For Good. For Taos. Forever.

By Alexei McGalliard

For almost 30 years, Taos Community Foundation has served as the hub of charitable giving and community cooperation in Northern New Mexico. Throughout the past year, the foundation has continued its generous stewardship, through its grantmaking cycles and collaborative partnerships that address Taos’ biggest challenges.

2023 was a landmark year for Taos Community Foundation, granting a record-breaking $5 million to local nonprofit organizations, and serving as a catalyst to improve the lives of countless individuals in Taos and surrounding communities.

The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members. CORETTA SCOTT KING

IMPACT GRANTS & FIELDS OF INTEREST

Through the 2023 Impact Grants cycle, one of Taos Community Foundation’s largest grantmaking programs, TCF was able to distribute over $300,000 to 46 local nonprofit organizations, often in the form of general operating funding.

This sort of unrestricted funding is essential in the nonprofit world, as it allows charitable organizations to meet their everyday needs. According to Tanner Martin, TCF’s director of community impact, “Core operating grants are one way that TCF recognizes nonprofit leaders as the experts on community needs. This approach to trust-based philanthropy minimizes the onerous reporting that often accompanies grant awards, allowing organizations to carry out their mission with less administrative burden.”

The Impact Grants cycle is maintained through TCF’s Field of Interest funds, which allow donors to give specifically to the causes that are most important to them. By giving to a Field of Interest fund, a donor trusts the foundation to responsibly steward the gift, and to distribute it towards causes the donor cares about in ways that will best serve the community.

EDUCATION

In early November of this year, TCF granted over $16,500 to 38 local educators through their annual Taos Public Education Fund granting cycle. Since the establishment of this fund in 2005, TCF has been able to fund classroom projects and families partnering in education, enriching and advancing the lives of local students.

In addition to our grantmaking for educators, Taos Community Foundation also awards scholarships to local students. In 2023, we were able to grant 24 different students over $14,000 in scholarship funds.

These scholarships are critical in the lives of local students and are applicable to a wide variety of backgrounds. From first-generation college students to students pursuing education in STEM fields, to students pursuing non-traditional forms of education, and more — TCF’s impact is powerfully felt by the next generation of young learners.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Taos Community Foundation also plays a pivotal role in identifying crucial needs in the community and works alongside our collaborators to develop solutions.

In the past year, TCF has been instrumental in the development of Taos Housing Partnership to increase access to affordable housing. TCF also partnered with the Taos Education Collaborative to facilitate remote learning and rural internet accessibility. These projects both address issues that are critical needs in our community. By offering these partnerships, TCF acts as an incubator, allowing community projects room to grow and develop, and connecting them with the resources and assistance they need.

As the work of Taos Community Foundation has grown exponentially over the past few years, Interim Executive Director Catherine Horsey noted, “Nearing the end of 2023, we found ourselves, like so many other nonprofits, in a position to reflect on our past and plan for the future, so that we can continue to work with you to make Taos the place we want it to be, for us and for future generations.”

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