

*Common Bond
New Mexico Foundation*

Annual Report 2017



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1 Message from the President

The mission of the Common Bond New Mexico Foundation is:

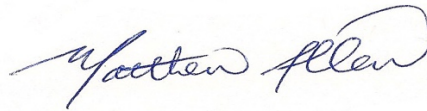
To strengthen the LGBTQ community of New Mexico through programs and partnerships that serve at-risk sectors of the LGBTQ population.

In 2017 Common Bond pursued this mission through three programs:

- **The Emergency Project**, which provided “last-resort” financial assistance to low-income New Mexicans living with HIV/AIDS;
- **SAGE Albuquerque**, which serves elders within the Albuquerque LGBTQ community, and
- **U-21**, a program that provides a safe, sober, and affirming environment for the LGBTQ youth of Albuquerque.

As described in this document, 2017 was a fantastic year for all three of our programs.

The mission of Common Bond can only be achieved through generous donation of time and funds from our donors, board members, program managers, and volunteers. The board of Common Bond is proud of our success in 2017 and committed to making 2018 an even greater year to serve at-risk members of our LGBTQ Community.



Matthew Allen, President

Common Bond New Mexico Foundation

2 Officers and Board of Directors

The bylaws of Common Bond state, “The Board will consist of three to thirteen Directors elected at each annual meeting by a majority of the Board.”¹ There are currently six board members and four officers as listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Board Members and Officers of Common Bond.

Name	Position
Matthew Allen*	Board Member, President
Bill Beckelheimer	Board Member, Treasurer
Jessica Dunn	Board Member
Robert Grilley	Board Member, Secretary
Nathan Kunkle	Board Member
KD Mason	Board Member, Vice President

* Contact info: matta@commonbondnm.org, 505-636-0845.

¹ Common Bond New Mexico Foundation bylaws approved January 29, 2005, §II.1

3 Financial Statement for 2017

Income:

Grants	\$12,500
Fundraising Events	\$12,763
Individual Donations	\$30,367
Total Income:	\$55,630

Expenses:

Insurance	\$5,089
Contract Services	\$18,275
Program Expenses ²	\$30,031
Fundraising/Marketing	\$5,245
Facilities/Business/Misc	\$2,868
Total Expenses:	\$61,508

Net Loss in 2017: -\$5,877

² Program Expenses include all costs associated with Common Bond's programs such as providing financial assistance to people with HIV/AIDS through the Emergency Project and facilitating social activities for our youth in the U-21 program.

4 Annual Review of Programs

4.1 Emergency Project

The Emergency Project plays a unique role within the AIDS support services network in New Mexico. Within 24 hours, we provide "last resort" financial assistance with the flexibility to meet a wide range of needs. For over 29 years, the Emergency Project has helped prevent homelessness for low income New Mexicans living with HIV/AIDS. We provide up to \$200 for rent assistance or to help pay a deposit for a new housing situation when a client is forced to move due to a hostile or dangerous environment. Emergency Project payments also allow clients to maintain utilities without interruption and provide many other necessities of life.

During 2017, the Emergency Project disbursed \$23,245.97 to 99 male, 23 female and 1 transgender clients who are Hispanic, Anglo, African-American, Native American, African and Asian. We mailed 61 benefit checks for rent, 36 for utilities, and 11 for eyeglasses. We also assisted clients with medical bills, dental care, health insurance, auto insurance, auto repair and various other needs.

The Emergency Project serves not only the Albuquerque metro area but smaller New Mexico cities and rural communities as well. During 2017, 66 percent of requests came from Albuquerque. We also assisted clients living in Santa Fe, Las Cruces, Rio Rancho, Edgewood, Anthony, Belen, El Prado, Cuarteles, Los Lunas, Stanley, Madrid, Carlsbad, Pecos, Maxwell, Mountainair, Chaparral, Roswell and Chimayo. We responded to case manager requests from these affiliated public health agencies:

- University of New Mexico Truman Health Services, Albuquerque
- First Nations Community HealthSource, Albuquerque
- Southwest CARE Center, Santa Fe and Albuquerque
- Community Collaborative Care, Las Cruces
- Alianza of New Mexico, Roswell

The Emergency Project was established during the "plague years" of the early AIDS crisis, when an HIV diagnosis invariably led to premature death. In the early days, clients were primarily gay and bisexual men living in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Over the years our client base has evolved along with the changing face of AIDS. During 2017, our clients ranged in age from 20 to 77.

In 2017, the New Mexico Department of Health reported that there were 132 newly diagnosed cases of HIV in the state. There are about 3,400 people living with HIV in New Mexico, and young people 13-24 are one of the fastest growing populations to contract HIV. Here are examples of three people we assisted during the year as presented by their case managers:

- 38-year-old female: Client's propane tank is running low and she is unable to afford a refill at this time. Propane is the primary source of heat in her home. Client is a single mother of three who is attending school full time. She relies on Social Security and academic financial aid to support her family and she struggles to make ends meet. In addition, client's father died intestate and she has been obliged to meet end-of-life expenses and expenses related to settling his estate.
- 56-year-old male: Client's landlord recently billed him for eight months of electricity and propane usage – a total bill of approximately \$1,000. Client is a disabled veteran receiving both V.A. and Social Security disability benefits. He is normally entirely self-sufficient but his income is fixed and therefore unable to accommodate this large unexpected expense.
- 54-year-old female: Client is two months behind on her natural gas bill and has received a disconnect notice. Client is disabled and lives rurally with her disabled veteran husband and their two adopted minor daughters. Client and her husband struggle to meet their basic living expenses on their fixed income but request assistance only when absolutely necessary.

The Emergency Project is operated in a low-key, direct, individual manner with a minimum of bureaucratic detail. In June we mourned the passing at age 94 of Liz Canfield, the compassionate face of the Emergency Project from its earliest days. For its first 20 years, she operated the project as a volunteer from home. Today two other volunteers oversee the project: Steve Ridlon, Director and administrator since October 2008, plus Common Bond board member Bill Beckelhimer. There is no overhead as both volunteers work from home and there are no paid employees. **One hundred percent of private donations and grant funds are disbursed to people in critical financial need.**

During 2017, the Emergency Project received a \$5,000 grant from Broadway Cares/ Equity Fights AIDS plus \$19,736 in private donations largely in honor of Liz Canfield.

4.2 SAGE

During 2017, SAGE Albuquerque vastly increased its programs and activities. These efforts resulted in a significantly larger profile in the Albuquerque Care and LGBTQ community. The program reached a critical mass of constituents

attending events and the formation of a community that knows each other and welcomes new people.

Among the 2017 highlights are major events such as Walk, Talk and Roll (40+ attendees), screening of the documentary "Gen Silent" (100 attendees), Village Townhall (40+ attendees), Friendsgiving (30+ attendees) all in addition to SAGE's monthly meet and greets and social activities.

In 2017 we increased the number of sites to whom we provided the Aging With Pride Training Program. Locations for this training and our community partners include: AARP New Mexico, the New Mexico Health Care Association Conference, Southwest Care, and the New Mexico Aging Conference, Alzheimer's Association, Home Instead, Manzano del Sol, Retreat at Home, and Home Care Assistance.

The SAGE 2017 Katherine Palmer Annual Golf Tournament was the largest ever, raising more than \$10,000. Through additional fundraising events such as Pie Palooza and a benefit night at Il Vicino restaurant, we were able to raise more than \$12,000 in 2017.

In addition to holding our own fundraisers, we received a \$500 grant to support our training efforts from the New Mexico Association for Continuous Care and a \$5000 grant from the Envision Fund.

SAGE Albuquerque served approximately 500 LGBT community members in 2017 and trained about 200 senior providers and interested community members.

4.3 U-21

2017 was an incredible year for the U-21 program. We were able to provide a safe space and activities for approximately 500 kids ranging in age from 10 to 21. We held a total of 52 Friday night activities that allowed the youth to have fun with their friends in a safe, sober, and affirming environment. In addition to events such as board-game night and photography night, these Friday activities included more than a dozen guest speakers and presenters, who volunteered their time and expertise to speak with the kids on a variety of topics ranging from safe sex, healthy relationships, and mental health to LGBT History, career preparation, and civic involvement .

Over the course of the year, U-21 helped distribute nearly half a ton of foodstuffs to participants experiencing varying levels of food insecurity.

Throughout 2017 we have continued to expand out from our usual Friday night activities to include regular monthly trips for the kids to movie premiers (including seeing the newest Star Wars on its opening night!). As well as attending local

cultural events at places such as the Southwest Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, the Hispanic Cultural Center, and the Albuquerque Little Theater.

The kids all had a great time decorating the float for Albuquerque's Pride Fiesta, marching in the parade and celebrating diversity with the rest of our LGBT community at the New Mexico State Fair Grounds.



U-21 students and facilitators at 2017 Pride Fiesta.

In 2017 we added 3 new background-checked facilitators bringing our number of volunteer facilitators up to 7 and we continue to grow our number of volunteers beyond the weekly facilitators.

The U-21 program was created at a time when there was nowhere in Albuquerque for LGBT youth to safely socialize. Most "queer" establishments at the time were social clubs and bars and as such inappropriate meeting places for youths under 21. As time has passed the number of kids attending has changed and their demographics have changed as well. Today we serve a rich diversity of children from different racial and social backgrounds with a variety of gender and sexual identities.

Here are brief anonymous write-ups of several U-21 participants who were assisted last year as described by U-21 Facilitators:

- A child whose parents disowned them following their coming out, and was subsequently sent away to live in Albuquerque with a distant relative.
- A youth whose family is impoverished and food insecure. U-21 provided (and continues to provide) excess food each week. The youth was similarly able to obtain warm clothing for themselves and members of their family and is now a student at the local community college.
- A child whose family did not understand LGBT issues reached out to our program for help with helping their whole family cope and understand what it means to be a member of our community.
- A child who is struggling with depression as well as substance abuse which has had a negative impact on their schooling.

- A youth whose family drove them nearly an hour each way so they would be able to attend our program as their community lacked any program like ours.

With the growing acceptance of LGBTQ culture, we have found ourselves catering more and more to a larger group of children who identify as “trans” as they seem to continue to be the most misunderstood by their peers, families, and members of the community.

Operating expenses for U-21 in 2017 totaled \$4016. Approximately \$600 was spent on space at the Metropolitan Community Church of Albuquerque; this amount was covered in full by a single very generous local donor for the program. \$3263 went towards program expenses themselves, primarily food for the children as well as art supplies, admission to local theaters and events, as well as general materials for activities. Lastly \$153 was spent on miscellaneous costs such as PR and marketing as well as administrative costs of maintaining background checks on all facilitators.

During 2017, the U-21 program received \$2,000 in funding by a grant through the New Mexico Children’s Foundation and approximately \$2189 in funding from individual donors, local people and businesses. In addition to monetary aid, several businesses provide us with food for our activities and auction items for use in our fundraisers. One of our goals for the coming year is to increase the fundraising for the U-21 program so we can provide even more services to the LGBT youth of Albuquerque.