The foundation has been serving our community for 20 years by connecting donors to the causes they care most about. In the past year, several milestones have been reached and the excitement continues to flourish. Nine months ago we were trying to keep up with the pace of in-kind traffic,” shared Executive Director Lisa O’Brien, who is just shy of two years in her position. “The growth we have seen in the past year has pushed us to expand our staffing patterns and in ways that allow us to be more responsive to the needs in our community.”

This spring, Taosligt liaison Jeanette joined the staff. He is a graduate of Taos High and has a master’s degree in nonprofit leadership. “Lisa has brought great talent to our organization,” remarks O’Brien. She noted, “He’s brought fresh eyes to our work and is helping to frame some of our internal systems for greater efficiency. We’ve also had a cadre of volunteers and short-term interns who have assisted us with the influx of new donor conversations.”

The foundation’s board of directors has also stepped up in new ways. In fact, staff members joke that there could be a designated “Board Member in Residence.” O’Brien adds, “We are committed to this magical partnership that there could be a designated "Board Member in Residence." Our best to facilitate all of the moving parts and to meet the diverse needs in our region.”

“This past year, we’ve been evaluating our work and developing new strategies to deepen our impact in the community beyond our grant-making dollars,” said O’Brien. One of those strategies has focused on building endowment funds for nonprofit organizations. The foundation holds endowment funds that are designated specifically to support 23 agencies; five of which were created this year. O’Brien emphasized that planning ahead for legacy giving is not only for the wealthy.

“Many of us will have assets at the time of our passing. Directing all or a portion of one’s estate is a lovely way to continue one’s legacy,” she says. “TCF re-established the Taos Property Foundation, which is in place solely to accept gifts of real property, such as land or homes. The proceeds of the sale of such gifts are then transferred to TCF with charitable instructions as set by the donor.”

“We are finding that the conversation is an easy one,” remarked O’Brien. “The word is spreading and we are honored by folks who are referring friends to come in and talk to us.”

“Stray Hearts Animal Shelter. Since that time, three additional donors have contributed to the fund and conversations then opened up the avenue for additional donors have contributed to the fund and conversations then opened up the avenue for several others to be on the horizon. Each one of these commitments has specifically outlined a charitable gift intent within their will documents. O’Brien explains that people have a variety of reasons that people for making a gift through the Foundation. “Philanthropy is a way of life for donors. Donors want to know that their gifts are being used wisely and for the purpose intended. Working with the Foundation can provide some donors an added sense of assurance or simply anonymity,” she said. “We are finding that the conversation is an easy one,” remarked O’Brien. “The word is spreading and we are honored by folks who are referring friends to come in and talk to us.”

Seven months later, O’Brien has received four new bequest commitments, with “three others on the horizon.” Each one of these commitments has specifically outlined a charitable gift intent within their will documents. O’Brien explains that people have a variety of reasons that people for making a gift through the Foundation. “Philanthropy is a way of life for donors. Donors want to know that their gifts are being used wisely and for the purpose intended. Working with the Foundation can provide some donors an added sense of assurance or simply anonymity,” she said. Trust is one of the core values of the foundation. O’Brien adds, “We are committed to this magical work of philanthropy and creating as many avenues for individuals, families, businesses and organizations to partner with us. This community means something special to each of us, and we are honored to hold this role in the neighborhood.”