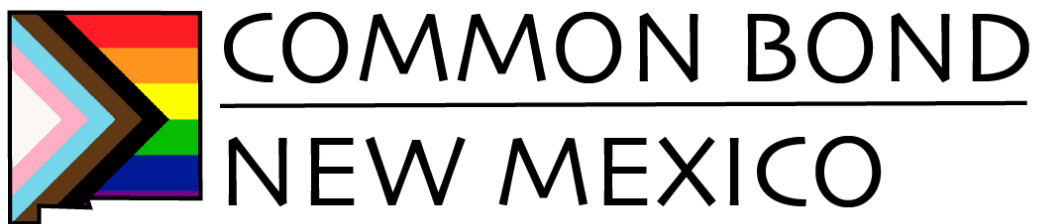


*Common Bond  
New Mexico  
Foundation*

*Annual Report 2022*



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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 2021 Common Bond pursued this mission through two programs:

**U-21**, a weekly program that provides a safe, sober, and affirming environment for the LGBTQ youth of Albuquerque.

**HIV Emergency Project**, which provides “last-resort” financial assistance to low-income New Mexicans living with HIV/AIDS.

2022 proved to be one of our strongest years after the pandemic. We rose from the ashes and provided services necessary to those in need, and those who might’ve just wanted to escape for a little while. I’m extremely proud of this organization for rallying together like they did.

The U-21 Youth Program is still operating like a well-oiled machine. The facilitators know each other well and get along greatly, and have a great system of communication. The youth have enjoyed the online version of U-21 that was set up this past year and still utilize it to communicate on the off days they aren’t at the program to share pictures and stories.

The Emergency Project hit yet another milestone by having a record amount of checks given out. Our volunteers worked diligently to ensure that those affected by HIV/AIDS were taken care of by this program and had their needs met. No stone was left unturned.

2022 was a fantastic year for Common Bond. We grew in Board Members and facilitators, youth in U-21, and in spirit. I’m so proud of the progress that everyone has made here and I can’t wait to see the progress we have yet to make.

Thank you,



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Elizabeth Ames, President

Common Bond New Mexico Foundation

## 2 Officers and Board of Directors

*May 10, 2023*

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 seven board members as listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Current Board Members and Officers of Common Bond as of May 2023

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>Elizabeth Ames</b>	Board Member, President
<b>Latasha Hagan</b>	Board Member, Vice President
<b>Benjamin Gerstner</b>	Board Member, Treasurer
<b>Matt Shubert</b>	Board Member, Secretary
<b>Selena Richardson</b>	Board Member, Webmaster
<b>Dylan Lutey</b>	Board Member
<b>Riss Koupf</b>	Board Member

Our board members may be contacted at [commonbondnewmexico@gmail.com](mailto:commonbondnewmexico@gmail.com) or 505-636-0845.

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<sup>1</sup> Common Bond New Mexico Foundation bylaws approved December 13, 2018, §IV.1  
*May 10, 2023*

### 3 Financial Statement for 2022

Revenue:

Direct Public Support	\$32,411
Indirect Public Support	\$7,954
Investments	\$54
Grants	\$65,000
Private Donations	\$32,477
Interest Income	\$65
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$137,961</b>

Expenses:

Insurance	\$2,137
Contract Services	\$1,190
Program Expenses <sup>2</sup>	\$108,212
Business Expenses	\$372
Charitable Donations	\$600
Facilities/Business/Misc.	\$470
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$112,981</b>

**Net Gain in 2022: \$24,980**

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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 (\$96,202) and facilitating social activities and direct assistance for our youth in the U-21 program (\$12,010).

## 4 Annual Review of Programs

### 4.1 U-21 Youth Support Group

Within the past year, our program has grown exponentially. We've had the program double, essentially. Since COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted, more parents and youth have felt more comfortable coming out to after school programs and outings and we've seen the effects of that. U-21 has been lucky enough to have been chosen to be attended by some of these youth.

We attended Out at the Fair this past year and were able to meet some new people to come to the program and have the youth attend with us. We were also able to pick up our Saturday movies and started going roller skating at the local rink. One of our facilitators, also our Board's Social Media/Webmaster, helped set up a new LGBTQ+ book club that the youth absolutely love and have really been enjoying. They get a fresh book each month that is part of a pre-chosen theme and if they want to discuss the book during the program, they are free to. There is no structured discussion to not make it seem like a school activity. The book club has turned into a well loved program.

Facilitators have grown this year as well. We've gotten four new faces on our team. This is very exciting news, as now we can help rotate out some of our more constant worker bees. Our facilitators work extremely hard to ensure that the youth are well taken care of. They definitely deserve some time off!

As time continues to go on, we expect to continue to see our numbers grow. During Pride, we hand out flyers and cards when we walk in the parade. This is usually when we have a spike in numbers. We should have more people join the program after that.

### 4.2 HIV Emergency Project

For 34 years, the Emergency Project has played a unique role within the state's HIV healthcare network. The New Mexico Department of Health estimates that 3,954 people in the state are infected with HIV. We help meet the basic living needs of some of the most vulnerable people within that population.

#### **During 2022:**

- **We increased our assistance benefit to \$300 per client.**
- **We provided "last resort" financial assistance to 349 clients,**

**an increase of 25% over 2021.**

- **We disbursed \$97,197.00, an increase of nearly 78%.**

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The Emergency Project helps prevent homelessness for low-income New Mexicans living with HIV/AIDS. Ours is "last resort" financial assistance with the flexibility to meet a wide range of needs – some of which (like auto repairs) are essential but cannot be paid by government or other sources of support. Our rush payments are primarily for rent, utilities, and medical bills. We also assist with health insurance, medicines, and other necessities of life.

Our assistance checks go out within 24 hours; often on the same day the request is received.

Many government-funded agencies are slow to make decisions -- or there are seasonal caps on funds that are available. The Emergency Project steps in when no other assistance program can quickly relieve the stress on people dealing with the multiple issues of HIV/AIDS infection.

We respond to case manager requests from the New Mexico Department of Health's five HIV Service Provider organizations: University of New Mexico Truman Health Services, Southwest Care Center, First Nations Community HealthSource, Alianza of New Mexico, and Community Collaborative Care. Providing our services through these agencies helps assure that these clients remain in treatment thereby reducing spread of the HIV virus in our state.

During 2022, with 419 payments, we assisted male, female and transgender clients who are Hispanic, White, Native American and Black. Ages ranged from 22 to 81.

The Emergency Project serves not only the metro areas of Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Las Cruces, but also smaller New Mexico cities and rural communities. During 2022, we helped clients in Abiquiu, Acoma, Alamogordo, Alto, Anthony, Arrey, Artesia, Aztec, Belen, Bloomfield, Buena Vista, Carson, Cedar Crest, Chaparral, Church Rock, Clovis, Cochiti Pueblo, Cuba, Deming, Dulce, Edgewood, Elephant Butte, Espanola, Estancia, Eunice, Farmington, Flora Vista, Gallup, Hernandez, Hobbs, Kirkland, Las Lunas, Las Vegas, Los Alamos, Mesilla Park, Mesquite, Moriarty, Mountainair, Peñasco, Pie Town, Placitas, Ponderosa, Portales, Questa, Raton, Radium Springs, Rio Rancho, Roswell, Ruidoso, Sandia Park, Santa Cruz, Sheep Springs, Shiprock, Stanley, Taos, Thoreau, Tijeras, Tohatchi, Truth or Consequences, Tucumcari, Valdez and Velarde.

The Emergency Project was established during the original AIDS crisis, when people were dying at shocking rates. Thirty-four 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. We have never discriminated on the basis of race, gender or sexual orientation.

### **These are examples of the financial challenges experienced by our clients during 2022:**

- 73-year-old widowed Rio Rancho woman had to purchase medical equipment not covered by insurance. This leaves her short to pay her rent.
- 72-year-old Taos man has had several sinus procedures this year. His Social Security

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income barely covers his monthly living expenses and he needs help in paying his medical bills.

- 68-year-old Mesilla Park man needs assistance for a doctor-recommended walker which is not covered by his medical insurance.
- 66-year-old Silver City man is in need of dentures and other dental work. He has no insurance or funds for these medical bills.
- 60-year-old Santa Fe man recently diagnosed with cancer is undergoing radiation and chemotherapy. He is unable to work for several months and has no income.
- 57-year-old Santa Fe man's car is inoperable and needs to be repaired so he can keep medical appointments. His is also currently in need of a new water heater.
- 55-year-old Santa Fe man is taking care of his elderly mother who is in hospice. He has no current income and needs assistance to prevent his gas utility being disconnected.
- 50-year-old Roswell man lost his stepfather and is now the only source of household income. Funeral expenses will compromise his ability to pay for rent and utilities.
- 43-year-old Buena Vista man lost his job due to COVID-19 and currently has zero income. Without assistance his electricity is in jeopardy of being disconnected.
- 38-year-old Albuquerque transgender woman unexpectedly lost their job due to gender identity and has fallen behind on utility bills.

As an additional service, Common Bond board member Dylan Lutey, an estate planning attorney with Hedrich Law, P.A. in Albuquerque, offers pro bono legal services (New Mexico Power of Attorney and Advance Medical Directive) to referred clients.

The Emergency Project operates in a low-key, direct, individual manner with a minimum of bureaucratic detail. For its first 20 years, equal rights activist Liz Canfield managed the project as a volunteer from her home. A new volunteer, Steve Ridlon, became Director in October 2008. Because he donates the cost of the Project's operating expenses, **100% of private donations and grant funds are disbursed to people in critical financial need.**

During 2022, the Emergency Project received funding from the New Mexico Department of Health, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, and 20 private donors.

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