

JOURNEY TOGETHER NEWSLETTER



Hope for every journey

SPRING/SUMMER 2025



Gale's Story of Courage and Community

A journey from Raton to hope in Santa Fe – facing terminal cancer with grace.

At 73, Gale makes the 168-mile journey from Raton to Santa Fe for cancer treatment. His bladder cancer diagnosis in January 2023 led to surgery, but the cancer has since spread to his bones, requiring ongoing immunotherapy as part of his continuing fight against the disease.

Yet Gale's perspective is remarkably clear: **"This is terminal, but it's not terminal today. So I just keep going with the idea that, God gave me another day and I'm going to live it."**

The Foundation's Impact

When a staff member at Nexus Health mentioned the Cancer Foundation for New Mexico, it transformed Gale's treatment experience. The Foundation now provides assistance for his travel expenses, overnight lodging, and meals.

"I don't have to choose between my usual expenses and the expenses to get my treatment," Gale explains. "The mental reinforcement is tremendous."

A Message to Supporters

Sitting in the infusion center, Gale has met many fellow cancer patients. His message to potential donors is simple but powerful:

"From my perspective, there would be no better cause. Pick out one person and realize it's about people. The value of a dollar compounds tremendously when you know you don't have to choose between providing for your needs at home and getting treatment."

Gale chooses to focus on what he can still do rather than what he cannot. His story reminds us that every donation doesn't just cover expenses—it provides dignity, peace of mind, and hope.

Read the full story:

Visit cffnm.org/who-we-serve/patient-stories/ to read Gale's complete journey and other patient stories.



Donate today and make a difference:
Support a mission that ensure patients like Gale have access to treatment.

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Our Mission

To help the people of northern New Mexico navigate their cancer journey with hope, dignity, and needed support.



Services we provide to support cancer patients:

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

- Travel to treatment
- Overnight lodging
- Food assistance
- Emergency assistance
- Professionally-led support groups
- Clinically trained volunteer support during treatment
- Licensed Social Worker support and navigation



Two powerful nights of music benefitting the Foundation. Sunday, August 31 & Monday, September 1

Jon Batiste's soulful blend of jazz, R&B, and gospel inspires and entertains, perfectly embodying the spirit of resilience and hope. The Cancer Foundation for New Mexico is honored to once again be working with **Lensic360** and the **Santa Fe Opera** to welcome Jon Batiste back to Santa Fe.

Join us for two unforgettable evenings at the stunning Santa Fe Opera as Mr. Batiste brings *The Big Money Tour* to town—celebrating compassion, community, and incredible music. Your support helps provide essential resources and hope to cancer patients and their families throughout northern New Mexico.

Event & Community Sponsors



Anchorum
Health Foundation



Concert Benefactors

Diane & Peter Doniger
Randal Limbacher & Michael Stewart
Holly Logan and Bob Weinberg, and Diana Brown and Charlie Weiss
Maureen & Robert Shearer

A Vision of Hope for New Mexico That Lives Beyond Today

For 22 years, the Cancer Foundation for New Mexico has been here, quietly, steadfastly – walking beside patients and their loved ones in northern New Mexico, a region as beautiful and resilient as it is geographically and economically challenged. In this place we call home, long distances, limited resources, and rural isolation can turn a cancer diagnosis into a crisis of logistics and survival.

You've helped us provide what matters most: rides to treatment, a safe place to stay, healthy food to fuel healing, professional advice, a warm, compassionate hand to hold and an ear to listen. Every step of the way, you've ensured that no one faces cancer alone.

As we look ahead, we recognize that our ability to sustain this work for future generations relies on thoughtful, long-term planning. Therefore, we are excited to announce the launch of our Visionary Society Planned Giving Program, designed for anyone who wants to make a difference that endures beyond their lifetime.

We are deeply grateful to the founding members of our planned giving initiative – the 10/10 Visionary Society – whose foresight and generosity have established the roots of this critical program. Their legacy has already made a tremendous impact. Now we are expanding our invitation to donors of all giving capacities to join us in shaping the future and to become members of the Cancer Foundation's Visionary Society.

Join us as we kick off this meaningful initiative at our **2025 Supper Club on Wednesday, September 10**, this



year at **Santacafé** – a celebration of community, connection, and commitment to the future.

Planned gifts are unique because they allow you to make a meaningful commitment to the causes you care about most, without impacting your finances today. In a world filled with uncertainties, this offers a way to create something truly impactful without disrupting the needs and responsibilities of the present.

It's a quiet, powerful act of faith in the future – one that enables you to support your loved ones and helps ensure that the Cancer Foundation will always be here to serve the people of northern New Mexico.

We hope you'll consider joining us on this journey. Talk to us. Ask questions. Whether you're inspired to follow in the footsteps of the 10/10 Visionary Society or wish to make a planned gift that's uniquely your own, we're here to help you explore the path that's right for you.



Vince Baca
Executive Director
(505) 545-3090
vince@cffnm.org

10/10 Visionary Society Members

Toby Anderson & Bunny Terry
Lawrence & Suzanna Becerra
Nicholas & Catherine L. Carlozzi
Christine Castro
Janet & Stockton Colt
Zella Kay Cox
Connie & David Girard-diCarlo
Susan & Steven J. Goldstein, MD
Valerie & Bud Hamilton
Belinda & Brad Karp
Margie & Tom Kintz
Matt & Kathleen Mathai
Carol & Francis Mullin, III
Joanne & Jim Peppiatt-Combes
Bill Saubert
Donald Shina, MD & J. Kevin Waidmann
Larri Short & Stephen Reilly
Suzanne M. Timble

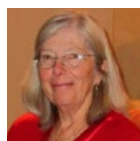
In Memory of our beloved community members



David Schell

We remember David with much love and gratitude. He was a true friend to the

Cancer Foundation and the community – kind, thoughtful, and steady. His presence made the world a better place, and we'll miss him dearly. His wonderful laugh, quick wit, and willingness to always lend a hand will remain with us forever.



Suzanne M. Timble

We remember Suzanne with deep appreciation for her generous spirit

and steadfast support of the Cancer Foundation. Her compassion for those facing cancer, along with her unwavering belief in our mission, touched us all. Suzanne's legacy lives on in the hope and help she gave to others.



Amanda Cates

Amanda faced cancer with strength, grace, and hope. It is with deep

sadness that we share she passed away on Monday, April 28, 2025. We are honored to have known her and grateful to share her story. Her courage continues to inspire us.



A Record-Breaking 20th Anniversary Sweetheart Auction!

This year was more than just another Sweetheart Auction – it was a true celebration of 20 years of community, compassion, and commitment to supporting cancer patients across northern New Mexico.

And how fitting that our 20th anniversary was also a record-breaking year, with giving levels that surpassed anything we've seen before!

The Patient Services Paddle Raise, the Live Auction, and the Silent Auction each set new records, thanks to the incredible generosity of our friends and supporters. These results are deeply meaningful, not just because of the numbers, but also because they **directly impact the lives of our neighbors facing cancer**. The Sweetheart Auction is a critical part of our annual budget, and this year's success means we can continue to offer essential services, including mileage reimbursement, overnight lodging, food assistance, and emotional support services that ease the burden for patients during one of the most difficult times in their lives.

Over the years, the Sweetheart Auction has grown into one of Santa Fe's most beloved and anticipated events, and we're proud to say it remains the most successful fundraiser of its kind in all of New Mexico. This milestone year served as a powerful reminder of just how strong and generous our community is and continues to be.

To all our donors, we are incredibly grateful. Thank you to the talented artists, local shop owners, businesses, family estates and all our amazing supporters who donated so generously to Sweetheart Auction. Your creativity and kindness are at the heart of this event, helping to make it a standout experience. And to everyone who attended in person, joined us online, raised a paddle, or just helped spread the word – **thank you**. Your involvement fuels our mission and brings real hope to hundreds of individuals and families in need.

Together, we've made the 20th Anniversary Sweetheart Auction truly unforgettable – and most importantly, we've made a very positive difference in the lives of our northern New Mexican neighbors facing cancer. Thank you!

Vince Baca
Executive Director

*P.S. Don't forget to mark your calendars—**Sweetheart Auction 2026** will be held on **Saturday, February 7**. We can't wait to celebrate with you again!*



Over 500 unique items—something special for everyone at the Sweetheart Auction!



Full house, full hearts! Generosity & community spirit, supporting cancer patients.



An evening filled with joy, inspiration, and boundless hope making a difference!



Art meets heart! Local artists and patients unite crafting stories of resilience and hope.



Spirited bidding, friendly rivalry, & generous hearts—an unforgettable Live Auction!



Comfort Quilts: Wrapping Patients in Warmth and Care

At the Cancer Foundation for New Mexico, our mission is to help people navigate their cancer journeys with hope, dignity, and support. One powerful expression of our mission comes through our collaboration with **Packages of Comfort** and the **Northern New Mexico Quilt Guild**.

Rosemary Price founded Packages of Comfort in 2019 after accompanying her mother during cancer treatments. Recognizing the need for comfort and emotional support, she created packages filled with essentials like socks, hats, lotions, and tissues—small items making a big difference. Sadly, Rosemary's mother passed away in 2023, but Rosemary continues this heartfelt mission in her honor.

Adding warmth to these packages are vibrant quilts handmade by members of the Northern New Mexico Quilt Guild. Guild representative Drew Hammond explains their mission to craft bright, cheerful quilts, conveying love and good wishes to recipients. The Guild also supports fire victims, newborns, and families in need across northern New Mexico.

Together, these compassionate efforts align seamlessly with our Foundation's vision of empowering cancer patients through comprehensive care and community support.

Learn more or support their inspiring work:



New Mexico Quilt Guild
nnmqg.org



Packages of Comfort
packagesofcomfort.org

SUPPORT SPOTLIGHT

Chair Yoga: Finding Strength and Community on the Cancer Journey

"This really does feel like a lonely journey... I wanted to be within a community of other people that have gone through it because it helps take away that loneliness."
— Catherine Lautenbach.

As both a cancer survivor and yoga instructor, Catherine Lautenbach brings a unique perspective to our Chair Yoga program. Initially diagnosed with breast cancer in 2017 and recently in remission after a recurrence, Catherine understands firsthand the physical and emotional challenges of the cancer journey.

Benefits for Body and Mind

Chair yoga adapts traditional poses for those with limited mobility or decreased stamina. Using a chair for support, participants can safely enjoy stretching and breathing exercises that provide two key benefits:

- **Mental Relief:** "It helped me take myself away from the regimen of cancer treatment," Catherine explains.
- **Increased Energy:** "You think exercise would be the antithesis of what you want to do during chemo, but it's the total opposite. Getting blood flowing... you actually are more energized after."

Classes begin with relaxing breaths to calm the nervous system—particularly beneficial for those experiencing treatment-related anxiety. The program is adaptable to all ability levels, with modifications available for everyone.



Join Our Community

Chair Yoga is held on every other Tuesday in the space adjacent to the Cancer Foundation for New Mexico offices. While created with cancer patients and caregivers in mind, everyone in our northern New Mexico community is welcome. Just wear comfortable clothes that allow for a full range of motion.



"Santa Fe is a better place to be for cancer treatment," Catherine notes from her experience. "You're not just a number going through the process like in a bigger city. You're a person and a face. I felt hugged here."

For those unable to attend in person, recorded sessions will be available on the Foundation's Youtube channel.

Join us for Gentle Flow Chair Yoga on Tuesdays at the Cancer Foundation for New Mexico.

For more information, please call (505) 955-7931 or email SupportGroups@cffnm.org. Follow Katherine on Instagram [@life_balance_yoga](https://www.instagram.com/life_balance_yoga)



Gentle Flow Chair Yoga for Cancer Wellness



Make an impact – sponsor this support group. sponsor@cffnm.org



Join us this fall for the 3rd Annual Gathering for Native American Cancer Care. This pivotal event is dedicated to enhancing healthcare for Native American communities in northern New Mexico, focusing on combating

cancer care disparities.

As we prepare for another enriching educational seminar, 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 this event continues to be a source of valuable knowledge and support for Native Americans facing cancer.

This event 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



Joseph Brophy Toledo
Traditional Healer,
Jemez Pueblo



Right to Left: **Oliva Sloan**, Anchorum Health Foundation; **Jenelle Roybal**, Governor, Pueblo of Pojoaque; **Sonja Thorpe Bohannon**, Cancer Foundation

to significantly impact cancer care for Native American communities. Together, we can achieve more.



2024 Sponsors & Community Partners



Anchorum
Health Foundation



Learn more, registration
or sponsorship opportunities:

[CFFNM.ORG/NativeHealth](https://cffnm.org/NativeHealth)
Sonja Thorpe Bohannon
(505) 522-2376

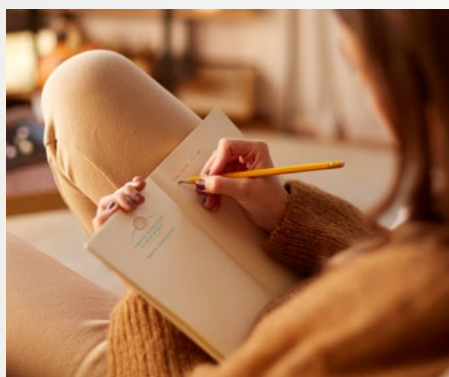
SUPPORT SPOTLIGHT

The Healing Pen: How Writing Transforms Lives at the Cancer Foundation

"Writing in a safe group, reading what is fresh and new, and listening to others – all this builds community and love. Love heals."

— N. McKay

For over five years, the Cancer Foundation has proudly hosted the ["Write to Heal"](#) workshop, a free online program dedicated to helping cancer patients and survivors discover the profound healing power of expressive writing. This unique workshop provides a safe and



supportive space for participants to explore their experiences, emotions, and journeys through the written word.

Led by the compassionate and experienced **Joanne Fay Brown**, each session is thoughtfully designed to foster deep listening, understanding, and connection. "Everyone comes with a need for support when they come to this workshop," shares Brown. "It amazes me that people come from

being ill – years ago, or now – and they come to create something. It truly becomes a healing process."

Limited to just eight participants per session, the intimate setting allows for meaningful interaction and a strong sense of community. Individuals from all corners of the country join, united by shared experiences and a desire for connection. The workshop cultivates an atmosphere of compassion, caring, and love, creating a powerful environment for personal growth and emotional well-being.

For more information, please call (505) 955-7931 or email SupportGroups@cffnm.org.

The Write to Heal program is generously underwritten by Jane and Stephen Hochberg.

Exciting New Additions to the Cancer Foundation for New Mexico's Board of Directors



Cliff F. Boltz
Secretary

Cliff first experienced the Cancer Foundation for New Mexico (CFFNM) in 2019, inspired by the compassionate care volunteers provided during his late wife Donna's chemotherapy. He joined CFFNM as a dedicated volunteer in 2021 and was quickly elected to serve as Board Secretary in 2024. A retired U.S. Army Colonel with extensive leadership and analytical expertise, Cliff values honesty, kindness, and commitment.



Suzanne Sakelaris
Board Member

Suzanne brings over 30 years of global expertise in brand strategy and design, with executive roles at Ogilvy, Weber Shandwick, and Ruder Finn. She founded Artisan Minds and Artisan Communications, empowering brands internationally. Active in Santa Fe's creative community, she has contributed notably to organizations including The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum and SWAIA—Santa Fe Indian Market.



Glenn M. Renner
Treasurer

Glenn Renner brings extensive leadership and innovation to the Cancer Foundation for New Mexico, where he serves as Treasurer. As executive chairman of HomeSphere and Kane Robotics, he advanced residential construction and manufacturing technologies. Previously a Vice President at Sherwin-Williams, Glenn actively supports community initiatives and industry innovation.



Brent Walker, DO
Board Member

Dr. Brent Walker, Vice President & Chief Medical Officer at Baylor Scott & White HealthTexas Provider Network, has over 30 years of healthcare leadership experience. Committed to community service, he supports educational institutions and aligns deeply with the Foundation mission to provide hope, dignity, and essential support to cancer patients and their families.



Lisbeth Moores
Board Member

Lisbeth (Liz) Moores brings healthcare, sales, and community leadership expertise to the Foundation. Initially a critical care nurse, she later excelled in sales and marketing within Denver's home-building industry. Active in educational and artistic initiatives, Liz served as Vice Chair for Colorado University's Center of the American West. Now in Santa Fe, she is an accomplished artist and avid equestrian.

New Team Members



Stacey McMullen, LMSW
Patient Services Coordinator

Originally from Indiana, Stacey has lived in New Mexico for 20 years. With degrees in Sociology and Social Work, her diverse experience uniquely qualifies her for this vital role.



Scott Hummell
Operations Director

A leader skilled in strategic planning, team management, and community engagement across multiple industries and passionate about service and his community.

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