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teaching children excellence

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Innovate + Educate is proud to support NDI’s commitment to New Mexico’s future.

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Gemini Rosemont is a fully integrated market leader in major commercial property acquisition and asset management, operating in over 21 states with a portfolio over 14 million square feet.

Gemini Rosemont is proud to support NDI New Mexico and the invaluable service it provides for many communities throughout the state. We strive for excellence in our business, and appreciate NDI New Mexico and the programs they offer to support New Mexico’s youth.
Welcome to today’s performance! The road to this moment has been filled with joyful concentration, hard work, practice, and teamwork. We believe that you will see the impact of NDI New Mexico’s programs on our children’s faces and in the confidence they exude. Our Core Four message of working hard, doing one’s best, never giving up, and being healthy is making a positive impact on children, their families, and their schools across New Mexico.

We want to thank you, the many supporters who make our work possible each year. Whether it is through buying tickets, making financial contributions, community partnerships, or by volunteering, your help and commitment bring NDI New Mexico’s programs to life for 9,500 children in our beautiful, but challenged state.

Over the past year, our organization has been working to develop a new strategic business plan. Building upon the success of the past 22 years and the foundation forged by our dedicated community, we dream of deepening our service to children in the state by expanding both the breadth and depth of the programs we provide. When the work on our plan is complete, we look forward to sharing our vision to continue improving the lives of children in meaningful ways and hope that you will continue being an important part of their success.

And now, on with the show!

Yours in Teaching Children Excellence,

Diane Doniger
Board Chair

Russell Baker
Executive Director

“NDI New Mexico’s programs give children the confidence to put their best foot forward as they step into a successful future.”
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Garrett Thornburg

In Memoriam

Ambassador Frank Ortiz  
Joseph L. Ponce
NDI New Mexico is founded with the knowledge that the arts have a unique power to engage and motivate children.

The purpose of our distinctive programs is to help children develop discipline, a standard of excellence, and a belief in themselves that will carry over into all aspects of their lives.
OUR MISSION
Dedication to EXCELLENCE
Clapping rhythms and stomping feet, smiling faces, and sweaty brows, a musical soundscape for every step...

...there is a unique and magical quality to NDI New Mexico’s classes that motivates thousands of children across the state to WORK HARD, DO THEIR BEST, NEVER GIVE UP and BE HEALTHY. By fostering a strong enthusiasm for excellence in our students, we know that they can develop the persistence and determination they need to meet life’s challenges. Using music and dance, we motivate young people to strive for excellence and help them gain the confidence they need to achieve their dreams. Nothing gives us more hope for the future than to see joyful concentration, tenacity, and self-esteem ignited in a child’s eyes.

The foundation of our philosophy is to set the bar really high, create a safe learning environment, use fun and engaging teaching techniques, and give honest feedback to help our dancers progress. NDI New Mexico classes are fully inclusive—all children from participating classrooms dance together as a team, regardless of any special needs they might have. We know that if children do their best and don’t give up, with practice they will learn to be excellent. Our programs are goal-oriented and teach children that hard work can be fun and rewarding.

Every NDI New Mexico program culminates in a performance where children gain positive attention from their parents, teachers, peers, and the community. Children report that being in front of an audience makes them feel like superstars! These life-changing performance opportunities can be the key to unlocking a child’s courage to embrace new experiences and confidently meet future challenges.
Through the commitment of the NDI New Mexico Board of Directors, our incredible volunteers throughout the state, amazing community partners, public school principals and classroom teachers, and our generous donors, we were able to deliver our award-winning programs to 9,500 children this year. Our 22-year track record of social responsibility and fiscal integrity proves that we have a sustainable template to serve New Mexico’s children well into the future. With over 100 schools on our waiting list, we look to attract new or increased support from foundations and private supporters, continue to train additional NDI New Mexico teaching artists, and develop powerful community partnerships that will allow us to serve more children throughout the state. NDI New Mexico is working hard today to plan for tomorrow.

Spotlight on Jackie Oliver

Jackie Oliver has dedicated 15 years of hard work and creativity to the children of New Mexico through her remarkable talents as a teacher and director. Jackie’s varied and extensive dance training and performance experience shines through in her excellent choreography, which fuses the grace of ballet, the style and rhythmic sensibility of tap and jazz, and the unmistakable energy of the NDI New Mexico methodology. She crafts dances that show our young performers at their best. Jackie has always had a special connection with her students. She believes in their capacity for growth and achievement, and helps them recognize their own potential.

Jackie’s commitment has contributed to the successful foundation of our programs in Albuquerque, and her training and mentoring of instructors and directors has helped the organization to thrive statewide. “Jackie is like family to me, she boosted my confidence and had a huge impact on my life.” —Amadeus Hernandez, Student

“‘To see a dancer grow from a bubbly 3rd-grader into a successful young adult is the most rewarding part of teaching for NDI New Mexico!’”
It’s the core of what we do!

NDI New Mexico’s unique and award-winning methodology ensures that going to school is joyful and engaging. By bringing our classes directly into the public schools as part of the school day, children who might not have the resources to participate in extra-curricular youth development programs gain the opportunity to expand their horizons. **NDI New Mexico becomes part of the culture and curriculum at the public schools we serve.** Children in Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, Santa Fe, Pojoaque, and the Española Valley receive weekly classes conducted at their school throughout the school year. The program finishes with exciting End-of-Year shows where the dancers get to demonstrate what they have learned in front of enthusiastic audiences made up of families, peers, teachers, principals, elected officials, business leaders, program supporters, and community members. **All Outreach classes are always free of charge to children and their families!**

**WORK HARD**
**DO YOUR BEST**
**NEVER GIVE UP**
**BE HEALTHY**

**CHILDREN SERVED THIS YEAR:**
SANTA FE 780 | ALBUQUERQUE 2,077

NDI New Mexico enriches the school experience for my students. It has many benefits for children and also benefits my staff, who see examples of how to foster peer leadership in the classroom.

—Coleen Korce, Principal, Tesuque Elementary School
In 2015-2016, NDI New Mexico will reach 9,500 children, 525 public school teachers in 95 schools, 35 communities and 80,500 audience members statewide.
Bringing music and dance to all corners of New Mexico!

In an effort to reach underserved children in rural and urban communities throughout the state, NDI New Mexico sends a team of experienced instructors and musicians to conduct lively and educational residencies in 26 different communities. The Residency Team conducts daily classes for a period of 1-3 weeks and produces exciting culminating performances for students and families in gyms and theaters in their communities. Children look forward to their visit from NDI New Mexico each year.

The sacred Navajo Peak, Tsé Bit’a’i, or “winged rock” is clearly visible from the back doors of the cafeteria at Asta Biyazh Community School in Shiprock, New Mexico. Shiprock, in the far northwest corner of the state, has been part of NDI New Mexico’s Residency Program since 2004. The children dancing in our Shiprock residency are members of the Navajo Nation. Shiprock has become a favorite destination for the NDI New Mexico Residency Team. In 2014, the New Mexico Department of Health teamed up with NDI New Mexico to make our HIP to Be Fit® Student Nutrition Activity Curriculum (SNACK) program part of the Shiprock residency curriculum. Dancers were challenged to give up soda for the entire residency, eat five colors of fruits and veggies every day, exercise regularly, and develop healthy lifestyle habits like drinking water and getting plenty of sleep.

Other Native American communities served include Dulce (Jicarilla Apache), Cuba, Lybrook, Magdalena (Navajo Nation), and Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo.

“NDI New Mexico motivates the children and helps them with their self-esteem.”
—Georgina Duncan, Parent
SWAT and Celebration Teams are after-school scholarship programs for highly motivated dancers.

Many of our Outreach dancers hunger for more! Once their dedication to excellence and love for dance has been awakened, they long to increase and intensify their NDI New Mexico experience. These highly motivated dancers from our participating schools are selected by their NDI New Mexico instructors to audition to join the Super Wonderful Advanced Team—SWAT—for dancers from 4th- to 6th-grades. SWAT teams meet outside of school hours and dancers learn more challenging choreography and dance techniques. After 2–3 years on the SWAT team, they may also be invited to join the Celebration Team—for dancers 7th- to 9th-grades. SWAT and Celebration students can participate in our Summer Institutes—three-week summer dance intensives, or sign up for additional technique classes to improve their skills.
HIP to Be Fit®—We are committed to helping children get healthy! NDI New Mexico’s programs take children’s natural energy and channel it in a positive direction. Our HIP to Be Fit® curriculum is incorporated into all of our outreach classes to increase dancers’ stamina and endurance. By teaching the importance of exercising and eating right, we supplement our programs with messages that help children and their families make healthy lifestyle choices. HIP to Be Fit® includes a nutrition component—the Student Nutrition Activity Curriculum for Kids (SNACK), and Train the Trainer—a professional development workshop for classroom teachers. Our goal is to make a positive impact on New Mexico’s children by helping them take care of their bodies, minds, and spirits.

HIP to Be Fit® Train the Trainer: 60 Classroom teachers trained this year 1,232 trained since 2005
After-School Programs at
THE DANCE BARNs

CHILDREN SERVED THIS YEAR:
The Dance Barns 1,100 | The Hiland 860
& THE HILAND

In the early years of NDI New Mexico, it became clear to our Founding Artistic Director, Catherine Oppenheimer, that many students who were introduced to dance through our outreach program were discovering a great passion and talent for the art form. These students wanted an opportunity to pursue more serious training, and needed a facility dedicated to that pursuit. Catherine spearheaded a vast community effort and public/private partnership, and The Dance Barns in Santa Fe was opened in 2003. In 2008, NDI New Mexico, Bernalillo County, and our partners and supporters made that same commitment to the children of Albuquerque and renovated the The Hiland Theater, which opened in 2011.

Now, Catherine’s vision is a reality for over 1,900 children. Our two facilities, The Dance Barns and The Hiland, are bustling community centers where all children and their families are welcome. Our students thrive in an atmosphere of joyful learning, health, and high standards. Students who so desire can pursue dance training at the highest level, and families can rest assured that income is never a barrier to opportunity. Our after-school programs offer classes in ballet, jazz, tap, modern, hip hop, theater, and voice to children ages 3-18. Whether you are looking for a basic introduction to creative movement, or advanced classes for the students with their eyes set on a career in dance, The Dance Barns and The Hiland Programs have a class for you.
This year, NDI New Mexico is serving 9,500 children statewide. With the help of our generous donor base, we are able to continue to provide access and opportunities to New Mexico’s most vulnerable children and communities.

Evaluation results of dancers in our programs reveal that NDI New Mexico programs are having a positive impact on students’ lives both in and out of the classroom. See page 29!

NDI New Mexico was voted Non-Profit of the Year—Arts & Culture category and 2015 Top CEO in the Non-Profit category from Albuquerque Business First. NDI New Mexico received the 2016 Paul and LaDonna Hopkins Award for Excellence in Ethical Practice by a Non-Profit Organization from the Samaritan Counseling Center.

Successful Train the Trainer® programs in Clovis and Zuni taught public elementary teachers how to use NDI New Mexico methodology in their classrooms to increase physical activity without losing teaching time.

MoGro, a project of the Santa Fe Community Foundation, provides a mobile grocery store to support sustainable local food systems and eliminate barriers to affordable healthy food. The Hiland is now a pick-up location for fresh, organic produce.

Advanced students from The Dance Barns and The Hiland programs were selected to attend the New Mexico School for the Arts, Cincinnati Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, Walnut Hill School, and other prestigious performing arts programs around the country.

Principal ballet dancers from Boston Ballet, film-maker Lisette Flannery, and Jump Rhythm Jazz Project brought their artistic talents to The Hiland Theater.

Much needed Dance Barns improvements have begun with support from the New Mexico State Legislature, a generous challenge match, and families and donors in Santa Fe who participated in the Dance-A-Thon.
A LASTING IMPACT

In the past 22 years, NDI New Mexico’s programs have served more than 90,000 children all across New Mexico! Our impact is both broad and deep, addressing some of the most critical needs in the state.

NDI New Mexico has a time-tested template for sustaining and growing our programs well into the future. We believe that if young people experience excellence in their lives, they will become model citizens and go on to build a better tomorrow for New Mexico.
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We are pleased to have NDI New Mexico Board Members, Beth Moise and Meredith Tinsley, as part of the First National Rio Grande family.
NDI New Mexico’s work is guided by our belief in children, as well as our commitment to social responsibility, sustainability, and financial integrity.

We believe that every child has the capacity to learn how to work hard, never give up, and strive for excellence by always doing their best. Our commitment is to offer all children an opportunity to experience success through our programs, thereby learning essential leadership skills that will carry over into all aspects of their lives.

We serve a diverse population of children in schools and communities that have the greatest need throughout the state. Our afterschool programs create opportunities for children who might not otherwise be able to participate in extracurricular dance programs.
MEASURABLE RESULTS

NDI New Mexico’s culture of assessment and evaluation ensures that programs and instructors have a positive impact on children.

After ten years of independent, scientific evaluation, NDI New Mexico has a strong body of data documenting the positive effects of its programming.

A recent analysis of 2,190 NDI New Mexico dancers and 38,932 non-participating students’ Grade Point Average (GPA) and New Mexico Standards Based Assessment (SBA) tests showed NDI New Mexico students scored higher GPA and SBA test score results than their peers. In some cohorts, NDI New Mexico students, on average, had a better GPA by a full point than the other students in the district. Overall, NDI New Mexico students’ GPA was 30-42% higher than their peers. On the New Mexico SBA test, NDI New Mexico outperformed their peers in Math, Reading, Writing and Science by up to 17%.

“Students learn to be disciplined, develop good listening skills, follow directions, cooperate, stay focused, and to take pride in themselves and all they can accomplish.”

—Classroom Teacher
Teaching Excellence®
Teacher Training Workshop

July 25–August 5, 2016

Inpiring
“This methodology benefited me so much as an aspiring dance educator. I learned not only how to inspire kids to dance, but also to become better people through dance!”

Hands-On
“I learned so much about classroom management; how to be quick, authoritative, concise, and keep students engaged!”

Immersive
“Tons of fun. I never knew I could learn so much in two weeks!”

Teaching Excellence® participants are immersed in a highly focused and hands-on training in NDI New Mexico’s methodology, working daily with public school students in 3rd- through 6th-grade. Trainees work closely with NDI New Mexico’s most experienced instructors to learn and practice a broad range of techniques and curriculum with students. Mornings are spent in the public schools, teaching in teams and observing and participating in classes. Afternoons are spent working with master teachers and students from our Advanced Training teams at The Hiland Theater in Albuquerque. The program culminates in an exciting performance where teachers and students alike get to display their accomplishments for an audience of students, friends, and families!

For more information or to apply for the Barbara Somerfield Scholarship
CONTACT
Liz Salganek – Artistic Director
505 983-7646 x126
www.ndi-nm.org/teachingexcellence/
Barbara Somerfield Scholarship Fund

Passing on a profound love for dance to future generations.

The newly endowed Barbara Somerfield Scholarship Fund has been established at NDI New Mexico to honor a woman who recognized dance as an important vehicle for creating a lifetime of success. This scholarship will fund one aspiring trainee annually to participate in NDI New Mexico’s Teaching Excellence® Workshop—a two-week intensive for training future instructors to motivate children using our fast-paced and athletic approach to teaching dance.

The Teaching Excellence® Workshop is a crucial building block for creating highly trained instructors to deliver NDI New Mexico’s award-winning pedagogy to children throughout the state of New Mexico for many generations to come.

Barbara’s constant passion was dance, which taught her the principles of excellence that guided her throughout her life: how to fall and get up over and over again; the discipline for hard work; an artist’s work ethic; and an appreciation for beauty in all of its forms. After aspiring to become a professional dancer and studying with some of the greats of the modern dance world, a spinal injury ended her dream. Barbara went on to start a publishing company, Aurora Press, which continues to operate in Santa Fe today.

Barbara would be honored to know that her scholarship will expand the work of NDI New Mexico for future generations.
We can’t do it alone!

Thank You to all of you who make it possible for us to provide more than 330,000 hours of instruction to children and teachers in all corners of the State of New Mexico!

Strong relationships with individuals, businesses, foundations and government agencies help keep our programs thriving in communities throughout the state. Community support and powerful partnerships are the cornerstone of NDI New Mexico. In addition to teachers, principals, schools and school districts, there are many who make it possible for us to bring NDI New Mexico’s programs to cities and towns all over New Mexico. We have many new partnerships in the works that will use dance and music to give children the skills they need to succeed in life.

Thank you to the New Mexico State Legislature! NDI New Mexico Super Wonderful Advanced Team (SWAT) and Celebration Team students danced on the floors of the Senate and House on February 2, 2016. Support from the NM Department of Health helps us to provide more than 67,000 instructional hours to almost 2,000 children and 145 classroom teachers around the state. NM Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, supports our program in the Pojoaque and Espanola Valleys. And the Department of Public Education partners with us in our evaluation work.

Our partnership with Bernalillo County ensures that The Hiland Theater is an anchor in neighborhood redevelopment and is a safe, inviting place for children and their families to explore the performing arts.

The City of Albuquerque’s Family and Community Services Department continues to help us reach 825 students enrolled in after-school programs at all Albuquerque Community Centers, introducing many of them to dance for the first time.

We are grateful for support from the City of Santa Fe, Children & Youth Commission and Arts Commission, for our programs at The Dance Barns.

In 2015, River Source, The Santa Fe Watershed Association, The Wildlife Center, and New Mexico Wildlife Federation helped us teach our students about the importance of conserving our natural resources and taking care of the earth.
TRIBUTE TO RETIRING STATE REPRESENTATIVE LUCKY VARELA

State Representative Lucky Varela has represented District 48 in Santa Fe since 1987. Lucky is a Santa Fe native, graduating from the College of Santa Fe. He left briefly to earn his law degree and serve in the US Army. He returned to work in state government for 21 years before running for office, continuing his life of service to the State of New Mexico. A long-time member of the House Appropriations and Finance Committee and the Legislative Finance Committee, other legislators relied on Lucky’s expertise and knowledge of state budget and finance issues.

2016 marked Lucky’s last session as a state legislator. Members of both parties said they will miss Lucky for the skill and dedication he brought to the House during three decades of service. Well-known for his civility, even in the most heated disagreements, his tenure was marked by the relationships he built on both sides of the aisle.

Lucky was a great friend and champion to NDI New Mexico. We will miss seeing him in the halls of the Roundhouse and applauding our students as they dance on the floor of the legislature or at assemblies in their schools. Thank you Lucky, for believing in the children of New Mexico and NDI New Mexico!
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We’re proud supporters of NDI New Mexico and its mission to engage and motivate children via the arts. Because investing in their future is always a sound decision.

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We are very interested in what happens to our dancers after they leave our programs. We grow quite close to them over the years, and we think of them as part of our NDI New Mexico family. Whether they go on to dance in college or on Broadway, or pursue any number of other excellent careers, we hope they will take the lessons they learn from NDI New Mexico to propel them towards excellence and a meaningful life.

Every now and again, we get the special opportunity to spend some time with these graduates. When this happens, we are impressed by the amazing young men and women they have become. Our dancers’ eyes light up as they watch the alumni working backstage, doing volunteer work, conducting a dance class or a warm up, or visiting a rehearsal.

'Like' the Alumni Page on facebook
facebook.com/NDINMAlumni

From left: Alima Lopez at a Teaching Excellence® Workshop; Jesse Martinez and Eli Barnes working backstage; Kristen Martinez speaking at the Santa Fe Gala.
Ashley was first introduced to NDI New Mexico while in the fourth grade at East San Jose Elementary School in Albuquerque. Working hard that year, Ashley was invited to participate in the Saturday Scholarship SWAT program. She continued on with the Celebration Team and now dances with Company XCel. Ashley has been in our programs for seven years, and her experience with NDI New Mexico has fueled her desire to pursue dance more seriously. Her mom, Socorro, believes that NDI New Mexico has helped Ashley overcome her shyness, be more expressive, and have the confidence to reach out of her comfort zone. This year, in Carnival of the Animals, Ashley performed a solo on stage at The Hiland Theater.

"Being a part of NDI New Mexico makes me feel supported and feel like I belong to something bigger than just me."
Thank You NDI For Teaching Children Excellence!

The arts have a unique power to engage and motivate children. NDI’s unique programs help children develop discipline, a standard of excellence and a belief in themselves...providing a great head start to pursue their dreams, whatever they may be.
Celebration Team dancers are invited to join the team after shining through the Super Wonderful Advanced Team and demonstrating excellence and model behavior. These dancers come from schools all over Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and the Española Valley, and graduate from the Celebration Team as 8th- or 9th-graders. We honor these students’ dedication, talent, tenacity and creativity, and look forward to staying in touch with them as they move forward into their bright futures knowing how to WORK HARD, DO THEIR BEST, NEVER GIVE UP, and BE HEALTHY!

SANTA FE GRADUATES

Gabriel Alarcon
When I first started with NDI New Mexico, I was shy and afraid of being judged. Now I can be myself and express myself how I like.

Victoria Alarcon
Through my experience with NDI New Mexico I have learned that although something is hard, giving up is never the answer.

Alondra Azurdia
NDI New Mexico has shown me how to build my endurance mentally and physically. This is something I never want to forget in the future.

Alyssa Baca
The skills that NDI New Mexico has given me that I will take forward into my future are commitment and discipline.

Amelia Beingessner-Chavez
Something that I have learned about myself through NDI New Mexico is that if I set my mind to something I can accomplish it.

Jessa Bulman
I used to be afraid of expressing to people who I am, I was extremely shy, but after dancing with NDI New Mexico I can show people the real me.

Isabella Delgado
NDI New Mexico has given me confidence in myself. It is like my second home every Saturday.

Peyton Ellis
Through my experience at NDI New Mexico, I’ve learned that I can do anything I want to do, if I put time and practice into it.

Melinda Espinoza
When I first started dancing, NDI was a way to exercise and have fun. Now it means a lot more to me. It’s not only a place to have fun, but a place to feel happy and accepted.

Gabriella Gabaldon
NDI New Mexico has given me the skills of perseverance and working hard.
Maya Gorman
I have learned that if I have a positive attitude it can help me accomplish more in life than if I have a negative attitude.

Giovanna Godoy
NDI New Mexico is a safe community and somewhere you can express yourself freely.

Helen Harrison
NDI New Mexico has given me the life-long gift of knowing that you can achieve what you set out to do, no matter how hard it is to get there.

Michael Hernandez
My NDI New Mexico teachers have taught me to accomplish your goals, even if it’s going to be hard, and to respect others.

Sara Hill
I learned that I am flexible and have potential for dance.

Maria Lagunas
My NDI New Mexico teachers have taught me to push myself out of my comfort zone. My teammates have taught me to never give up and be confident in who I am.

Keiry Lopez
My Celebration teammates have taught me to spread joy to everyone and never, never give up on what you love.

Yesenia Lopez Lozoya
What NDI New Mexico has taught me about myself is that I can do anything if I really commit.

Jacky Marcial
At first NDI New Mexico was just a dance program. Now, it is a place that has helped me grow, and is like family to me.

Owen Margaret-Verrett
My NDI teachers have taught me how to be a better dancer, and also taught me about what I like in other people, and how to be a part of an amazing community.

Reina Medina
NDI New Mexico has taught me that I can do a lot of things if I just try.

Sonia Mendez
NDI New Mexico has made me more patient and focused. My teachers have taught me not to be afraid of trying something new, and and to do what makes me unique and special.
Nicole Romero  
My teachers have taught me to believe in myself and to be excellent! My teammates have taught me that there is always a spark of kindness and comfort in the world, and how to be a family.

Jaron Ruiz  
At NDI New Mexico, I feel alive and free.

Nicole Romero  
My teachers have taught me to believe in myself and to be excellent! My teammates have taught me that there is always a spark of kindness and comfort in the world, and how to be a family.

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Jaron Ruiz  
At NDI New Mexico, I feel alive and free.
ALBUQUERQUE GRADUATES

Amethyst Allen
When I started dance, I thought it was just movement, but now I know that you dance with your heart and soul.

Kathy Garcia
The skill that NDI New Mexico has given me that I will take forward into my future is confidence. Even if I’m having trouble with something, I won’t bring myself down saying I can’t do it, I will tell myself that I can.

Allyse Judah
NDI New Mexico is one of the most important things in my life. I am thankful and proud to say that I got to be a part of it.

Justice Lajeuenesse
My NDI New Mexico teachers have taught me how I can do anything I put my mind to, and how there are no limits.

Carolina Martinez
At school when I take a test I think about dance, so that I can get good grades and get to keep coming!

Kelly O’Keefe
My NDI New Mexico teachers have taught me that you don’t have to be a great dancer, you just have to believe in yourself.
Maria Payan
NDI New Mexico has given me better social skills, and better problem solving skills. My teammates have taught me that when we work together we can accomplish whatever we put our minds to.

Briyanna Rodriguez
My NDI New Mexico teachers taught me to believe in myself and never give up even when something is hard.

Mikel Salgado-Lucero
NDI New Mexico has helped me become more confident when trying new things and to have a better self image.

Bella Stroman
When I started at NDI New Mexico, my family had just moved to a new neighborhood and I did not have any friends. Now I have a lot of friends from all around the city!

Jacqueline Tamez
When I started at NDI New Mexico, it was a place where I was able to express myself. Now it’s even more than that, it’s a second home.
What I have learned about myself through my experiences at NDI New Mexico is that I never give up. I was a very shy person before NDI, and I’m not shy anymore.

My NDI New Mexico teachers taught me to be confident, be strong, and be brave, which helped boost my self-esteem and will help me in the future.

My Celebration teammates have taught me about group cooperation and responsibility to the team.

When I first started NDI New Mexico, I thought it was just dancing. But I’ve learned that it teaches you teamwork, endurance, and to do your best.

Through my experiences at NDI New Mexico, I have learned that one person in a show of 500 can make it better with a simple smile.

My NDI New Mexico teachers have helped me grow as a person, and have taught me maturity.

What I’ve learned through NDI New Mexico was to work together, have fun, and let your light shine.

I’ve learned that you can do anything if you set your mind to it. NDI means being committed to something.

My Celebration teammates have taught me to be friendly to one another, and they taught me how to be a leader.
Pablo Santana
Through my experience on the Celebration Team, I’ve learned that we can accomplish anything.

Estrellita Sena
NDI New Mexico has given me the ability to be courageous and do my best no matter what, and believe that I can go far and achieve my goals.

Jade Tsosie
NDI New Mexico has taught me the skills of being strong, to look at life in a positive way, and to focus on what you want to achieve.

Samantha Varela
My NDI New Mexico teachers taught me to be fit and confident and work hard for something.
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Every donation makes a difference that can last a lifetime to a child. Your generous support helps NDI New Mexico teach children perseverance, confidence, and discipline. Making an immediate gift, pledging to give over time, or deferring your gift to leave a legacy will create a brighter future for the children of New Mexico.
Through your will or estate plan, you can ensure that children in the future will benefit from NDI New Mexico. In addition to building long-term financial stability and supporting programs in perpetuity, every legacy gift is an investment in children’s ability to aim high and aspire to excellence.

The Silver Sneakers Legacy Society honors the foresight and generosity of individuals who include NDI New Mexico in their wills or estate plans. Members enjoy invitations to appreciation events and other special activities, and are recognized in publications and NDI New Mexico facilities.

Thanks to the commitment and planning of our generous donors today, generations of children in New Mexico will be inspired to work hard, do their best, never give up, and be healthy for years and years to come.

When Jean and John Berndt purchased a second home in Santa Fe in 2000, they became neighbors to Will and Julia Barnes and their three children—all of whom were very active in NDI New Mexico’s programs. It did not take long for The Berndts to understand NDI New Mexico’s unique impact on children, become regular contributors and attendees at performances. Jean and John now spend more of their time in Santa Fe and are very involved in the community. John joined the NDI New Mexico Board in 2015, and will assume the role as Chairman of the Board next year.

With Jean being a former elementary school teacher and the two of them having four children and nine grandchildren, Jean and John have had a life-long interest in supporting childhood learning and development activities. Given that NDI New Mexico is a natural and joyful fit with those interests, the Berndts have recently joined the Silver Sneakers Legacy Society to insure the future of NDI New Mexico’s programs for children all over the state.
Thank You Silver Sneakers Legacy Society Members!

Ann N. Aceves
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Dr. James Baker
Russell Baker
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Jean & John Berndt
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Eileen Wells
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† Deceased
Founding Member

For more information about making a planned gift and joining the Silver Sneakers Legacy Society, please contact:

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NDI New Mexico has designated the following Giving Circles to recognize and thank our donors:

**The PILLARS OF EXCELLENCE** are our esteemed donors who invest in the long-term vision of the organization through their philanthropic support of $100,000 or more. Their generosity supports the life and heart of NDI New Mexico and helps ensure sustainability and programmatic longevity.

**The CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE** celebrates our principal donors who take a lead role in sustaining core programs for thousands of New Mexico’s children. Their annual gifts of $10,000 or more sponsor a class in one of NDI New Mexico’s 35 communities across the state.

- $50,000+  Platinum Circle
- $25,000+  Golden Circle
- $10,000+  Silver Circle

**The FOUNDERS’ CIRCLE** celebrates our cherished donors who contribute annual gifts of $1,000 or more to provide direct programming support for thousands of New Mexico’s children.

- $5,000+  Supports Instructor Development
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NDI New Mexico is grateful for every gift we receive! Contributions to the annual fund, for both Program support and the Galas, are recognized for the time period March 28, 2015 through March 15, 2016. Please know that every effort has been made to present a complete and accurate list of our supporters. We apologize for any errors or omissions and appreciate your corrections.

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Carrie and Brian Terrell met NDI New Mexico after being invited to an Albuquerque Founders’ Circle event by longtime friends Beth Moise and Nancy Blaugrund. Seeing the NDI New Mexico instructors and dancers in action, Carrie and Brian were instant enthusiasts.

“The positive approach and energy used by NDI New Mexico were so inspiring to see and are exactly what children need.”

At the time, The Hiland renovation was still in progress.

“There was just scaffolding and concrete, but you could see the potential. It was the same with the dancers who were performing. They were so engaged, focused, and happy. You could see their potential. Brian and I committed to the Hiland project and to NDI New Mexico right then and there.”

Carrie joined the NDI New Mexico Board of Directors in 2012. She has chaired both the Albuquerque Development Committee and the Albuquerque Gala Committee and served on The Hiland Campaign for Albuquerque Committee. Brian and Carrie have also hosted events in their home to recognize donors’ involvement and support of the organization.

“We support NDI New Mexico because of our love for New Mexico. We believe NDI provides invaluable training ground for New Mexico’s children, the future of our state.”
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- New Mexico Voices for Children
- Allan Oliver
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- The Plaza Cafe
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HISTORY of NDI New Mexico
We’ve come a long way Baby!
In 1990, Jacques d’Amboise, founder of National Dance Institute in New York City, bought a home in New Mexico and conducted the first program in one school in Santa Fe. Over the next few years, Jacques and his team of visiting instructors conducted several residency programs in Silver City and Santa Fe. In 1994, Val Diker—Founding Board Chair, Jacques d’Amboise—Co-Founder, and Catherine Oppenheimer—Founding Artistic Director, incorporated NDI New Mexico, and conducted the first year-round programs in Santa Fe.

In the beginning, Catherine ran the fledgling organization out of her living room. As word of the program’s successes with children spread, requests for Residencies and In-School programs started pouring in from around the state. Each year, NDI New Mexico added communities and schools to the schedule. NDI New Mexico began teaching in Albuquerque in 1997 and in the North Program (Pojoaque, Española Valley and the surrounding communities) in 1999.

The high demand for NDI New Mexico’s programs drove NDI New Mexico toward many of its landmark achievements. In 1999, the organization moved into The Pink Church Art Center in Santa Fe. More programs meant that more trained instructors were needed, so Catherine wrote the Teaching Excellence® Manual and started a year-long apprentice training program to meet the growing demand.

In May 2003, in a public/private partnership with Santa Fe Public Schools and many committed supporters, NDI New Mexico celebrated the Grand Opening of The Dance Barns with a Gala performance featuring First Lady Laura Bush as the guest of honor. The Dance Barns allowed NDI New Mexico to expand beyond the Outreach model and create community programs including afterschool, weekend, and summer classes to deepen the training for students with an interest in more dance training and technique.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>2,000</td>
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2005 was a big year for NDI New Mexico! With a generous grant from the U.S. Department of Education, our new HIP to Be Fit® curriculum was launched throughout the state. HIP to Be Fit® teaches children that to dance with excellence, their bodies need to be healthy, have good nutrition, regular exercise, and they need to lead a healthy lifestyle.

In order to track and articulate the impact of our programming on the children we serve, NDI New Mexico undertook our first outside evaluation project. Independent researchers observed, surveyed and collected statistics to measure the impact of dancing students against non-dancing students. The impressive results helped fuel our growth for years to come.
In 2011, in partnership with Bernalillo County, The Hiland Theater opened its doors in Albuquerque. This robust facility quickly became an economic and community driver for the Highland neighborhood in Albuquerque.

Because of the past and present dedication of Catherine, Val and Jacques, and countless other NDI New Mexico Board Members, donors, and staff, this year 9,500 children in 35 rural, urban, and Native American communities are being served throughout the state. Over the last 22 years, NDI New Mexico has served over 90,000 children with our dynamic programs. With an eye on financial responsibility and sustainability, NDI New Mexico is looking forward to serving our state for many years to come.
Generous support from local businesses and corporate foundations enhances our core programs, expands outreach, and sustains our commitment to organizational excellence.
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- Governor Susana Martinez and the New Mexico State Legislators for their support of our programs throughout the state!
- The New Mexico Department of Health, especially Rita Condon, for her continued support Special thanks to Secretary Retta Ward; we lost a good friend this year.
- Bernalillo County and County Commissioners, especially Maggie Hart Stebbins from our district, for their partnership in support of The Hiland Theater.
- The City of Albuquerque, especially Mayor Richard J. Berry, and Doug Chaplin for their continued support of our programs at community centers all over the City of Albuquerque.
- The City of Santa Fe, especially Mayor Javier Gonzales, the Arts Commission, and Children & Youth Commission for their support of our local programs and The Dance Barns.

- Diane Doniger, Chair, and our wonderful Board of Directors for their sage guidance, time and dedication.
- Catherine Oppenheimer and Garrett Thornburg for their steadfast passion, generosity and extraordinary support!
- Steve and Paula Fasken for growing and supporting our Taos Residency.
- Vara Wines for generously supporting our events with their extraordinary wines.
- John Garcia for being our auctioneer extraordinaire.
- Edward Lujan, Larry Delgado, and Steve Rogers for serving on the Public Funding and Albuquerque Development Committees.
- Mookie and the Road Gang for all you do in Wagon Mound.
- Patricia Salazar-Ives for your volunteer hours and legal expertise.

- The S. P. and Estelle Yates Family Foundation and Artesia Public Schools for their commitment to their community and NDI New Mexico.
- The J. F Maddox Foundation, Hobbs Public Schools, Tyson Ledgerwood, and Superintendent TJ Parks for their strong support of our Residency Program in Hobbs.

- All the wonderful volunteers in every corner of the state who help our classes and performances run smoothly!
- Principal Mike Lee and Gonzales Community School for opening their gyms for Parent/Teacher dance and SWAT Rehearsals
- Principal Caitlin Robinson and the staff at Navajo Elementary and Principal Lesley Cummins and the staff at Cochiti Elementary for so generously sharing their gyms for NDI New Mexico’s Teaching Excellence® Workshop.
- New Mexico School for the Arts, Principal Cindy Montoya, Dance Department Chair Adam McKinney, and Foundation Director Riis Gonzales for their partnership. NMSA Jazz Ensemble for providing cool jazz for the La Fonda fall Founders’ Circle party.

- All of our public elementary classroom teachers and in-school coordinators for helping our programs run smoothly throughout the school year.
- Members of the Santa Fe Fire Department, Santa Fe Police Department, Bernalillo County Sheriff’s Department, Albuquerque Police Department, The Bernalillo County Fire and Rescue, and Albuquerque Fire Department for dancing in our shows.
- Highland High School and Principal Marco Harris for being good neighbors and for their support of NDI New Mexico.
- Wilson Middle School for collaborating with Fidelity and The Community Schools to support the Homework Diner Program.
- Ronna Kalish, the New Mexico Tech Performing Arts Series, and Dana Chavez for their support and expert coordination of our Socorro and Magdalena Residencies.
- Freddie Martinez and Hot Rod Linguri for being such fabulous DJs for our Dance-A-Thons.
• **David Sandoval** who waits after rehearsals for students to be picked up, helps turn off the lights, and locks up the building - and does it with a smile!

• **Jessica Starr, Taylor Shultz, Claire Hancock, Adam McKinney and NMSA, Performance Santa Fe, Daniel Ulbricht and the Stars of American Ballet, Patricia Blair and Ballet Chicago, Walnut Hill School for the Performing Arts, New Mexico Dancewear, Brooke Desnoës and Academie Americaine de Danse de Paris, Bill Evans, Aid and Comfort Gala, Mark Morris Dance Company, and Santa Fe Botanical Gardens** for providing world-class performances and learning experiences for our Dance Barns after-school dancers.

• **Layla Amis and Duncan Cooper of Modas Dance, Alisa Fendley, Erin Sanchez of Dance UK, Grace Holmes of Kansas City Ballet School, Catherine Batcheller of Cincinnati Ballet School, Ji Youn Chae and Federico Flesi of Boston Ballet, Adam McKinney, Brenda Wolfe of the Eating Disorder Institute of NM, William “Bill” Evans, Billy Seigenfeld and Jordan Batta of Jump Rhythm Jazz Project, and Dan Chavez** for your support, inspiration, motivation, and amazing learning experiences for The Hiland after-school dancers.

• **La Fonda on the Plaza and The Banque Lofts** for offering stunning venues for our fall Founders’ Circle events.

• **Paul Margetson and Hotel Santa Fe Hacienda & Spa and the Albuquerque Marriot** for housing our traveling guest artists.

• **Starline Printing** for their generous donation of printing of our Program Book and Albuquerque Gala invitations.

• **Vintage Albuquerque** for the generous sponsorship to benefit NDI New Mexico’s APS and Hiland Theater students.

• **MoGro staff and volunteers** for supplying fresh fruit and vegetables at low cost to our Hiland families and community members.

• **Sunrise Family Restaurant, Albertson’s at De Vargas Center, and Domino’s on Guadalupe** for helping us feed our Santa Fe dancers throughout the year.

• **Wendy’s, Le Paris French Bakery, Panda Express, and Little Caesars Pizza** for helping us feed our Hiland dancers throughout the year.

• **Herrera Coaches and Bus Company** for their generosity and providing safe transportation services for our student dancers.
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