aware much work lies ahead to build stronger communities. But they are not interested in any kind of “Band-Aid” fix; they want to tackle systemic problems while addressing immediate needs.

Along those lines, most agencies are interested in holistic approaches that increase interagency collaboration, including groups that would not traditionally work together.

**Kids are the key.**
Across demographic groups, across sectors and across public/private/nonprofit lines, all agree that early childhood intervention is important in creating a healthy community. Again and again, the Foundation was told the only way to improve hunger and homelessness, to attract economic development and to build stronger neighborhoods is to ensure children have access to food, health centers, art and music, early and continuous education and a safe and flourishing environment.
2015 Listening Sessions

It takes a village.

Our donors and nonprofit partners believe any initiative will require a public-private-nonprofit partnership to accomplish goals. We cannot rely on donors or government programs alone to deal with the effects or root causes of poverty, hunger, or lack of opportunity for economic and cultural well-being. Additionally, many nonprofit groups see schools as possible partners in community improvement. During each convening, we heard schools would make the perfect allies for community gardens (which help with education, hunger, nutrition, environment and health) and community health centers. These partnerships could easily identify and address problems, as well as lead to stronger economic growth as Albuquerque moves farther from the top of all the “bad lists.”

So, how can we help?

Each convening saw various groups ask for more discussion, with other players – including city and county agencies – at the table. Many groups also would like the Foundation to become more involved with advocacy at the legislative level. They see the Foundation as an organization with a bank of goodwill and without an ax to grind – just the kind of voice that can be heard above the din.

Conclusions

The Foundation is still in the process of digesting the information and planning its next steps, but we are excited about the opportunities ahead to engage our donors and nonprofit partners in more innovative ways. It is clear to us this is the dawn of something wonderful, and we have a chance to be more effective than ever. We look forward to more conversations and bringing more agencies together. We are thankful for each person who took the time to talk to us about what matters most and how to achieve more together.

If you would like to share comments, please contact Sandy, 505.883.6240 or sandy@albuquerquefoundation.org.

African American Pavilion
Annual Meeting: Great Grant Giveaway
Friday, March 27, 2015 • 11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Hotel Albuquerque

Table grant sponsorships & luncheon tickets are available today.

Excitement is growing for the Foundation’s 3rd Annual Great Grant Giveaway. How does it work? Six nonprofit organizations have been selected to compete for grants from the audience. Each nonprofit comes from one of the six fields-of-interest the Foundation serves: Albuquerque Youth Symphony - Arts & Culture; ABQid - Economic & Workforce Development; PB&J Family Services - Education; New Mexico Water Collaborative - Environmental & Historic Preservation; Paws & Stripes - Health; Meals on Wheels of Albuquerque - Human Services.

Each of the 70 tables are given a blank check for $500, a sum made possible through generous local businesses, individuals and the Foundation’s unrestricted grant dollars. After watching a short video about the organizations, table guests will decide to which of the six featured nonprofit organizations to award their table’s grant.

Individual grant checks are available for purchase now by calling the Foundation at 505.883.6240. Grants will also be available for purchase during the lunch for those wishing to show their personal support over and beyond their table grant.

Over $60,000 will be awarded. Experience true community spirit and generosity during the Foundation’s 2015 Great Grant Giveaway.

Visit albuquerquefoundation.org or call 505.883.6240.

2015 Grant Program

The Letter of Intent for Round 1 of the Foundation’s Competitive Grant Program is available on our website for organizations in the fields of Arts & Culture, Education and Environmental & Historic Preservation.

Organizations must email or fax their completed Letter of Intent to the Foundation by March 24.

The Letter of Intent for Round 2, for the fields of Health, Human Services, and Economic and Workforce Development will be available June 1.
2015 NEW TRUSTEES

Beverly R. Bendicksen
Beverly is the CFO for Southwest Brands, LLC. She also serves as President-Elect of the Board of Directors of the Albuquerque Museum Foundation and as Chair of the Investment Committee for the Albuquerque Community Foundation. Beverly has served in leadership positions for various other community organizations for several years.

Walter E. Stern
Walter is a managing partner at Modrall Sperling Roehl Harris & Sisk P.A. He has represented businesses and individuals in their dealings with Native American tribes and public land management agencies for over thirty years, focusing on natural resources, energy and environmental law. Walter is actively involved in community and professional non-profit organizations including Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation and Albuquerque Academy.

Pam Hurd-Knief
From 1998 through 2013, Pam was a member of the UNM fundraising team as both a frontline fundraiser for the Schools of Architecture & Planning and Engineering and the Director of Major Gifts/Associate VP for Development with the UNM Foundation. She is currently pursuing a PhD in management and philanthropic leadership at UNM and working part-time as a fundraiser with the UNM School of Engineering.

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VICE PRESIDENT–PHILANTHROPIC SERVICES • Kelli Cooper

We are pleased to announce the promotion of Kelli Cooper to Vice President-Philanthropic Services. In this position, Kelli will oversee the integration of grants, donor development and relations, communications and marketing.

Since joining the Foundation in 2000, Kelli has served in the roles of Communications Director and Director of Philanthropic Services. We are grateful to have her passion, expertise, energy and loyalty on the ACF team.
**Future Fund**

With an endowment fund approaching half a million dollars and a growing membership, the Foundation’s young donor group is planning for a big 2015. Last month they kicked off the year with a “hAPPy hour” social event, releasing their new smart phone app to the membership. During the party, members also voted on the first $1,000 micro-grant of the year which was awarded to Albuquerque CASA, an organization that provides trained volunteers to advocate in court for the rights of children who have been abused or neglected.

For more information on the Future Fund, contact Gabriela Gómez or Andy Williams at 505.883.6240 or visit the Foundation’s website.

**Donors Doing Good • Poetry Box**

ACF Donor Kathy Chilton knows giving can take many forms including unexpected ones close to home. Kathy has long enjoyed poetry and would share poems with neighbors by posting her work on a telephone pole. People walking by would enjoy them and began to share their poems as well. This past Christmas, her husband surprised her by building a Poetry Box, which has been a delightful addition to the neighborhood. A number of poetry books, as well as poems, have been left for others to enjoy as they “borrow” books and leave books for others to read. A particularly moving poem, left anonymously, shared the author’s worries and burdens of the day. The writer had discovered that by simply writing about the worries and leaving them in the Poetry Box, the troubles went away. Each morning, Kathy has discovered a finger-drawn heart in the frost on the Poetry Box which brings a smile of delight.

**Staff**

*Left to right - Maureen Martinick, Accountant*  
Gabriela Gómez, Philanthropic Services - Donors - Grants  
Andy Williams, Philanthropic Services - Communications  
Sandy Mwei, Philanthropic Services - Donor Relations  
Randy Royster, President & CEO  
Kelli Cooper, Vice President-Philanthropic Services  
Denise Nava, Philanthropic Services - Scholarships  
Nancy Johnson, Philanthropic Services - Grant Director  
John Maes, Finance Director (not pictured)
Another Great Grant: Assistance League of Albuquerque

With a grant from the Sandia Foundation, 100 students received a clothing voucher for $59 enabling them to shop with their families. This money would provide three polo shirts, three pairs of pants (or skirts), six pairs of socks and two pairs of shoes to each student.

Another Great Grant: Meals on Wheels

provides meals through the Low Income Meal Program for seniors living in poverty and facing medical issues.

“These wonderful volunteers are the only people I ever see, unless I go to the VA.” — Larry, a 63-year-old Vietnam veteran.
Donor-Advised Funds • Local Issues. Local Solutions.

Bringing Local Solutions to Causes that Matter Most
Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs) are a unique philanthropic tool. They allow a donor to establish a permanent account and remain actively involved in supporting the causes they care about. Many donors also direct some of their resources to priority causes the Foundation identifies for collective impact with other donors.

The Threat
Despite the benefits of DAFs, Congress has discussed proposals that would challenge the fundamental and long-standing value of endowed philanthropy. One misguided proposal would require a DAF to exhaust its funds within five years or pay an annual 20% excise tax penalty.

This shortsighted policy would significantly diminish use of the DAF giving tool, reduce charitable giving and threaten the ability to quickly respond to local needs.

As your Community Foundation, we take seriously the obligation to protect donor investments. We will work together with our peers to insist that Congress uphold current law regulating DAFs.

The Facts
Donor-Advised Funds:
• increase the impact of charitable giving
• build long-term philanthropic resources in local communities
• address current and future needs, including those we may not yet even be aware of
• ensure funds are available during hard times, much like a community savings account
• encourage civic engagement
• build stronger communities
• support a range of causes from emergency response to economic development

During the Great Recession, DAFs allowed community foundations to sustain giving at a time when individual giving plummeted and needs increased

For more information, contact Randy Royster at randy@albuquerquefoundation.org or Kelli Cooper at kelli@albuquerquefoundation.org or 505.883.6240.

Student Aid Programs

The Foundation will be awarding over $150,000 in scholarships this year!

With deadlines approaching, graduating high school seniors and current college students are invited to apply to the Foundation’s scholarship and financial aid program. The 18 scholarship programs were created by generous donors with different interests and priority areas, so it is important for potential applicants to determine if they qualify.

Specific details on the qualifications required for each program are available on the Foundation’s website, albuquerquefoundation.org, or by contacting Denise at 505.883.6240. The first deadlines are this month.
Corporate Philanthropy

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. When you invest in the Albuquerque Community Foundation, you create a win-win partnership that benefits your company, the Foundation and the Greater Albuquerque Area. You help improve the community where your employees and customers live, play and work. THANK YOU!

Champion

- Lovelace Health System
- Bank of Albuquerque
- NAI Maestas & Ward
- Yearout Mechanical, Inc.

Ambassador

- Starline Towing Company, LLC
- Southwest Capital Bank
- PNM
- Bank of the West
- Wells Fargo
- USBank
- Albuquerque Journal

Benefactor

- HB Company
- Lorelei Investments
- New Mexico Gas Company
- Nusenda Credit Union
- New Mexico Mutual

Partner

- Bradbury Stamm
- First National Rio Grande
- LoPour & Associates DDS
- REA Real Estate Advisors
I'd like to support the work of the Foundation.

Enclosed is my donation of $__________________.

All gifts are tax deductible to the maximum allowed by law. □ Online at www.albuquerquefoundation.org

Make your check payable to: Albuquerque Community Foundation

Name as it should be listed in publications: □ I prefer to remain anonymous

__________________________________________ Card #____________________________________

Address __________________________________ Name on card ______________________________

City __________________ State _______ Zip ______ Expiration date ____________________________

Email: ____________________________________ Security Code _________________________________

Phone (___)______________________________ Signature ____________________________________

My Gift is: Please mail this completed form to: Albuquerque Community Foundation

□ Unrestricted
(Use my gift to meet the most pressing needs)

To be added to the:

□ Partner in Philanthropy
   Community Builder $2,500+
   Benefactor $1,000 - $2,499
   Partner $500 - $999
   Friend any gift up to $499

□ Raise the Roof $1,000
□ Arts & Culture Endowment Fund
□ Administrative Endowment Fund
□ Economic & Workforce Development Fund
□ Education Endowment Fund
□ Preservation Fund of New Mexico (Environmental & Historic Preservation)
□ Health & Human Services Fund
□ Impact Fund
□ Emergency Action Fund

□ Please contact me, I am interested in learning more about a planned gift or donor-advised fund.

Name:________________________________________

Phone (___)______________________________
Thank You for Your Support

tear here and return in an envelope