

# JOURNEY TOGETHER NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2024



ANNOUNCEMENT

## The Cancer Foundation for New Mexico presents Jon Batiste in concert



This September 16th at the Santa Fe Opera, join us for a night filled with music, hope, and unity. Proceeds will benefit cancer patients in northern New Mexico.

Jon Batiste, a multi-Grammy and Oscar award-winner, American singer, songwriter, and composer, will grace us with his extraordinary talents. Known for his soul-stirring performances that blend jazz, R&B, and soul, Batiste embodies the spirit of hope and resilience. His music entertains and inspires, making him the perfect artist to headline a night dedicated to supporting those affected by cancer.

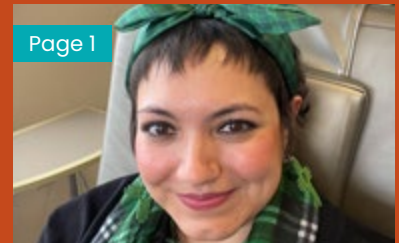
The Cancer Foundation for New Mexico, the Santa Fe Opera, and Lentic360 unite in a partnership that promises an evening of compassion and community. As we enjoy the breathtaking backdrop of the Santa Fe Opera, our collective support will provide essential resources and hope to cancer patients and their families in New Mexico.



Tickets on Sale May 3, 2024. For Ticket and Concert Information visit CFFNM.org

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## Our mission

The Cancer Foundation for New Mexico is a local, nonprofit organization supporting New Mexicans affected by cancer. Our mission is to help save lives by removing barriers and providing needed support to northern New Mexicans with cancer seeking medical treatment in Santa Fe.



### Services we provide to support cancer patients

The Cancer Foundation for New Mexico is a local, independent nonprofit that was formed in 2003. While we have strong relationships with health care providers, we are a separate, nonprofit entity whose funding goes directly to cancer patients and the following patient support services:

- Travel to treatment
- Overnight lodging
- Nutritious food assistance
- Emergency assistance
- Professionally-led support groups
- Volunteer support during treatment
- Community resource information



**DONATE TODAY**  
Learn more: [CFFNM.ORG](http://CFFNM.ORG)

## PATIENT STORY

# The resilient spirit of Paulyette Perea: A journey through poetry and strength



### Journeys to crucial cancer treatments are possible with the assistance of the Travel to Treatment program.

In Las Vegas, NM, Paulyette Perea embarks on a long journey to Santa Fe every week. This trek is not one of leisure but of necessity, as she receives treatment at the CHRISTUS Cancer Center. Diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer at the tender age of 32 on December 22, 2022, Paulyette's life took an unexpected turn towards a path filled with challenges, determination, and hope.

The ordeal began with an unusual cough and a sensation in her neck, leading to a series of medical consultations that culminated in a diagnosis that would change her life. Despite the shock and fear, Paulyette found solace and strength in her faith and the memory of her mother, who had previously battled cancer. She believes in the protective presence of her mother as a guardian angel, guiding her through the darkest moments.

Paulyette's treatment plan was aggressive, reflecting the nature of triple negative breast cancer. She underwent 12 rounds of chemotherapy, followed by an additional four, embodying resilience and positivity throughout. Her journey is not just about the physical battles but also about mental and emotional fortitude. Inspired by her mother's unwavering positivity, Paulyette adopted a similar outlook, viewing her treatment as a source of healing rather than harm.

Amidst the trials, Paulyette found a powerful outlet for expression and connection through poetry. Her words became a bridge, connecting her experiences with those of others and offering comfort and understanding. She shares a poignant piece that captures the essence of her journey, reflecting on the pain, the fight, and the hope that define her path. The poem speaks of resilience in the face of adversity, the longing for healing, and the strength found in faith and love.

Paulyette's story is a testament to the human spirit's capacity to endure and thrive despite the most daunting challenges. Her journey reminds us that no one fights alone, and in the darkest moments, shared stories and expressions of support can light the way forward. Through her poetry, Paulyette continues to inspire, offering a message of courage, unity, and hope to all those navigating their battles.

As she faces each day with determination, Paulyette Perea embodies the power of positivity, the strength of faith, and the transformative nature of creative expression. Her journey and words stand as a beacon of inspiration, encouraging us all to find our voices and strength, no matter the obstacles we face.



Listen to Paulyette's poetry please visit:  
[CFFNM.org/patient-stories/](http://CFFNM.org/patient-stories/)



**10/10 Visionary Society members have donated or pledged a minimum of \$100,000 in cash and/or legacy gifts.**

**Visionary Society members**

- Anonymous
- Toby Anderson & Bunny Terry
- Nicholas & Catherine L. Carlozzi
- Christine Castro
- Janet & Stockton Colt
- Zella Kay Cox
- Susan & Steven J. Goldstein, MD
- Valerie & Bud Hamilton
- Belinda & Brad Karp
- Margie & Tom Kintz
- Carol & Francis Mullin, III
- Larri Short & Steven Reilly
- Bill Saubert
- Suzanne Timble
- Donald Shina, MD & J. Kevin Waidmann

**A \$1,000,000 milestone: Anonymous donation fuels progress for 10/10 Visionary Fund’s decade of hope**

As we mark the 10th year of the 10/10 Visionary Fund, a significant milestone not just for the Cancer Foundation for New Mexico but for the countless lives touched by its mission, we stand at a pivotal crossroads of reflection, celebration, and renewed purpose. This year, the extraordinary legacy of Valerie and Bud Hamilton, coupled with **an anonymous donation of one million dollars** in their honor, has brought us close to achieving our ambitious goal, underscoring the fund’s role as a beacon of hope and dedication.

**The 10/10 Visionary Fund: A pillar of sustained support**

Launched in 2015, the 10/10 Visionary Fund is a testament to the Cancer Foundation for New Mexico’s forward-thinking approach to ensuring that its vital services endure. This permanently restricted endowment, with the goal of raising \$10 million in 10 years, focuses on generating income to cover the Foundation’s operating costs. Doing so enables all other fundraising efforts to be dedicated to lifesaving patient programs such as travel mileage reimbursement, overnight lodging, food assistance, and professionally-led support groups.

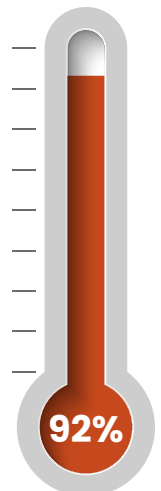
**Join us in achieving our goal: Nearly 92% there!**

Exciting news—we’re nearly there, with 92% of our goal already met! Join the 10/10 Visionary Fund now and help us cross the finish line. Your support through planned giving or a direct contribution will fortify our legacy of hope and compassion. Together, inspired by the Hamiltons and supported by our generous benefactor, we’re poised to make a historic impact at the Cancer Foundation for New Mexico. Let’s fulfill our mission and make a lasting difference in the lives of cancer patients. Join us to celebrate reaching our goal together!



**Support the 10/10 Visionary Fund’s final stretch**

**\$10 MILLION GOAL**



**Would you like to help us reach our goal and become a Visionary Society member?**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**



**Vince Baca**  
*Executive Director*

**505-545-3090**  
[vince@cffnm.org](mailto:vince@cffnm.org)



## Heartfelt success: Celebrating the 2024 Sweetheart Auction

The Cancer Foundation for New Mexico’s 2024 Sweetheart Auction celebrated love and kindness in an evening filled with warmth, generosity, and community spirit. It marked a significant milestone in our ongoing mission to support cancer patients and their families. Thanks to the overwhelming support from every corner of our community, we’re thrilled to report the event’s resounding success.

### A symphony of support

The success of the Sweetheart Auction reflects the collective dedication of our sponsors, volunteers, donors, and participants. Your contributions have crafted a tapestry of hope that reaches well beyond the event venue, profoundly impacting many lives. Special thanks to the Cancer Foundation for New Mexico team, the Sweetheart Auction Committee, and our Board Members for ensuring the event’s success through your tireless efforts.

### Impact beyond measure

The Sweetheart Auction is more than an event; it’s a vital support system for those in need. The funds raised help us continue to provide critical services such as food assistance, travel reimbursement, lodging, emergency funds, support groups, and volunteer support for cancer patients in northern New Mexico. Thanks to your generosity, we’re delivering assistance, hope, strength, and the possibility of a brighter future.



**Looking ahead:**  
Celebrating 20 years of Sweetheart Auction in 2025



Fresh off the success of the 2024 Sweetheart Auction, we’re filled with gratitude and excitement as we look towards a significant milestone: the 20th anniversary of the Sweetheart Auction on February 8th, 2025. This special event promises to be a festive celebration of two decades of heartfelt dedication and impactful fundraising.

We invite you to mark your calendars and join us—whether as a sponsor, volunteer, donor, or attendee—to continue this vital tradition of support. Let’s make the 2025 Sweetheart Auction a landmark event that advances our mission and touches even more lives.

Thank you to everyone involved in making the 2024 Sweetheart Auction a success. Your generosity and dedication are crucial in supporting cancer patients across northern New Mexico.

**Save the date:**  
February 8th, 2025



**Sweetheart Auction’s 20th year anniversary**  
**Secure your 2025 sponsorship and impact lives**

As we approach the milestone 20th Sweetheart Auction, securing your sponsorship now offers a unique opportunity to align with a legacy of hope and healing. This landmark event, set to be a celebration of two decades of dedicated support for cancer patients across northern New Mexico, promises to be our most impactful yet. By becoming a sponsor, you’re not just contributing to the success of the event; you’re joining a community committed to making a difference in the lives of those facing cancer. Your support will enable us to extend our reach, enhance our programs, and ensure that every cancer patient who needs help can find support, compassion, and care through our foundation. Secure your sponsorship for the 20th Sweetheart Auction and be part of a legacy that changes lives.



**For sponsorship opportunities and to learn how you can contribute, please contact:**



**Sonja Thorpe Bohannon**  
*Development Director*  
 505-522-2376  
 Sonja@cffnm.org

**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

**Volunteer to patient and back again: Pamela Grieco’s inspiring story**



Three years ago, Pam Grieco’s life turned unexpectedly when she discovered a lump during a self-exam. What followed was a whirlwind of rapid medical assessments and the grim diagnosis of triple-negative invasive ductal carcinoma, a particularly aggressive form of breast cancer. This discovery was made all the more poignant as Pam had been an active volunteer at the Cancer Foundation for New Mexico, familiar with the very chairs and rooms where she would soon undergo chemotherapy.

Pam’s journey through cancer was not just a battle against a relentless disease but also a profound voyage back to a community that had already shaped much of her life. Before her diagnosis, she had volunteered in the chemo room, unknowingly preparing herself for what was to come. Her return to the Foundation as a patient felt like a homecoming, surrounded by familiar faces, including volunteers and medical staff who had become like family.

During her treatment, which included chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery, Pam found solace and strength in the support provided by her care team and her personal connections within the community. Her sister-in-law, a retired oncology nurse, accompanied her to every appointment, providing not just emotional support but also expert guidance through the complicated treatment process.

After completing her treatment, Pam faced the reality of life post-cancer, dealing with the lingering effects of chemotherapy and the emotional aftermath of her ordeal. Yet, her experience has imbued her with a renewed passion for volunteerism and advocacy. She recognized a gap in support for those receiving their initial cancer diagnoses alone—a moment of profound vulnerability. Inspired, Pam is determined to use her counseling degree to advocate for these patients, ensuring they receive the same compassion and support she found invaluable.

Pam’s story is one of resilience and transformation. Her journey through cancer has not only been a personal battle but also a catalyst for giving back to the community that supported her through her darkest times. As she reflects on her experience, she sees her cancer not just as a challenge but as a gift—an opportunity to live with a heightened appreciation for life and to serve those who face similar battles.

In sharing her story, Pam hopes to inspire current and future volunteers at the Cancer Foundation for New Mexico, highlighting the profound impact compassionate volunteerism can have on patients navigating the fears and challenges of cancer treatment. Her life, profoundly touched by her experiences, exemplifies the powerful interplay of personal adversity and community support, making Pam Grieco a beacon of hope and a pillar of the volunteer community.



**Become a Chemo-room volunteer today.**



Volunteer support during treatment. Over 100 volunteer hours per month.



## 2nd annual Native American Health Symposium: A commitment to cancer care

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, join us **November 2024**, for the 2nd Annual Native American Health Symposium. This pivotal event is dedicated to enhancing healthcare for Native American communities in northern New Mexico, focusing on combating cancer care disparities.



**Lora A. Wilson Ph.D.** Oncology Field Medical Director, Pfizer

### Last year's symposium highlights

**Cancer disparities & prevention:** Discussions highlighted the unique cancer challenges faced by Native Americans, emphasizing lung cancer prevention and the importance of early screening.

**Diversity in clinical trials:** The presentation underscored the critical need for the inclusion of Native Americans in clinical trials, ensuring the development of effective treatments across diverse populations.

**Supportive resources:** Attendees explored a range of resources aimed at supporting Native Americans throughout their cancer journey, from diagnosis to recovery, with an emphasis on culturally sensitive care options.

**Nutrition's role in cancer:** Insights were shared on the link between traditional diets, modern nutrition, and cancer management, providing practical advice for integrating healthy eating practices into cancer care.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Pfizer Oncology, our Presenting Sponsor in 2023, and our partners—the Cancer Foundation for New Mexico, CHRISTUS St. Vincent, Anchorum St. Vincent, and Ohkay Hotel Casino. Their support was

instrumental in creating a nurturing environment for learning, sharing, and healing.

As we prepare for another enriching symposium, we invite organizations and individuals committed to making a difference in Native American healthcare to join us as sponsors. Partnering with us means contributing to an initiative that not only addresses critical health issues but also fosters hope and resilience within Native American communities. Your support will help us expand our reach, enhance our program, and ensure that the symposium continues to be a source of valuable knowledge and support for Native Americans facing cancer.

The 2nd Annual Native American Health Symposium is more than just an event; it's a vital community gathering that aims to create lasting change in the health outcomes of northern New Mexico's Native American populations. Join us in this crucial conversation and collaborative effort to significantly impact cancer care for Native American communities. Together, we can achieve more.



**Emily Haozous Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, CSV** Consultant, Native Navigation



**Dr. Andrea Teague**, Vice President of Cancer Services, CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center

For 2024 sponsorship opportunities please contact:  
**Sonja Thorpe Bohannon**,  
 Development Director  
 505-955-7931 or [Sonja@cffnm.org](mailto:Sonja@cffnm.org)

# Exciting new additions to the Cancer Foundation for New Mexico's Board



**Stephanie Duran**

The Cancer Foundation for New Mexico welcomes Stephanie Duran to its Board of Directors effective February 5, 2024. Duran's arrival underscores the foundation's dedication to supporting local cancer patients with a team renowned for diverse expertise and community commitment.

Since relocating to Santa Fe in 1993, Duran has made notable contributions to the arts and real estate sectors, enriching the community. Her transition from musical theater actress to top real estate professional illustrates her wide-reaching influence and community involvement.

Duran is honored to join the CFFNM board, aiming to apply her vast experience to aid New Mexicans with cancer. She plans to use her network to advance the foundation's mission, recognizing its critical community role.

Read more at [CFFNM.org](http://CFFNM.org)



**James Robert Borrego**

The Cancer Foundation for New Mexico is pleased to welcome James Robert Borrego to its Board of Directors. Born and raised in Santa Fe, James has a longstanding commitment to community service, backed by a civil engineering degree from New Mexico State University. His career includes significant contributions to state infrastructure and co-founding a development and construction firm. James's personal battle with cancer since 1995 has deepened his understanding of patient challenges, reinforcing his commitment to the CFFNM's mission. His extensive experience and personal connection

are expected to greatly benefit the foundation's work in aiding cancer patients and their families throughout New Mexico.

The CFFNM community is enthusiastic about the perspective and impact James will bring, inspired by his journey and dedication to improving others' lives.

Read more at [CFFNM.org](http://CFFNM.org)



**Dr. Thao Marquez**

Dr. Thao Marquez is a distinguished colorectal surgeon with the Presbyterian Medical Group, committed to comprehensive cancer care. She supports patients from diagnosis through recovery, addressing both clinical needs and the emotional and financial challenges of cancer. Dr. Marquez's involvement with the American Cancer Society underscores her dedication to providing extensive patient support.

Her personal experience with cancer in her family deepens her understanding of the disease and motivates her holistic approach to patient care. Dr. Marquez holds an MD from the University of Minnesota, completed a General Surgery Residency and a Master in Clinical Research, and specialized with a Colorectal Fellowship at Washington University/Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

In her career, she has held leadership roles such as Chair of General Surgery and Surgical Services at Santa Fe Medical Center. Board-certified in both colorectal and general surgery, Dr. Marquez contributes actively to her field through research publications and is a member of prominent surgical societies.

Read more at [CFFNM.org](http://CFFNM.org)



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Bunny Terry**  
*Board Chair*

**A. Dion Silva**  
*Vice Chair*

**David Gurule**  
*Treasurer*

**Zella Kay Cox**  
*Secretary*

**James R. Borrego**

**Bill Buchsbaum**

**Catherine L. Carlozzi**

**Sandra Claymore**

**Corinne Collins**

**Stephanie Duran**

**Karen B. Freeman**

**Stephen Hochberg**

**Dr. Thao Marquez**

**Suzanne M. Timble**

## FOUNDATION TEAM

**Vince Baca**  
*Executive Director*

**Sonja Thorpe Bohannon**  
*Development Director*

**Libby Boyle**  
*Development Associate & Grants Manager*

**Antonio Guerrero**  
*Marketing & Communications Director*

**Johanna Medina**  
*Patient Services & Volunteer Coordinator*

**Laura Musgrave**  
*Operations Director*

**Caroline Owen**  
*Patient Services & Volunteer Coordinator*

**Barbara Urioste-Lopez**  
*Office Manager*

**Jud Little**  
*Bookkeeper*



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