

*Common Bond  
New Mexico Foundation*

*Annual Report 2018*



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## 1 Message from the President

The mission of the Common Bond New Mexico Foundation is:

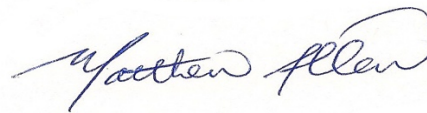
To strengthen the LGBTQ community of New Mexico through programs and partnerships that serve at-risk sectors of the LGBTQ population.

In 2018 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, 2018 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 2018 and committed to making 2019 an even greater year to serve at-risk members of our LGBTQ Community.



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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.”<sup>1</sup> There are currently six board members and four officers as listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Current Board Members and Officers of Common Bond.

Name	Position
<b>Matthew Allen</b>	Board Member, President
<b>KD Mason</b>	Board Member, Vice President
<b>Bill Beckelheimer</b>	Board Member, Treasurer
<b>Robert Grilley</b>	Board Member, Secretary
<b>Elizabeth Trujillo</b>	Board Member, Asst. Treasurer
<b>Paul Oostenbrug</b>	Board Member

\* Contact info: [info@commonbondnm.org](mailto:info@commonbondnm.org), 505-636-0845.

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<sup>1</sup> Common Bond New Mexico Foundation bylaws approved December 13, 2018, §IV.1

### 3 Financial Statement for 2018

Income:

Grants	\$45,525
Fundraising Events	\$8,744
Individual Donations	\$24,778
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$79,047</b>

Expenses:

Insurance	\$3,780
Contract Services	\$17,692
Program Expenses <sup>2</sup>	\$43,453
Fundraising/Marketing	\$7,264
Facilities/Business/Misc	\$1,094
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$73,283</b>

**Net Gain in 2018: \$5,764**

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<sup>2</sup> 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 U-21 Program

2018 was an incredible year for the U-21 program. We were able to provide a safe space and activities to more than 900 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.

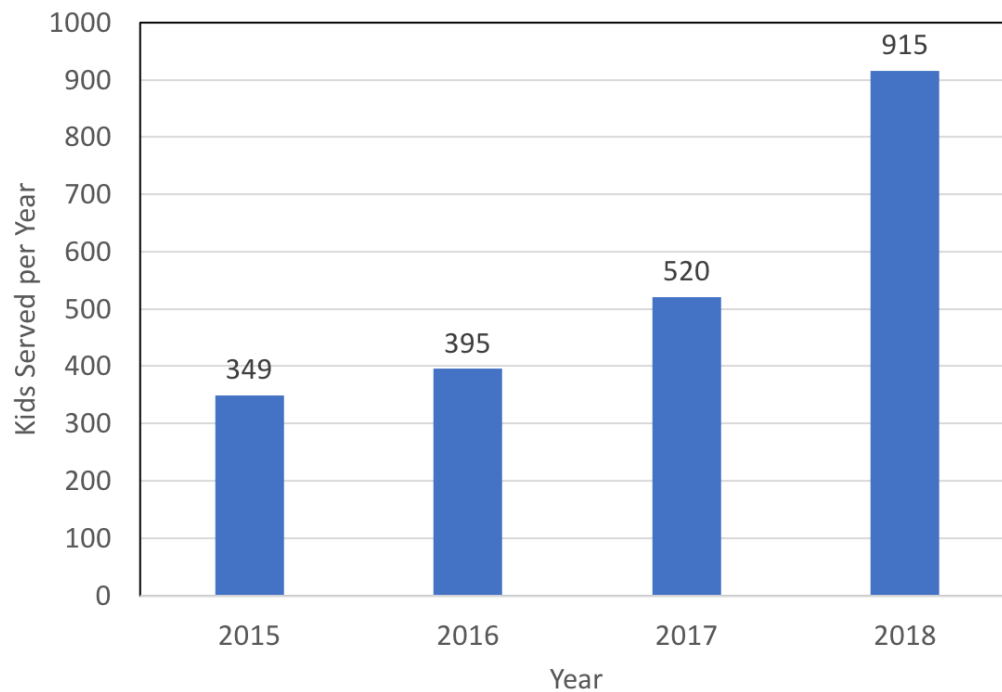


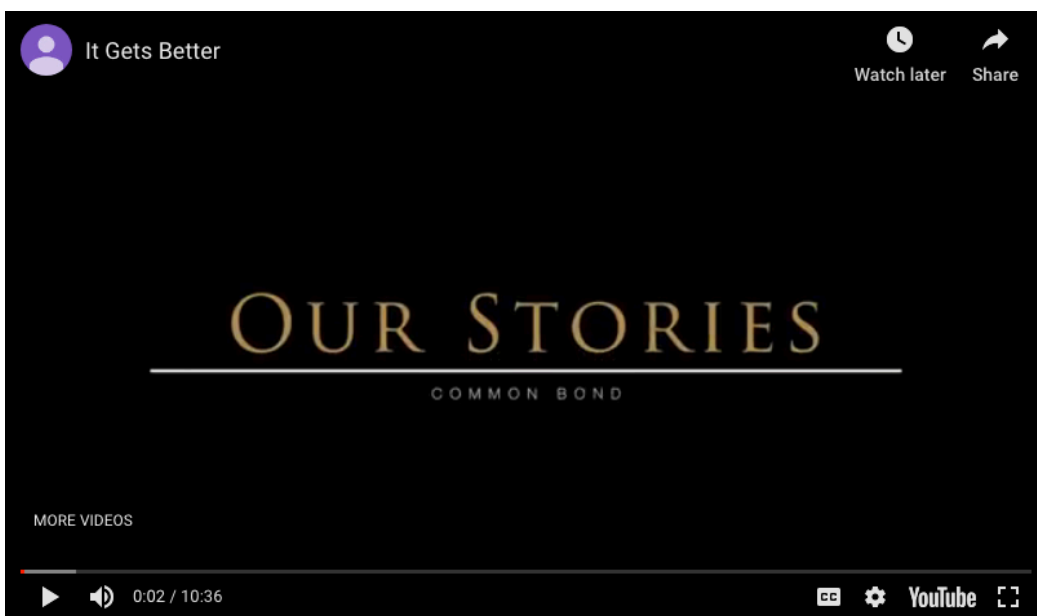
Figure 1: Number of youth served at U-21 from 2015 to 2018.

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

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 2018 Pride Fiesta.*



2018 Also saw the launch of our It Gets Better video. Currently the only video in the It Gets Better project from New Mexico. Made with the help of our alumni from the U-21 program shows the youth of our community it does get better. You can find a link the video on our webpage at the following address: <http://commonbondnm.org/u21/u21-testimonials/>

We were also fortunate this past year to receive a grant from Sandia National Laboratories to help establish the U-21 Parent Program. Initially, an in-person support group was initiated to answer questions and help put parents in contact with each other. The support group was able to assist parents with the greatest needs. For example, through attendance at the support group, we were able to:

- Bring parents of children going through transition in contact with the Transgender Resource Center (TGRC)

- Guest speaker (Adrian Lawyer) was able to answer very serious questions about the risks of suicide and the unique health challenges associated with a transitioning teenager.
- The TGRC was able to offer financial assistance for medical issues of trans teenagers.
- Connect parents with an LGBT friendly therapist who could provide counseling for both parents and youth
- Bring parents together so they can understand their challenges are not unique, they are not alone.

While some parents had an immediate, pressing need for answers, many were just looking for information. Some did not feel comfortable discussing issues in an open setting. For that reason, we've transitioned the parent program away from an in-person support group toward an on-line program that matches parents with resources. To this end, we set up a parents-only Facebook page and email distribution list. All new parents that arrive at the U-21 program receive information as well as a refrigerator magnet with the information shown in Figure 1

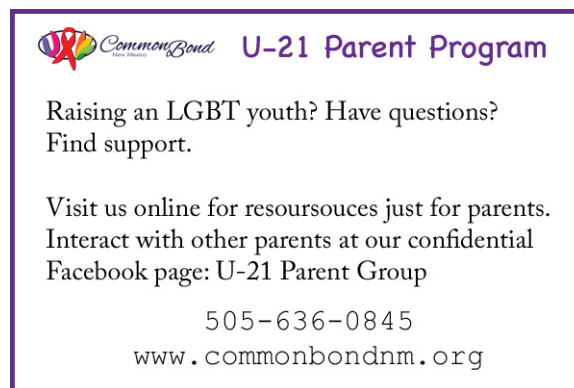


Figure 2: Image of refrigerator magnet provided to new parents at the U-21 youth program.

Operating expenses for U-21 in 2018 totaled \$4500. 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. \$3900 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.



During 2018, the U-21 program received \$2,000 in funding by a grant through the New Mexico Children's Foundation, a \$5,000 grant from the Sandia National Laboratories Foundation and approximately \$6,296 in funding from individual donors, local people and businesses.

#### 4.2 Emergency Project

The Emergency Project plays a unique role within the HIV healthcare network in New Mexico. In early 2018, the New Mexico Department of Health estimated that 3,400 people in the state were infected with HIV. The Emergency Project helps meet the basic living needs of the most vulnerable people within that population so they will be more likely to remain in treatment and reduce the chance of spreading infection.

For 30 years, the Emergency Project has helped prevent homelessness for low income New Mexicans living with HIV/AIDS. Within 24 hours, we provide "last resort" financial assistance with the flexibility to meet a wide range of needs. 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 2018, the Emergency Project disbursed \$33,106 to 140 male, 35 female and 1 transgender clients who are Hispanic, Anglo, Native American, African-American and South African. This was an increase of over 40% in both monetary support and the number of clients served. Our assistance payments were primarily for rent, utilities and eye glasses. We also assisted clients with medical bills, health insurance and auto repair.

The Emergency Project serves primarily Albuquerque and Santa Fe, but also other New Mexico cities and rural communities. During 2018 we helped clients in Abiquiu, Alamo, Anthony, Bayard, Belen, Chaparral, Chimayo, Columbus, Cuarteles, Edgewood, Farmington, Elephant Butte, Galisteo, Gallup, Grants, Laguna, Las Cruces, Los Lunas, Maxwell, Mountainair, Pecos, Nogal, Rio Communities, Rio Rancho, Socorro, Sunland Park, Taos, Tijeras, Tularosa and Veguita We responded to case manager requests from these affiliated public health agencies:

- University of New Mexico Truman Health Services, Albuquerque
- Southwest CARE Center, Santa Fe and Albuquerque
- First Nations Community HealthSource, 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. Thirty years ago, 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 HIV. During 2018, our clients ranged from minors age 6 to seniors age 76. Picture yourself facing challenges like these experienced by some of our clients in 2018:

- You are 76 years old and living in a very rural community. Propane is the only source of heat in your home and lack of payment could result in a medical emergency.
- You are 67 and have been unable to work since having a heart attack followed by a stroke. You now need assistance to pay the bill for recent cataract surgery.
- You are 65, living on fixed income and unable to afford new eye glasses. You recently broke the frame and cracked one of the lenses of the glasses you've had for more than three years.
- You are 60. Your service animal has cancer and needs a \$400 surgery leaving
- insufficient funds for utility bills.
- You are 58 and have had your wallet stolen in a store. The costs related to replacing your documents has made it difficult to pay your next month's rent.
- You are 55, living on a fixed income and have fallen prey to a predatory lender. You are struggling to avoid eviction and having your basic utilities cut off.
- At 44, you have had a medical emergency resulting in multiple ER visits and follow-up appointments. You need help with your electricity bill so you'll be able to continue to cook and have heat in your home.
- At 36, you are the sole provider for an extended family of nine and finding it difficult to pay rent.
- You are 28, in your first trimester of pregnancy and living in an extended stay hotel with your young child. You are unable to work and have applied for other benefits, but you need help in obtaining stable housing.

The Emergency Project is operated in a low-key, direct, individual manner with a minimum of bureaucratic detail. For its first 20 years, community activist Liz Canfield operated the project as a volunteer from her home. Today two other volunteers oversee the project: Steve Ridlon, Director 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 2018, the Emergency Project received a \$22,500 grant from the New Mexico Department of Health, a \$5,000 grant from Broadway Cares/ Equity Fights AIDS plus \$8,903 in private donations largely in memory of Liz Canfield.

#### 4.3 SAGE

Building on the success of 2017, in 2018, SAGE significantly increased its profile in the Albuquerque Care and LGBTQ community.

Among the 2018 highlights are major events such as Pie Palooza (30+ attendees), St. Patrick's Day party (20 attendees), Albuquerque Pride Parade (20+ attendees), Friendsgiving (30+ attendees), SAGE Balloon Glow (80+ attendees), Hanukkah celebration (37 attendees) all in addition to SAGE's monthly meet and greets and social activities.

In 2018 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: Gray Panthers, American Red Cross Albuquerque, NMGSM Conference, and ATF Retirees.

In addition to holding our own fundraisers, SAGE received a \$5000 grant from the National AARP, and \$3750 grant from the New Mexico Association for Continuous Care.

In 2018, SAGE launched two new programs:

- A grief support group that provides emotional comfort and support to those who have lost a loved one; and
- Uber/Lyft assistance to help clients attend events that may otherwise not be able to do so.

SAGE Albuquerque served approximately 500 LGBT community members in 2018 and trained about 200 senior providers and interested community members.