

Common Bond New Mexico Foundation: Annual Report 2016



Common Bond New Mexico Foundation | www.commonbondnm.org

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1 Message from the President

The mission of the Common Bond New Mexico Foundation is:

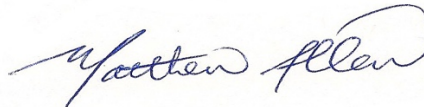
To strengthen the LGBTQ community of New Mexico through programs and partnerships that serve at-risk sectors of the LGBTQ population.

In 2016 Common Bond pursued this mission through three programs:

- **The Emergency Project**, which provided “last-resort” financial assistance to those 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, 2016 was one of the best years on record for all three of our programs. The Emergency project distributed \$33,596 to people in need—its highest annual disbursement to date. The SAGE and U-21 programs each had record years of programming and fund raising.

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 2016 and committed to making 2017 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 seven board members and four officers as listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Board Members and Officers of Common Bond.

Name	Position	Phone	Email
Matthew Allen	Board President	510-649-1233	matta@commonbondnm.org
Bill Bekelheimer	Board Vice President	505-433-9021	
Robert Grilley	Board Secretary	203-521-2176	rcmgrilley@gmail.com
Katherine Palmer	Board Treasurer	404-834-1188	kath_col@yahoo.com
Deborah Angeli	Board Member		
Jessica Dunn	Board Member		
Tyler Nuanes	Board Member		
Nathan Kunkle	Board Member		

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

3 Financial Statement for 2016

Income:

Grants	\$9,775
Fundraising Events	\$21,381
Donations	\$15,911
Other (interest)	\$125
Total Income:	\$47,192

Expenses:

Insurance	\$2,875
Subcontract Staff	\$11,313
Occupancy	\$874
Program Expenses ²	\$36,076
Fundraising/Marketing	\$10,020
Misc./Administration	\$1,071
Total Expenses:	\$62,229

Net Lose in 2016: -\$15,037

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 28 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 2016, the Emergency Project disbursed \$33,596 to 151 male and 31 female clients who are Hispanic, Anglo, African-American, Native American, Native Hawaiian and Asian-American. We mailed 190 benefit checks – 84 for rent, 66 for utilities, and 12 for eyeglasses. We also assisted clients with medical bills, medicines, dental care, auto insurance, auto repair, E.R. and ambulance bills, 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 2016, 62 percent of requests came from Albuquerque. We also assisted clients living in Las Cruces, Santa Fe, Rio Rancho, Sandia Park, Tijeras, Corrales, Placitas, Peñasco, Los Lunas, Belen, Sunland Park, Espanola, Stanley, Anthony, Duran, Taos, Rancho de Taos, Roswell, Alamogordo, El Prado, Mesilla Park, Truth or Consequences, Pecos, Nambe, Bayard, Cuarteles, Valdez, and Silver City.

During 2016 our swift, direct support again increased significantly. We assisted 51 more clients and disbursed over \$5,271 more aid compared to 2015. 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
- Community Collaborative Care, Las Cruces
- Alianza of New Mexico, Roswell
- International AIDS Empowerment, El Paso (New Mexico clients only)

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 2016, our clients ranged in age from 20 to 84 and included an increasing number of women.

Here are snapshots of five people we assisted last year as presented by their case managers:

- 57-year-old male: Patient has not worked for seven months and continues to seek employment. Patient has exhausted savings and assistance from family and friends.
- 32-year-old male: Medical bill incurred as a result of a violent "hate" crime that took place towards the end of last year. As a result the client was seen at ER in Albuquerque and incurred a total of \$1,437.00 for ER visit, CT scan of head/brain, as well as stitches. The client is living on a limited income that does not allow him to cover this expense.
- 36-year-old female: Client was recently very ill causing her to unexpectedly miss many days of work. She is requesting assistance with her gas bill so she can continue to have heat in her home.
- 42-year-old male: Client was hospitalized twice over the last six weeks. He has been unable to work and could not pay rent for February or March. Client has had a lot of medical appointments since he got out of the hospital and continues to be unable to work.
- 48-year-old female: Client is a triple-stroke victim living with her son on a housing voucher. She gets SSI and SSDI, as well as SNAP benefits, LIHEAP, and General Assistance. She is usually able to pay all of her bills, however this month she is short because she bought a new mattress. Her old one was falling apart and was very painful to sleep on.

The Emergency Project is operated in a low-key, direct, individual manner with a minimum of bureaucratic detail. For its first 20 years, it was managed by community activist Liz Canfield. Now age 94, Liz is still actively involved in decision-making. Steve Ridlon has been Director and administrator since October 2008. 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 2016, the Emergency Project received a \$5,000 grant from Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, \$3,160 from special benefit performances of "Buyer &

Cellar" produced by Robb Sisneros, \$300 from a UNMTHS fundraising event, plus \$7,503 in private donations.

4.2 SAGE

During 2016, SAGE Albuquerque vastly increased its programs and activities. From a once-a-month social and once-a-month caregiver support group, SAGE ABQ expanded to offer community events both educational and social, developed a training program for senior providers, and made plans to add many more programs in 2017.

Successful fundraising in 2015 made it possible for SAGE Albuquerque to add a part-time staff person in February of 2016. This increased capacity allowed for the training program to kick off in 2016, more events to show up on the calendar, the creation of a website (sageabq.org), and for SAGE ABQ to collaborate with many more local organizations, both LGBT specific and senior specific.

Among the 2016 highlights, the Aging With Pride Training Program presented at the following organizations: AARP New Mexico, the New Mexico Health Care Association Conference, Southwest Care, and the New Mexico Aging Conference. SAGE ABQ collaborated with AARP New Mexico, the Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico, the UNM LGBTQ Resource Center, GLSEN Albuquerque, and the City of Albuquerque to host a sold-out showing of the documentary *Major!*, including a panel and reception with the filmmakers, at the South Broadway Cultural Center. SAGE National training coordinator Tim Johnson spoke at the New Mexico LGBTQ Health Conference with support from SAGE ABQ and the SAGE banner was present at tabling opportunities at the Aging Conference, the Truman Health Fair, Albuquerque Pride and Family Pride. The year ended with a highly successful holiday party, hosted by United Court of the Sandias and Albuquerque Pride. Many of the LGBT elders at the Senior Holiday Bash reported having a great time and feeling very appreciated! We are still getting thank-you letters from older LGBT folks who attended.

The 2016 SAGE Golf Tournament substantially increased the money raised to support its programs and expand even more in 2017. We received a \$500 grant to support our training efforts from the New Mexico Association for Continuous Care and in December received a \$1,500 grant to create an LGBT intergenerational walking event with Fierce Pride, an LGBTQ health advocacy group.

SAGE Albuquerque served approximately 500 LGBT community members in 2016 and trained about 200 senior providers and interested community members.

4.3 U-21

2016 was a great year for U-21. We were able to provide a safe space and activities for 62 kids ranging in age from 11 to 21. We held a total of 50 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 11 guest speakers and presenters, who volunteered their time and expertise to speak with the kids on a variety of topics such as safe sex, healthy relationships, mental health, and LGBT History.

Over the course of the year, U-21 helped distribute over 200 pieces of donated clothing to the kids involved in the program, primarily heavy weather clothing during the winter months.

Starting in 2016 we were able to expand our usual Friday night activities to include local events such as at 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 2016 Pride Fiesta.

In 2016 we added 3 background-checked facilitators bringing our number of volunteer facilitators up to 8, which is more than we've had in years! We continue to grow our number of volunteers beyond the weekly facilitators.

The U-21 program was created in 1986, 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. Over the past 30 years, 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 descriptions of several U-21 participants who were assisted last year as described by U-21 Facilitators:

- A child whose parents disowned her following her 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.

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.

The operating budget for U-21 in 2016 was \$4,053. Of this, approximately 50% went to paying for the insurance necessary to run the program. No money was spent on space as Reverend Judy Maynard of the Metropolitan Community Church of Albuquerque graciously donated use of church facilities to the U-21 program. \$1,705 went towards program expenses themselves, primarily food for the children as well as art supplies, admission to local theaters and events, plus general materials for activities. Lastly, \$524 were spent on other costs such as PR and marketing, as well as administrative costs of maintaining background checks on all adult facilitators.

During 2016, the U-21 program received over \$1,000 in funding by a grant through the New Mexico Children’s Foundation, \$1,916 in funding from our annual “Qulture” fundraiser, and \$2,386 in funding from individual donors, local people and businesses. In addition to monetary aid, several businesses provided us with food for our activities and auction items for our annual fundraiser. One of our goals for the coming year is to increase fundraising for the U-21 program so we can provide even more goods and services to the LGBT youth of Albuquerque.

5 Bylaws

Second Amended Bylaws
of
Common Bond New Mexico Foundation
formerly known as Common Bond Education Fund

I
Members

The Corporation will have no members.

II
Board of Directors

1. **Number, Tenure, Qualification, Election:** The Board will consist of three to thirteen Directors elected at each annual meeting by a majority of the Board. All Directors will serve until their successors have been elected and qualified. A Director need not be a New Mexico resident. A Director may be removed with or without cause by a two thirds majority vote of the Board, or may resign. Vacancies may be filled by a majority of the remaining Directors though less than a quorum.
2. **Meetings:** An Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held. Special Meetings of the Board may be called by any Director or Officer, and will be held at the time and place fixed by the person calling the meeting on written notice given to each Director at least two days before the meeting.
3. **Quorum, Action:** A majority of the number of Directors then in office will constitute a quorum at Board meetings. A quorum once attained continues until adjournment despite voluntary withdrawal of enough Directors to leave less than a quorum. The Directors will manage the affairs of the Corporation, and may act only as a Board with each Director having one vote. The act of a majority of Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present will be the act of the Board unless a greater number is required by the Nonprofit Corporation Act or these bylaws.

III

Officers

1. **Number, Tenure, Qualification, Election:** The Officers of the Corporation will be a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and such other offices as the Board may decide, who will be elected annually by the Board at its Annual Meeting to serve until their successors are elected and qualified. Officers need not be Directors or New Mexico residents. An officer may be removed with or without cause by the Board, or may resign. Vacancies and newly created offices will be filled by the Board. One person may hold more than one office, except that no person may be both President and Secretary. Officers will perform the duties and have the powers assigned by the Board, incident to the office and provided by these Bylaws.
2. **President and Vice-President:** The President, or the Vice-President during the absence, disability or failure to act of the President, will be the chief executive officer of the Corporation and, when authorized, will execute and deliver documents in the name of the Corporation.
3. **Secretary and Assistants:** The Secretary, or any Assistant Secretary during the absence, disability or failure to act, of the Secretary, will keep and have custody of the seal, books and records of the Corporation and the minutes of all meetings, will give all Notices required and, when authorized, will execute, attest, seal and deliver documents of the Corporation.
4. **Treasurer and Assistants:** The Treasurer, or any Assistant Treasurer during the absence, disability or failure to act of the Treasurer, will be responsible for keeping correct and complete books and records of account for the Corporation.

IV

Executive Director

The Board may employ an Executive Director upon such terms and conditions as it deems proper, who will be responsible for the conduct of the Corporation's business within the prescribed policies of the Board. The Executive Director shall hire,

assign, supervise and, when he or she deems necessary, release employees of the Corporation in accordance with the policies, positions and salaries established by the Board.

V

Committees

The Board, by resolution adopted by a majority of the Directors, may designate and appoint Committees each of which will consist of at least two directors, and will have an may exercise the authority of the Board, except to the extent limited by law. A majority of the members of a Committee may fix its rules of procedure. An action by a Committee will be reported to the Board at a Board meeting succeeding such action and will be subject to revision by the Board although no rights of third parties will be affected by any such revision. The designation and appointment of any Committee and the delegation thereto of authority will not relieve the Board of Directors, or any individual Director, of any responsibility imposed upon the Board of a Director.

VI

Action without a Meeting

Any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing setting forth the action so taken is signed by all of the Directors.

VII

Waiver of Notice

Whenever any notice is required to be given to any Director, a waiver thereof in writing signed by the person entitled to the notice is equivalent to the giving of the notice. The attendance of a Director, in person or by proxy, at a meeting constitutes a waiver of notice of the meeting except when attendance is for the sole purpose of objecting because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

VIII

Monetary Matters

1. **Funds and Borrowing:** The depository for corporate funds, the persons entitled to draw against those funds, the persons entitled to borrow on behalf of the Corporation, and the manner of accomplishing these matters will be determined by the Board.
2. **Compensation and Pecuniary Benefit:** No Director or Officer will receive, directly or indirectly, any income, profit, compensation or pecuniary benefit from the Corporation, except that the Corporation may reimburse them from corporate funds upon proper documentation for expenses incurred on behalf of the Corporation, and may reasonably compensate them for services rendered in furtherance of the corporate purposes.
3. **Provision Against Sharing in Corporate Earnings:** No Director or Officer will receive at any time any of the net earnings of the Corporation, or share in any of the corporate assets upon dissolution of the Corporation.

IX

Indemnity

The Corporation will indemnify each Director and Officer of the Corporation, and their heirs, legal representatives and assigns, against expenses, costs and liabilities reasonably incurred in connection with any action, suit or proceeding in which the Director or Officer is involved or made a party by reason of being or having been such, except in relation to matters as to which the indemnitee shall be adjudged to have been guilty of actual negligence or misconduct in the performance of duty to the corporation. This right of indemnification will not be exclusive of other rights to which any Director or Officer may be entitled as a matter of law and will include reimbursement of any amount and expenses paid or incurred in settling any such action, suit or proceedings when such settlement has been approved by the Board.

X

Interested Parties

No transaction of the Corporation will be affected because a Director or Officer of the Corporation is interested in the transaction, unless the transaction is in violation of the proscriptions in the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws against the inurement of monetary benefit. Such interested parties will be counted for quorum purposes and may vote when the Corporation considers the transaction. Such interested parties will not be liable to the Corporation for the party's profits, or the Corporation's losses, from the transaction.

XI

Seal

The Board may, but need not, adopt a form of a seal to be used by the Corporation, but the failure to use a corporate seal does not affect the validity of any instrument or any action taken in reliance thereon or in pursuance thereof.

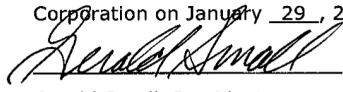
XII

Amendments

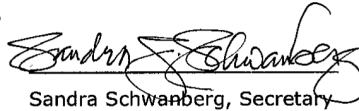
These bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed by a two thirds majority vote of the Board.

Officers' Certificate

We certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the Bylaws duly adopted by the Corporation on January 29, 2005.



Gerald Small, President



Sandra Schwanberg, Secretary