

*Common Bond
New Mexico Foundation*

Annual Report 2019



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1 Message from the President

The mission of the Common Bond New Mexico Foundation is:

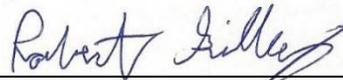
To strengthen the LGBTQ community of New Mexico through programs and partnerships that serve at-risk sectors of the LGBTQ population.

In 2019 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. During this year SAGE Albuquerque transitioned from a program of Common Bond to a program of EQNM.
- **U-21**, a program that provides a safe, sober, and affirming environment for the LGBTQ youth of Albuquerque.

As described in this document, 2019 was a fantastic year for all 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 2019 and committed to making 2020 an even greater year to serve at-risk members of our LGBTQ Community.



Rob Grilley, 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 three officers as listed in Table 1.

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

Name	Position
Rob Grilley	Board Member, President
KD Mason	Board Member
Elizabeth Trujillo	Board Member, Treasurer
Dylan Lutey	Board Member, Secretary
Jenn Davis	Board Member
Benjamin Gerstner	Board Member

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

¹ Common Bond New Mexico Foundation bylaws approved December 13, 2018, §IV.1

3 Financial Statement for 2019

Income:

Grants	\$50,902
Fundraising Events	\$0
Individual Donations	\$16,031
Total Income:	\$66,933

Expenses:

Insurance	\$4,900
Contract Services	\$0
Program Expenses ²	\$45,828
Fundraising/Marketing	\$562
Facilities/Business/Misc.	\$1902
Total Expenses:	\$53,192

Net Gain in 2018: \$13,741

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 U-21 Program

2019 was an incredible year for the U-21 program. We were able to provide a safe space and activities to over 1,000 youth ranging in age from 10 to 21. We held a total of 52 Friday night activities and 14 weekend 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 youth on a variety of topics ranging from safe sex, healthy relationships, and mental health to LGBT History, career preparation, and civic involvement.

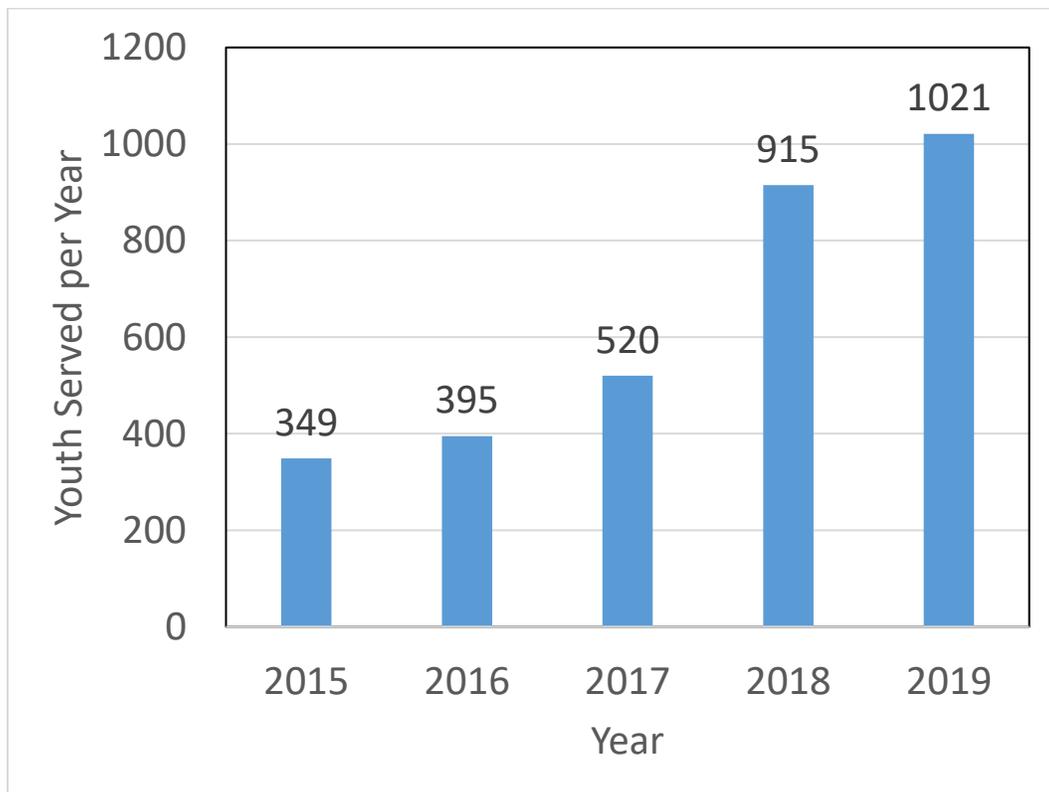


Figure 1: Number of youth served at U-21 from 2015 to 2019.

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 youth participants 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 the Albuquerque Pride Parade. (June 8th 2019)

4.2 Emergency Project

The New Mexico Department of Health estimates that 3,400 people in the state are infected with HIV. The Emergency Project plays a unique role within the state's HIV healthcare network. It helps meet the basic living needs of some 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 31 years, the Emergency Project has helped 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. 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. Checks are mailed within 24 hours; often on the same day an assistance request is received.

During 2019, the Emergency Project disbursed \$37,957 to 207 male, female and transgender clients who self-identify as Anglo, Hispanic, Native American, African-American, South African, Asian and Native Hawaiian. **This was an increase of \$4,851 from 2018, as well as an increase of 17.6% in the number of clients served.** Our assistance payments were primarily for rent, utilities, eye glasses and medical bills. We also assisted clients with health insurance, auto repair, medicine and other necessities of life.

The Emergency Project serves primarily Albuquerque and Santa Fe, but also other New Mexico cities and rural communities. During 2019 we helped clients in Abiquiu, Alamogordo, Anthony, Artesia, Belen, Bloomfield, Chaparral, Chimayo, Clovis, Cuareles, Deming, Dulce, Duran, Espanola, Farmington, Gallup, Glorieta, Hatch, Laguna, Las Cruces, Los Lunas, Mesilla Park, Portales, Ranchos de Taos, Rio Rancho, Roswell, Ruidoso, Silver City, Taos, Tijeras, Tucumcari and Valdez.

We respond 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 and Las Cruces

The Emergency Project was established during the "plague years" of the early AIDS crisis, when an HIV diagnosis invariably led to premature death. Thirty-one 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 2019, our clients ranged from minors age 7 to seniors age 80. We have never discriminated on the basis of race, gender or sexual orientation.

Challenges like these were experienced by a sampling of our clients in 2019:

- You are a 38-year-old transgender woman who has been homeless for four years. You need a \$200 deposit to move into a new apartment which cannot be paid for by any other assistance program.
- You are 55, have lost your job and exhausted your unemployment benefits. Due to health issues, you have not been able to obtain new employment and have fallen behind on all your utilities bills.
- You are 63 and living in a small town in Chavez County. You do not have access to medical transportation to Albuquerque for HIV care. You need your car repaired as there are no local options for Infectious Disease care.
- It's early August, you are 65 and your room air conditioner has stopped working. Because of the repair cost, you are unable to make your full rent payment.
- You are 65 and have numerous medical issues with costly out-of-pocket co-pays. With one-time assistance, you can continue follow-up treatment with a specialist for the care you need.
- You are 67 and need new eye glasses. You do not have vision coverage through Medicare. It's early September and you have had higher than usual electricity bills so you are unable to pay for new glasses out-of-pocket.

- You are 67 and reside in a rural part of Santa Fe. You live on a fixed income and are unable to pay for firewood to heat your home in the coming winter months.

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 out of her home. Today two other volunteers oversee the project: Steve Ridlon, Director since October 2008, plus Common Bond board member Dylan Lutey. Because Steve donates the cost of the Project's limited operating expenses, **100% of private donations and grant funds are disbursed to people in critical financial need.**

During 2019, the Emergency Project received \$30,000 from the New Mexico Department of Health, \$5,000 from Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, \$5,846 from the Albuquerque Pride 2018 HIV Walk, \$250 from Unica Real Estate, plus \$11,845 in private donations largely in memory of Liz Canfield.

The Emergency Project is a program of Common Bond New Mexico Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit; therefore, contributions are tax-deductible. **Your donation, payable to "Common Bond NM Emergency Project," can be mailed to P.O. Box 8313, Albuquerque, NM 87198. Thank you!**

For more information, please e-mail *EmergencyProjectNM@gmail.com* or call (505) 934-7262.

4.3 SAGE

SAGE transitioned to a program of EQNM on July 31st 2019. For more information on SAGE Albuquerque and the great work they are doing in our community, please visit them at <http://eqnm.org/sageabq> .