

Inspirations

Celebrating Strong, Smart, and Bold
New Mexican Women and Girls

2023

Inspirations

**Celebrating Strong, Smart, and Bold
New Mexican Women and Girls**

An exciting new initiative created by Girls Inc. of Santa Fe as a way to lift up and celebrate the impact and rich diversity of women and girls in New Mexico and to create awareness and knowledge of Girls Inc. of Santa Fe

2023

**girls
inc.**

of Santa Fe

Inspiring all girls to be strong,
smart, and bold

Message From CEO Kim Brown

It is with great pleasure that we present the inaugural edition of *Inspirations*, a book celebrating the remarkable women, girls, and individuals of New Mexico. Within this publication, you will find over 80 tributes, with recognition of almost 300 inspiring women and girls who embody and exemplify the values cherished by Girls Inc. *Inspirations* is a testament to the strength, intelligence, and boldness within each of us. This book is a powerful reminder that the potential for greatness knows no bounds, and our collective duty is to uplift and support one another on our respective journeys.

Growing up in the Midwest, I often felt like an outsider. Strong female role models were scarce, and I yearned for examples of women who had forged their own paths and built lives they could be proud of. When I put myself through college and joined the Army, I began to glimpse the opportunities awaiting me in the world. In 2005, my journey led me to Girls Inc. of Santa Fe, where I found my calling. I was determined to provide girls with experiences I never had — a nurturing space where they could discover and embrace their authentic selves, step into their power, and fearlessly explore every possibility life offers.

As the CEO of Girls Inc. of Santa Fe, I am humbled and honored to be part of an organization that empowers girls to be strong, smart, and bold. We at Girls Inc. believe every girl holds the potential and capacity to become a leader in her community and beyond. The stories shared through *Inspirations* highlight this belief through moving testaments and serve as beacons of hope.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the incredible women and girls who grace the pages of *Inspirations*. Your unwavering dedication to making a

positive impact on the lives of others is a shining example of the power of compassion and determination. Your stories remind us that life is often paved with challenges, but through perseverance and resilience, we can overcome any obstacle. You are each truly an inspiration!

I would also like to thank our sponsors, supporters, and partners who have made this publication possible. Your generosity and commitment enable us to continue empowering girls, breaking down barriers, and fostering a more inclusive society. Together, we are creating a brighter future for generations to come.

I invite you to delve into the pages of *Inspirations*, immersing yourself in the stories of these extraordinary individuals. May their journeys inspire you to embrace your own potential and uplift those around you, celebrating the achievements, dreams, and limitless possibilities that lie within each one of us.

Thank you for being part of this transformative journey and for your unwavering support of Girls Inc. of Santa Fe. Together we are shaping a world where every woman, girl, and person can thrive, lead, and make an enduring impact.

Warmly,

Kim



Girls Inc. Bill of Rights

GIRLS HAVE THE RIGHT TO
Be themselves and resist
gender stereotypes.

1

LAS NIÑAS TIENEN
EL DERECHO A
ser ellas mismas y a
contrarrestar estereotipos
de género.



GIRLS HAVE THE RIGHT TO
Accept and appreciate
their bodies.

4

LAS NIÑAS TIENEN
EL DERECHO A
aceptar y apreciar sus
cuerpos.

GIRLS HAVE THE RIGHT TO
Express themselves
with originality and
enthusiasm.

2

LAS NIÑAS TIENEN
EL DERECHO A
expresarse con
originalidad y entusiasmo.



GIRLS HAVE THE RIGHT TO
Have confidence in
themselves and be safe in
the world.

5

LAS NIÑAS TIENEN
EL DERECHO A
tener confianza en si
mismas y a sentirse
seguras en el mundo. .

GIRLS HAVE THE RIGHT TO
Take risks, to strive
freely, and to take pride
in success.

3

LAS NIÑAS TIENEN
EL DERECHO A
tomar riesgos, a
libremente esforzarse y a
sentir orgullo de su éxito.



GIRLS HAVE THE RIGHT TO
Prepare for interesting
work and economic
independence.

6

LAS NIÑAS TIENEN
EL DERECHO A
capacitarse para realizar
trabajos interesantes
e independencia
económica.

About Girls Inc.



WHO WE ARE:

Girls Inc. is the pre-eminent girls' leadership organization equipping girls to reach their full potential. Since 1955, Girls Inc. has been evolving with girls, supporting them to best meet the challenges and opportunities of the day and to envision and advocate for a more equitable and sustainable future.

Our professionally trained staff and volunteers provide mentorship, safe spaces, and programming that address the unique challenges girls face and are proven to help girls succeed. We cultivate physically and emotionally safe environments where girls are encouraged to take risks, learn from experiences, and grow. Girls build the knowledge, skills, and confidence to push for change and we work with them to advocate for policies to overcome the social and systemic barriers that threaten their ability to succeed.

WHAT GIRLS FACE:

Girls are the leaders our future needs. Yet every day, girls encounter social and systemic barriers that threaten their ability to succeed, such as poverty, bias, health challenges, and trauma. For girls in low-income communities and girls of color — who experience even greater inequities — the obstacles are more significant. They disproportionately lack access to safe and supportive schools, sports and extracurricular activities, college and career preparation, and economic opportunities.

We must prepare every girl to discover her strengths, find her power, and create change in her own life and the world around her.

WHAT WE DO:

Whether after school or during the school day, at our center or in the schools, the Girls Inc. Experience provides comprehensive and interactive leadership development to equip girls with the knowledge and skills to reach their full potential and the support to actively realize it.

The combination of long-lasting mentoring relationships, a pro-girl environment, and evidence-based programming prepares girls to navigate gender, economic, and social barriers, and grow up healthy, educated, and independent. Informed by girls and their families, Girls Inc. also advocates for legislation and policies to increase opportunities and rights for all girls.

PRO-GIRL, AFFIRMING ENVIRONMENT

Physically and emotionally safe environments encourage girls to take risks, learn from experiences, and be their authentic selves. Trained staff and volunteers build mentoring relationships, serve as role models, and provide continual care and guidance to girls and their families.

EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMMING

Programming addresses all aspects of a girl’s life and has proven effective in developing the girl to be healthy physically and mentally, educated through academic enrichment and support, and independent through life skills.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Girls Inc. works with girls, leading with their voices, to advocate for equity and social justice, changing lives and culture by equipping participants to succeed as their most powerful selves and to be resilient leaders in their communities and beyond.



Thornburg

Thornburg is delighted to celebrate Girls Inc. of Santa Fe and extend our gratitude for organizing this meaningful project honoring women and girls throughout New Mexico.

Since first partnering with Girls Inc. of Santa Fe in 2004, we have watched with admiration at how they work alongside governments to address and solve issues facing women and girls in our community. Against the many challenging odds that this cohort faces, they fiercely persevered through Covid and home-schooling; deal with the many issues fraught with social media; strive for increased educational standards; and fight dangerous policies to blaze a path forward. We admire how the girls at Girls Inc. of Santa Fe use their voices for change. They are strong, smart, and bold leaders of today and tomorrow.

We thank Girls Inc. of Santa Fe for the fortitude and vision to make our community and world a better place. Congratulations to all of the featured women throughout this book.

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Ymelda Salazar Catanach



Ymelda Salazar Catanach is a daughter of Santa Fe, born on December 28, 1929, to Eloy Francisco Salazar and Rosalina Roybal Salazar the oldest of seven children. Ymelda was destined for great things despite her humble beginnings on Ambrosio Street which is still owned by one of her sons. She has seen the city change over her 93 years. She married Eduardo Catanach from Agua Fria Street in November 1948 and dedicated her life to her faith, her husband, and raising 14 children (7 boys and 7 girls). Eddie worked daily at LANL. Ymelda understood that the check Eddie was receiving was not enough to support their growing family. The Catanachs owned and operated more than 30 apartments that Ymelda self-managed and had a few restaurants over the years. Ymelda contributed to the home through her own skills in financial planning, organization, and physical labor. A full-time mother, wife, and landlord, Ymelda opened their doors to anyone in need. She housed and supported

various families having a hard time making ends meet, never expecting anything in return. Ymelda made sure her children had what they needed to navigate their lives and continues to do so today. She was a mother to many more than her own kids. Ymelda attended school events, sports activities, and special events for her children and grandchildren. She and Eddie balanced their Catholic faith with their parental responsibilities – serving as a Eucharistic minister at St. Vincent's Hospital and participating in perpetual adoration at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish. Ymelda continues to be an inspiration for her family and friends. She and Eddie Catanach missed their 70th wedding anniversary by 4 months.

From the entire Catanach family.



Jericha Romero, Girls Inc. Girl of the Year



Jericha exemplifies Girls Inc.'s values and serves as a role model for all. She is a strong, smart, and bold young woman who advocates for what she believes in and what she knows to be right. She is confident in who she is and is unapologetically herself. She is resilient in the face of adversity, and she sees herself as part of a bigger picture that will change the story for all of us. Jericha came to Girls Inc. 13 years ago, as a quiet and shy girl. She has grown into a young woman who is willing to lend a helping hand when others are struggling. Jericha's open mind and curiosity inspire others. She exudes an air of safety, warmth, and a keen sense of humor. She believes in supporting others and knows that when each of us succeeds, we ALL succeed. One example of this dedication is when she went on a 15 mile hike with her Girls Inc. group, smiling the whole time, but later it was discovered that she strongly dislikes the outdoors. When asked why she went, she said she wanted to support her group. After filling

the role as a volunteer, she is now an indispensable after-school facilitator, while also attending school for early childhood education. She is a natural at meeting others on their level and has an infinite amount of patience for helping to navigate struggles. Jericha is not only the Girls Inc. Girl of the year but will continue to lead by example into the future.

Women of Thornburg



Career day at Girls Inc. of Santa Fe

WOMEN of THORNBURG
ENGAGE • ELEVATE • EMPOWER



Women of Thornburg volunteer at the Girls Inc. of Santa Fe Campus Spring cleanup event

Thornburg is proud to partner with Girls Inc. of Santa Fe to help girls become strong, smart, and bold.

Thornburg has a long history of collaborating with nonprofit organizations in the areas of education, arts & culture, environment, and frontline services. We also support initiatives related to the environment and diversity, equity, and inclusion. We enthusiastically champion “Inspirations” and those who are featured in this book: inspiring women and girls across New Mexico.

The Women of Thornburg is an employee resource group at Thornburg for those who identify as women or gender nonconforming. The group organizes networking events, educational opportunities, and ways to give back to the community. Like Girls Inc. of Santa Fe, Women of Thornburg believe in the important work to engage, elevate, and empower women in their careers and communities.



Women of Thornburg kickoff event

Each year, we acknowledge Thornburg employees who live our mission and values by serving their community through volunteerism and board service. Named after our founder, the Garrett Thornburg Community Impact Award recognizes individuals and teams who are philanthropic with time, money, and voice.

The 2022 team award celebrated Thornburg’s Mutual Fund Operations Group. Comprised of Natasha Rippel, Ami Caldwell, Elizabeth Coleman, Jeanette Ferrara, Alysse Lerager, Erin Matzanas, Sharon Vigil, and Shannon Weber, this group makes a large impact in their community and serves as a model for collective volunteerism. Together, they donated more than 250 hours of volunteer service last year and also helped forge new community partnerships with the Adopt-A-River program through the Santa Fe Watershed Association. The team volunteers significant time at Assistance Dogs of the West, Santa Fe Farmer’s Market Institute, Española Humane Society, Chispas Farms, and Santa Fe United Football Club.

Thank you to Girls Inc. of Santa Fe for all that you do to support our community and encourage and inspire the next generation of leaders.



Garrett Thornburg Community Impact Award Winners: Natasha Rippel, Alysse Lerager, Sharon Vigil & Ami Caldwell. Not pictured: Elizabeth Coleman, Jeanette Ferrara, Shannon Weber & Erin Matzanas.

Caroline Burnett, National Outdoor Leadership School



During her leadership career at Georgetown University and beyond, Caroline promoted ethics and health equity. With a belief in the potential of girls, Caroline and her late-husband, Bill established the partnership between The National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) and GISF with a goal of helping young people connect with the beauty of the wilderness, while fostering exploration and personal growth. Because of this partnership, 26 girls have gone on NOLS courses. Caroline is confident and resilient, and knows that success follows determination and self-belief. She recognizes the struggles girls face in Santa Fe, and believes mentoring programs serve as examples for the community, contributing to overall growth. Caroline is an excellent communicator, full

of energy, life experiences, and a commitment to Girls Inc.'s mission. She is proud to support young women on their journeys and is committed to supporting, challenging, and providing them with opportunities.

NOLS and GISF have partnered since 2004 to send one or more GISF teens on outdoor expeditions and leadership experiences with a full-tuition NOLS scholarship. NOLS courses are immersive wilderness expeditions designed around learning by experience, mentorship from expert educators, and wilderness exploration. The partnership between NOLS and GISF helps expand upon Girls Inc. programs offering a once in a lifetime experience for GISF youth to test their limits, take healthy risks, and see their amazing capabilities!

“Besides the memories and new friends I made, NOLS taught me how to be a delegate leader, an active follower, and consensus member. This new ability of being a leader helped me in my school, social life, and family life. NOLS made me realize I can do anything.”

Izzy Willard

Isabella Willard



Our 2019 Girl of the year and St. Michael's High School graduate, Isabella has been a part of GISF since she was seven. When Isabella — Izzy to her friends — left for Jackson Hole, Wyoming, it was the beginning of many firsts — her first time on an airplane alone, attending the NOLS all-girl course, a two week trip on her own, and no contact with her family. "I knew I was in the safest hands and that I would be treated with the utmost respect, but I was nervous about being homesick." With NOLS, Izzy learned to be a delegate leader, an active follower, and consensus member. This leadership ability has helped Izzy as a 2023 GISF Summer camp facilitator. "I will be telling my family and friends about the time I went backpacking for two weeks until the day I cannot talk anymore. This was my adventure of a lifetime."

Nominated by Caroline Burnett.

Isabella Garcia



Bella graduated from Capital High School from 2022, received a \$40,000 Girls Inc. National scholarship sponsored by GenRe, and entered New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology's Materials Engineering Program. At 14, Isabella went to Idaho and Montana for NOLS Salmon River Backpacking and Rafting Adventure. Bella learned who she was and how she wanted to move forward in the world without having to worry about other's perceptions. Since her trip, Bella started weightlifting because it reminds her just how powerful her body can be. "My NOLS trip provided me with amazing memories I can never forget, such as seeing the stars without any light pollution for the first time, laughing with my group around the campfire, and going through a level 5 rapid on the Salmon River. I never would've been able to have this life-changing experience without my NOLS scholarship."

Nominated by Caroline Burnett.

Becky Rowley, PhD



Santa Fe Community College is honored to recognize President Becky Rowley for her contributions to higher education. Since the ninth grade Becky wanted to get a Ph.D. in English, which she earned in 1996 from UNM. Before moving into administration, she taught English at Clovis Community College. She values her many mentors who helped her become a higher education leader. Becky's passion for running marathons has given her mental strength to bravely meet challenges. She makes bold decisions by listening to her inner guidance, as well as seeking advice from higher education colleagues. Becky promotes community colleges as the doorway to opportunities for young women, who have no limits in today's world. She loves New Mexico for the diversity of its people and landscapes.

Emily I Garcia



It was in Santa Fe that Emily chose to make her home, after working and traveling in Europe. She was born in the Midwest to Puerto Rican immigrant parents, who raised her to be bilingual and community minded. By her second year in real estate, she became one of the top realtors in Santa Fe and now is a national leader. She is committed to mentoring young women, helping local businesses grow and being of service. She has made a difference with many non-profits, and the community. Learning from life challenges such as being widowed young, financial struggles, and family issues has given her life wisdom and compassion. Emily is passionate about our wonderful life. We are blessed to live in the Land of Enchantment with family, friends, and clients.

Corrine Oqua Pi Povi Sanchez, PhD



TOKO
santa fe

Corrine Oqua Pi Povi Sanchez, PhD, of San Ildefonso Pueblo is Executive Director of **Tewa Women United**. She received her BA in Environment, Technology, and Society from Clark University, an MA in American Studies with a Health Education minor from the University of New Mexico and completed her doctorate at Arizona State University in Justice Studies. Ms. Sanchez has been part of the co-creation process of building Indigenous Knowledge through Tewa Women United's work over the past 34 years. She is trained in forensic interviewing, sexual assault intervention, and prevention. She was one of sixteen visionary leaders across the country selected for the first Move to End Violence cohort. In 2016, Ms. Sanchez was a Stepping into Power Fellow of Forward Together, a national movement-building fellowship for Reproductive Justice. She serves on the National Sexual Violence Resource Center's Advisory Council, the Building the Fire Fund Advisory Council,

an effort to establish a national Indigenous Reproductive Justice philanthropic pathway, and is a Board member for Attach Your Heart Foundation. Ms. Sanchez served on the Governor of New Mexico's Advisory Council on Racial Justice. Recently, Ms. Sanchez was appointed to the Early Childhood Education and Care Advisory Council for the state. She is dedicated to family and community healing, youth development, and ending violence against Native women, girls, and our Earth Mother. Ms. Sanchez enjoys time with her nieces and nephews and home-cooked meals with her family in San Ildefonso Pueblo. She also enjoys mentoring and guiding emerging indigenous leaders.

***TOKo Santa Fe** believes in empowering women to lead, to come forward as themselves, and to be the future. That is why we are sponsoring a leading light in our community, Corrine Oqua Pi Povi Sanchez.*

Agapita (Pita) Lopez



For nearly 50 years, Agapita (Pita) Lopez has been a mainstay at Georgia O'Keeffe's home in Abiquiú, New Mexico, now known as the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum Home & Studio. Pita comes from generations of family in Abiquiú. When the artist Georgia O'Keeffe moved into a home in Abiquiú in 1949, Pita's grandfather, Estevan Suazo, became the home's gardener and began a family tradition of caring for O'Keeffe, her home, and her estate. Pita would join her mother and brothers in working for O'Keeffe as a caretaker and secretary while attending college. After O'Keeffe's death, she continued to work for the artist's estate and served as the Executive Director of the Georgia O'Keeffe Foundation between 2001 and 2006. In 1998, Pita was a key asset to accrediting the property as a National Historic Landmark and, in 2012, Pita co-authored the book *Georgia O'Keeffe and Her Houses: Ghost Ranch and Abiquiú* with Barbara Buhler Lynes. Today, she continues her work at the Home

& Studio as a Projects Director for the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, overseeing the maintenance and preservation of O'Keeffe's homes. She facilitates the Garden Intern Program at the Home & Studio in which high school students local to Northern New Mexico learn leadership and teamworking skills while tending to the garden. Now in its seventh year, the program produces hundreds of pounds of fresh produce which are donated to local food banks annually. The garden is watered by an acequia system fed from natural springs managed by the Abiquiú Acequia Association, which Pita has been an active member of for many years. She is also a member of the Abiquiú Land Grant.



Brenda Dominguez



Brenda Dominguez is dedicated to the personal growth of her fourth-grade students. She does this by creating a nurturing and inspiring learning environment, and it has resulted in remarkable transformations in her students. Beyond instilling the specific skills required of a fourth grader, she motivates students to reach their full potential, fostering resilience, empathy, and self-confidence. Ms. Dominguez believes in their abilities and her tireless support has had a profound impact on their personal journeys.

Nominated by Ken Prokuski.

Day Hochman-Vigil, N.M. State Representative



Day Hochman-Vigil was born and raised in Santa Fe and is the only certified Aviation & Space Law attorney in the state. She supports this growing industry as it becomes a greater source of revenue and jobs for New Mexicans. Day has served as a state legislator since 2019 and pours her heart and soul into her role as a volunteer elected official while working her very busy full-time job as an attorney. She has been a leader on criminal justice reform, improving access to behavioral health services, and funding technical career programs in public schools. During the 2023 session, Day pursued bold legislation and a comprehensive budget that prioritized things that matter to our communities including health care, housing, community safety, education, climate, and economic development.

Nominated by Jill Meyers.

Kelle Rae Oien



Movement as Medicine is Kelle Rae's motto; her purpose is to inspire students to live "wildly satisfying lives." Helping others to love themselves through the Nia Technique is her passion. Kelle is a Nia Faculty Trainer, Second Degree Black Belt, Nia Faculty Choreographer and Rolfer of Structural Integration. Kelle owns StudioNia Santa Fe, dedicated to world class somatic education. She is committed to the discovery of healing through movement. Kelle brings an understanding of the human form through her training as a Rolfer, Roling Movement practitioner, and certified Yoga teacher. She has facilitated body-mind movement education for over 25 years. She was the first Nia Teacher in Brazil and teaches Nia in her hometown, Santa Fe, and all over the world. Kelle's love of learning makes classes dynamic, explorative, fun, and powerful.

Nominated by Nance and Ramon José López.

Melissa Colvin Mann



Spending her youngest years in New Mexico and growing up in Hawaii instilled in her a deep connection with the land, the importance of cultural identity, and the way in which strong, confident women build and protect communities. Melissa is grateful for the examples set by her mother and grandmother, as well as by friends, teachers, and mentors. Inspiration from a beloved history teacher in middle school set Melissa on a path to explore other peoples and cultures through studies in International Relations. After spending 30 years in the global non-proliferation and energy policy field, she returned to New Mexico to continue her international exchanges through the lens of the International Folk Art Market where she worked with an amazing group of women and allies.

Nominated by Nance and Ramon José López.

Nancy Zeckendorf



Nancy Zeckendorf is the extraordinary woman whose vision, determination, and charm saved a historic movie theater from dissolution and transformed it into the Lensic Performing Arts Center. Along with her late husband Bill, Nancy spearheaded the theater's renovation and the fundraising to make it possible, and in doing so she has cemented Santa Fe as a vibrant center for live performance. Her affinity for buoying the arts resonates far and wide—former chairwoman for the Santa Fe Opera, she played a pivotal role in renovating the Opera into the iconic open-air theater it is today. The entire city of Santa Fe benefits from her generous philanthropy, and here at the Lensic we're honored to call her a friend. A ballerina at the Metropolitan Opera from 1954–1963, Nancy carries herself with inimitable grace, not to mention a brilliant sense of humor. Her recent memoir, *Small Town Big Dreams: The Life of Nancy Zeckendorf*, tells her story with hysterical anecdotes.

From her rural childhood in Pennsylvania to becoming a renowned professional dancer, arts supporter and advocate, Nancy has shown how far and how deep one person can go in using the arts to make an impact in the world. She illustrates the grit needed to succeed, proving herself an inspiration to us all. A lover of the arts, Nancy is often seen at the Lensic and remains the guiding force for this organization that is, like her, a true community treasure.

The Lensic Performing Arts Center is delighted to nominate our friend and champion of the arts Nancy Zeckendorf.



Anne Sperling



Anne Sperling's personal tag line and mission is *"Bringing Clarity to Employee Benefits."* Anne is owner of Vanguard Resources, Inc., an employee benefits insurance agency, has over 38 years of employee benefits experience, and is one of the founders and past Executive Director for the NM Health Insurance Alliance. She has served and led industry and government committees and boards and is known throughout the insurance industry as the National Chair of the Professional Development Committee for the National Association of Health Underwriters. As National Committee Chair, in pursuit of her personal mission, she authored and taught two certification courses: *"Voluntary Worksite Benefits"* and *"Understanding the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act."* Health care reform issues have been top priority for Anne. She served as Legislative Chair for the local Health Underwriters Association for 20+ years. Anne teaches *"Employee Benefits Communication"* nationally for

the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans. Anne authored and delivered other courses that include: *"Targeted Messaging For Success: A Year-Round Employee Benefits Communication Strategy"* and recently for the COVID-19 pandemic, *"Open Enrollment in a Virtual Environment."* Anne's awards include the *New Mexico Women of Influence Award*, *Santa Fe Businesswomen of the Year*, many *Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year awards*, *Soaring Eagle Leading Producer Round Table* designation, and the *New Mexico Association of Health Underwriters "Anne Sperling Award."* Anne has a BS in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources Management and Compensation Administration from the University of Vermont. She is married 42 years to David Sperling who recently retired as Santa Fe County Fire Chief to join her insurance practice.

Nominated by David Sperling.

Bobbi Valentine Heller



Bobbi Valentine Heller's contributions to Santa Fe are innumerable. In 2002, she established Felines & Friends New Mexico as a non-profit. The organization has provided medical treatments to hundreds of cats who might not have otherwise survived and found "forever homes" for over 5,000 cats and kittens. In addition, Bobbi created an adoption center at Petco and helped stabilize feral cat colonies in the community. She established a "Godparent" program so special needs felines can live in permanent foster homes. Bobbi successfully raised capital funds to purchase property for a boarding business and provide cat intake services to the community. She has educated the public on improving animal health and longevity and has worked with many local retirement facilities in Santa Fe to place older cats with older people.

*Nominated by Felines & Friends
New Mexico Board of Directors.*



Bo Keppel



Bo Keppel has and continues to contribute to our community: through outreach work in the Taos prisons, AIDS prevention, the NAACP, the Interfaith Coalition for Public Education, St. Elizabeth's Shelter, the Jewish Outreach program, Temple Beth Shalom's Social Justice Committee, Casa Familia and Pete's Place, Communities in Schools, through advocacy for housing justice, and health care for all. Instrumental in leading organizations and new initiatives, Bo secured funding to install two new Little Free Libraries in Santa Fe city parks. She chaired the "Read-a-Thon" for over five years to bring stories of African American leaders to the SFPS children. Bo serves as a board member for NAACP.

The Santa Fe Branch of the NAACP nominates this Peace Pilgrim and joyful educator for her kindness, acceptance, and inclusion of all people, for her unwavering dedication and hard work.



Women of Bishop's Lodge, Auberge Resorts Collection



Bishop's Lodge would like to acknowledge all of the strong, smart, and bold women who contribute day in and day out to delivering meaningful, memorable experiences for our guests. Throughout every operating area, their skills, talent and dedication are what drives the resort's success. The care and consideration reflected in their service are integral pieces of the Bishop's Lodge family, which are extensions of what they bring to their own families and communities. Bishop's Lodge celebrates each and every one of their achievements both at work and at home. They are all notable and these are just a few of their stories: Executive Pastry Chef Erica Vining, born and raised in Gallup, New Mexico, part of the Navajo tribe, juggled first time motherhood and culinary school. Through hard work and perseverance, today she leads a team in an industry that is historically led by men. Also no stranger to perseverance is Kristina Kohl, Director of Talent & Culture, who earned

a Masters of Business Administration, graduating top of her class this spring while working full time. Balancing work and raising children have been a way of life for mother and grandmother, Elsa Garcia, an immigrant from Mexico who is credited with taking heartfelt care of guests in her server role. "I feel privileged to work alongside such an incredible group of women. Their commitment on the job and to personal pursuits are truly an inspiration. The industry and guest accolades bestowed on Bishop's Lodge would not be possible without their indispensable contributions." Angelica Palladino, General Manager

Bishop's Lodge is proud to support the mission of Girls Inc. to provide life-changing experiences for girls throughout Santa Fe today and for generations to come.



Chef Erica Vining



Kristina Kohl



Elsa Garcia



Patricia Michaels (Bpaw-oo Pbup-oo)



Innovative. Eco-Friendly. Avant-garde. Distinctive. Fashion-Forward. Organic. Unique. Leader. Showstopper.

For over 30 years, Patricia Michaels of Taos Pueblo has produced haute couture that transcends cultures and defies fashion trends. Growing up in Santa Fe she was surrounded by natural beauty which influenced her aesthetic. Her Native American culture is deeply rooted. The environment became Pat's teacher, and with the help of her elders, she learned to respect and honor working with her hands and heart. She named her company, PM Waterlily, after her Native name, vowing to keep her traditions alive through the interconnectedness of her fashions. Patricia has become a forerunner in the fashion industry for practicing cultural sustainability. "My clothes tell a story, where the wearer gets to incorporate their own history and energy into the garment." Patricia studied at the Institute of American Indian Arts, and

worked in the Santa Fe Opera costume department. Recently she designed costumes for an opera opening at the Kennedy Center. She founded the Native American Fashion & Textile Alliance. Patricia has received many firsts — first Native American designer to compete on Project Runway; first recipient of the prestigious Arts and Design Award from the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, and her designs have been featured on the red carpet and in *Vogue*. Patricia's work is exhibited at numerous shops and national galleries including the National Portrait Gallery and the Peabody Essex Museum. Patricia's children Mozart and Margeaux drive her passion. She is committed to her heritage and active with Missing & Murdered Indigenous People, Community Against Violence, American Indian College Fund, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Art Smart, and the Preservation of Indian Culture & Natural Resources.

Nominated by Diane Ramsey.

Catherine O'Brien, In Memoriam



To have known Catherine O'Brien is to have felt nature's unwavering force, a woman who was clear, direct, passionate, and giving, and a woman to be reckoned with. She spoke from her heart, was directed by her vision, and worked tirelessly with a commitment to excellence. She attended one of the two premier culinary institutions in the U.S., Johnson & Wales, in Providence, R.I., excelling from the beginning. Over many years she worked at prestigious organizations as head chef, including the Johns Hopkins University Club, and the many museums of the Smithsonian Institution. Catherine always thought big. She was strong, smart, and bold, unquestionably. Once while orchestrating the food for a Santa Fe non-profit's fund-raiser, the Secret Service wanted to serve the plates to the dignitary's table. Catherine, up to her eyeballs with fierce winds blowing everything about, was not going to put up with someone telling her whom she could and could not serve. "Back off, I don't care who you are. This is my food,

my business, and I serve all the plates." They stepped away. Chef Catherine gave of her talents to many service and community organizations, among them the Cancer Foundation, the Animal Shelter, and The International Folk Art Market. She loved the girls and programs of GISF and had been a supporter for many years.

Glenda Griswold and Linda Arkin, business partners and friends, nominate Catherine for her honesty and integrity, her love of imparting knowledge to others, especially kids, and her innate understanding that life is grand when one lives it with boldness, directness and love. She is greatly missed.

TERRACOTTA
wine bistro

Margarita (Margie) Diaz Kintz



"I am the walking American dream." So says Margie who immigrated from Cuba at the age of 13. Knowing how much she has to be thankful for as well as the importance of education, giving back is at the core of Margie's being. From serving as President of the Intel Foundation to Director of Development at Trinity University and at St Edward's University to appointments on the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities and the Texas Higher Education in the 21st Century Commission, Margie's impact has been enormous. Among her accomplishments: she was recognized by the Hispanic Business magazine as one of the 50 Outstanding Women in U.S. Corporations and named among the 100 Most Influential Hispanics in the U.S.. Margie has also given of her talent and resources, influencing the quality of lives of so many by serving on the Board of Directors of the International Folk Art Market, Growing Up New Mexico, and most recently the Lensic

Performing Arts Center. Margie's heart is big, and she understands the significance of mentorships in her own life. Her dream is "for all young girls to experience the support I have received and know the possibilities that lie ahead for them." Margie values relationships and a sense of history and loves to spend time with new friends and those she has known and nurtured for decades. She and her husband Tom are avid travelers and love spending time in their beautiful "forever" home with their Havanese pup Paco.

Enterprise Bank and Trust expresses our appreciation for Margie's strength, resolve, efforts, and time in making our community a better place and for serving as a mentor to girls and young women.



Diane Hamamoto



Diane Hamamoto is a community champion. As the lead staff person for the Santa Fe Community Foundation's grantmaking and scholarship programs, Diane brings a compassionate, informed, and visionary lens to her work. Since 2010, she has overseen annual community grant cycles, the Envision Fund and Native American Advised Fund, the Michael S. Currier Scholarship, Las Campanas Community Scholarship, the Empty Stocking Fund, and fundholder giving, including the Giving Together Program. Diane is a tireless connector, helping Foundation fundholders take deep dives into what's happening in Mora, San Miguel, Rio Arriba, and Santa Fe Counties. Donors and partners often note that Diane's support and guidance has given them a broader understanding of nonprofits, leaders, and the communities they serve. When the Calf Canyon-Hermit's Peak fires erupted in 2022, Diane helped families find shelter and services. She spent her

weekends volunteering with Youthworks to cook food for fire evacuees. Diane is also a volunteer facilitator for Gerard's House, providing space, dialogue, and compassion, to families experiencing deep loss. As the staff liaison to the Indigenous-led Native American Advised Fund, Diane works closely with Fund committee members to support Native lifeways and future generations through grantmaking and donor learning. Her work with the Empty Stocking Fund committee provides hundreds of families with emergency funds each year. Internally, Diane supports the Foundation team with her decade-plus of community grantmaking expertise. She is famous for her culinary skills, making jam from the Foundation's fruit trees and regularly bringing the staff homemade treats.

From each of us at the Santa Fe Community Foundation, thank you Diane for all that you do. We are honored to work beside you.

Deb Haaland, Secretary of Interior



"My mom has taught me how to love fiercely and take care of my community. How to use my voice to step up for myself and others. She taught me that there's nothing I can't do or don't deserve...By always pushing me to do my best and try new things, she taught me that knowledge and experience are invaluable assets that can never be taken away."

Somah Haaland

Deb Haaland raised her child Somah as a single mother and started her own small business producing and canning Pueblo Salsa to support them. Deb received her BA in English and her JD from UNM Law School. Both Somah and their mother are still paying off their UNM student loans. Secretary Haaland is a Native American and enrolled citizen of the Laguna Pueblo tribe. She became the first woman elected to the Laguna Development Corporation Board. Deb was Chair of the NM Democratic Party from 2015-17, the first Native American woman to lead a State Party. She held the position of U.S.

Representative for New Mexico's 1st congressional district from 2019 to 2021. In December 2020, then-President-elect Joe Biden announced he would nominate Haaland to serve as Secretary of the Interior. Secretary Haaland was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on March 15, 2021. She became the first Native American to serve as a Cabinet Secretary and the second to serve in the Cabinet. Somah's tribute to their mother illustrates Secretary Haaland's strong, smart, and bold approach to her successful life.

Nominated by Liberty Ranch Infinite Possibilities Fund and Mary Mitchell.



Elizabeth Kianu Stahmer, DAOM



Dr. Liz is a daughter and descendant of Wyandotte, Cherokee and Scots Irish women. She grew up in Santa Monica, CA, and later raised her family and had her clinical practice in the Bay Area. She was in clinical practice as a Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine for 15 years, having achieved a master's from Emperors College in 2000 and Clinical Doctorate from American College in 2012. Dr. Liz moved to Santa Fe, NM in 2015 with her family to complete a BA degree in Indigenous Liberal Studies at the Institute of American Indian Arts. Answering a call for a temp job in 2018 as an office assistant

with a local nonprofit resulted in the most rewarding experience of her life; to have the honor to lead David Weininger and George RR Martin's nonprofit Stagecoach Foundation, Inc. as Executive Director. Stagecoach has given Dr. Liz the opportunity to feed her desire to help people and revel in their success through training and workforce development. She's dedicated to helping New Mexicans achieve rewarding careers in the film and television industry. She's proud of the dynamic programming and community she's built and considers her children and students her teachers.



Emily Graves



I met Emily Graves (licensed massage therapist) by winning a silent auction about eight years ago and have continued to see her since. Her knowledge of Thai massage has changed my life. Emily has a beautiful healing center in Santa Fe — “Radiant Body Arts and Healing.”

Offering different treatment options, including Thai massage, fire cupping, wooden massage tools, energy work, readings and more. Emily is intuitive, skilled, talented, kind, well-educated and very professional. Multi-faceted, Emily also teaches Muay Thai Kickboxing and conscious core classes at her center. Practicing for over 25 years, she offers classes to all levels of students and private sessions. She is an empowering, motivating, patient and compassionate teacher. Showing her powerful, strong, and fierce side during kickboxing, anyone can get an amazing workout or build priceless self-defense skills, especially for women and girls to defend themselves. You can

also find Emily Graves at the Santa Fe Community College, teaching massage licensing courses and continuing education for massage therapists. In addition, she teaches English composition and creative writing at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. She is also a published author. Emily does incredible work at “Radiant Body Arts and Healing,” and is a huge asset to the healing community in Santa Fe. Emily Graves is an excellent example of being a bold and brave teacher, healer, artist, businesswoman and an inspiring role model.

Nominated by Lilly López.

Shawn McQueen



Shawn McQueen has let no dust settle on her productive life since she served as the Executive Director of the International Folk Art Market in Santa Fe. She left Santa Fe to successfully engage with the Girl Power Project in Uganda working to create opportunities for adolescent girls to vanquish the specter of poverty and disease so prevalent in that country. During that period she also earned her MBA at Oxford University. Shawn returned to Santa Fe and is currently President and CEO of Global Santa Fe. With her 25 years of experience in the non-profit sector, as well as her extensive experiences living and working abroad, she is the ideal person to not only propel this group forward, but to help carry out its mission of connecting our city with the world at large.

Nominated by Jane Shreffler.

Kaitlin Kerl, Miss New Mexico



As a child, Kaitlin loved building and fixing things. She helped her dad on all kinds of work projects. She told her siblings that she was the person to help if something needed to be fixed. She did not know that all this would lead to her graduating with her master's degree in architecture from The University of New Mexico in 2023. She loves teaching others and sharing her knowledge through volunteerism. Imagining a future for girls, she pictures opportunities for girls to learn and get involved with STEAM careers and trades. She envisions generations of women sharing their expertise with one another. She wants "to encourage girls to be confident in the things they are interested in and know their uniqueness is accepted and needed in the world!"

Judy Espinar



Judy has been especially fortunate in her life to participate in creating an entity that expresses, explores, and continually recreates her deepest dreams. Like many Peace Corps volunteers at the time, she was assigned to teach English, but quickly decided to teach art instead. When she returned to the U.S., she thought, “Someday, I’m going to learn things that will help the Peruvian children. They are so talented!”

In the meantime, Judy went on to create a successful career in the fashion industry, spanning 20 years. Ultimately, she became director of the **Evan Picone Design Studio** and Vice-President / Design Director for **Murjani International**, the home of Gloria Vanderbilt Jeans. She traveled widely in her work and added side trips, meeting folk artists and collecting their work. While attending a lecture on the Rockefeller folk art collection at the **Pan American Center** given by an official from the **Museum of International Folk Art** in Santa Fe, Judy shyly told the curator of the Folk Art Museum, “I’m collecting traditional ceramics.” To date she has amassed a collection of more than 2,000 pieces.

At the age of 50, she retired and continued to travel, specifically learning about pottery and textiles. Judy and her then-husband settled permanently in Santa Fe and opened a ceramic store, The Clay Angel that operated for 19 years. At that time, she staged a “best in show” exhibition of ceramic folk art. It was a way to encourage art fans to trust their instincts when they liked pieces, and to find out more about them and the cultures they represent. Discussing the event’s enormous success with Tom Aageson, Executive Director of the **Museum of New Mexico Foundation**, he suggested opening it up to more stores and making it a progressive stroll through different venues. Before she could think, Judy said, “It has to be a market, a place where people are invited to exchange cultural ideas.” Over a series of conversations with Aageson, I added Charlene Cerny, former executive director of the

Museum of International Folk Art and Charmay Allred a well-known philanthropist behind many of the city’s arts nonprofits (the four original Founders). From there, the Santa Fe International Folk Art Market was born. The founders envisioned Market attendees meeting global artists and discussing their work, a place where artists could prosper and recognize that the world holds very deep respect for their work and their cultures. And, as we all know, that dream became a marvelous reality that has benefitted so many.

Nominated by Nance and Ramon José López and Catherine Oppenheimer.

Pictured with Enedina Seferina Vasquez Cruz, artist.

Frieda Simons



The Museum of New Mexico Foundation honors the extraordinary leadership of the Chair of our Board of Trustees, Frieda Simons, along with two other accomplished women who serve as Board officers, Cathy Allen (Vice Chair) and Kate Moss (Secretary), plus the 36 women who so generously give of their time, talent and treasure as Foundation trustees and the 35 women who so ably and professionally serve on the Foundation staff. These women are all outstanding role models to the girls that will follow in their footsteps.



Greta Brunschwyler



Greta is the Executive Director for the Millicent Rogers Museum (MRM) in Taos, a private non-profit (501-c-3.) The MRM has long been known for its exhibits and programs that share and celebrate regional arts and cultures. The MRM has the largest public display of the well-known Pueblo potter, Maria Martinez and her family. The MRM is also recognized for its outstanding collections of Native and Hispaño textiles; blankets, rugs, and colcha. MRM's wide-ranging exhibits of Hispaño devotional art created by generations of makers from Spain to many communities in New Mexico are another hallmark of the museum. Under Greta's direction, the "Millicent" is shifting away from being a curator driven museum. Going forward, the museum will be community centered, powered by community voices. The MRM will engage and empower its community through arts and culture to create a sustainable future. Recognized as a leader in the museum profession, Greta engages in many state and

national programs to advance museum excellence and service. She also serves on boards and commissions to help support healthy communities. She has served in leadership roles in museums across the country for over two decades. Greta entered the museum field as an exhibition designer. She quickly learned that executive director role can affect greater change, so she moved upward. Several career highpoints include designing a new Las Vegas History Museum, earning the Oregon Governor's Award for the Promotion of Cultural Heritage Tourism, and guiding several museums from poor to positive fiscal status.

Nominated by Pamela Garrison.



Haley Jenkins



“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make”.

This quote by Jane Goodall has been Haley Jenkins life-long touch point. Haley’s love for New Mexico runs deep. While she grew up in Denver, from the time she was a young girl, her family enjoyed getaways to Santa Fe. Haley felt an unforgettable connection with New Mexico and was drawn to move here from New York City in 2020. Her Mom, Mary Beth, inspired her two daughters, Haley and Selby, to become self-empowered women early on after founding a real estate business in Denver, where Bill (aka: “Dad”) in time, joined the company too. Her mom’s guiding principles of integrity and valuing meaningful long-term relationships continue to inspire Haley and Selby, both personally and professionally. Haley holds a BS in Hospitality Management and a Real Estate minor from Cornell University. Upon graduation, she joined a firm in New York City for nearly

ten years, culminating in her position as a Director of Tishman Capital Partners. She worked on unique projects and helped to successfully launch a fund valued in excess of \$3 billion. Haley shares that, “Launching a fund, structuring deals, developing underwriting and diligence was exciting and greatly satisfying. The cumulative experiences with Tishman provided me with a richer world view.” Now, Haley’s newest chapter involves contemplation and exploration of life’s possibilities...from entrepreneurial opportunities to her personal passions for mountain sports, like skinning up a snowy mountain at dawn, running with her beloved pups (Marfa and Gracie), playing tennis, golf, or drums in a band!

*One thing is clear, Haley is living an inspiring, adventurous full life and I admire her greatly.
Nominated by Laura Hudman.*



Born in Brooklyn, Ivy is the daughter of two Holocaust survivors. Attending New York City public schools, Ivy completed undergraduate studies to become a teacher of industrial arts but, appalled at the low salaries paid to teachers and the lack of jobs, she pivoted to business and earned an MBA in Finance from New York University. Ivy had a 30-year career in business working for Fortune 500 companies, start-ups, and even ran her family's sheet metal business for five years. Ivy and her husband Jeff Zilka lived in London and Chicago, raising two daughters before retiring to Santa Fe in 2012. There Ivy dedicated herself to the two most important issues in her life: Improving the lives of girls and securing reproductive rights for women. "As the child of refugees, I grew up with a voice in the back of my head saying, 'Make something of yourself!', something that would only happen if I had control of when I became pregnant," Ivy notes. Ivy joined the board of Girls, Inc. of Santa Fe in 2013

as Treasurer and served on its Finance Committee for ten years. In 2014, Ivy joined Planned Parenthood of Rocky Mountain's board, becoming its chair in 2020. She now serves on the board of Planned Parenthood Votes New Mexico and PPRM's main board. Committed to progressive values, Ivy also chairs the Democratic Party of Santa Fe's Ward 4D and serves on the Budget and Finance Committee of the New Mexico State Democratic Party. Ivy is the loving mom to two terrific young women, Nina Zilka, CEO of Alder New York, an independent skincare brand; and Hannah Zilka, a doctorate of physical therapy who practices in Miami.

Ivy is nominated by Hannah, Nina and Jeff Zilka.

Jamai Blivin



Jamai Blivin has been fiercely dedicated to creating pathways for all youth to achieve their career and life goals. Her work has been at the cutting edge of national trends, working with employers from Tufts Medical School and Hyatt Hotels—to large and small businesses in New Mexico—in support of viable entry points for our most vulnerable youth to find their life passion and financial success. She’s consistently advocated for national policies and an agenda for workplace hiring based on skills. Her recently released book “STATUS” describes the reasons skills are much more important in hiring than hiring just on college degrees. She gives her time, knowledge and expertise one on one to young people who’ve been failing school or are young parents or had a misdemeanor on their record and helps them find a way to succeed in life. Her work is truly all encompassing. She serves as an inspiration and example to the many people who’ve worked for or with her to

be fearless, think big and to give generously and openly to her beloved community of northern NM. She’s won many awards but for Jamai, the greatest reward is seeing each young person who’s gone through her programs find their meaningful place in the world.

Submitted by Tamara Bates on behalf of the Innovate + Educate Board of Directors.



Jenny Kimball



Jenny Kimball has been an integral part of La Fonda on the Plaza since the 1980s; first as the hotel's lawyer, then Chairman of the Board, and currently Ambassador and Board Chair Emerita and co-owner. Her love for the hotel's rich history is surpassed only by her love for its employees and her dedication to maintaining the hotel's history and culture while ensuring its success in changing times. Jenny spearheaded the 2008 remodel of La Plazuela, the 2013 renovation of the historic guest rooms, the 2015 remodel of the hotel bar/ lobby, and in 2021 played an integral role in transforming the Terrace Inn into a top destination for luxury travel. Under her influence, the hotel earned accolades including "Best Hotel in New Mexico" and "Best Historic Hotel in the United States". In 2020 Jenny was named Historic Hotelier of the Year by the Historic Hotels of America. In addition to her work at the hotel, Jenny remains committed to the Santa Fe community, serving as Chair of the New Mexico

Tourism Commission, Chair of the International Folk Art Market and has served on the boards of the Santa Fe Community Foundation, the Santa Fe Botanical Garden, the Southwestern Association of Indian Art, as well as other local nonprofits. In addition to her love for La Fonda, Jenny appreciates Santa Fe's many opportunities for adventure as often as possible. An avid skier, hiker, biker, and equestrian, she's a true outdoor enthusiast. Strong-willed and passionate, she is a powerful mentor and stands by her word. She is an inspiration.

Jenny is nominated with respect and appreciation by Rik Blyth, President of La Fonda Hospitality Group.



Diane Ramsey



"No one better illustrates that one woman can make a difference, as long as she has a powerful vision, is relentlessly focused, inspires others with her boundless energy and creativity, and most importantly, is unfailingly kind and loves to laugh, mostly at herself. Diane Ramsey is a true original."

Diane is passionate about women and girls. She loves helping them discover and develop their leadership skills and believes that every girl and woman has opportunities to lead — whether it's the girl who reaches out to the new student at school, the single mom, the co-worker at the office who sees to it that people are respected and recognized, the PTA volunteer or those who have an official leader title. After a professional career in advertising, communications, and economic and community development, Diane boldly co-founded a state-wide non-profit dedicated to advancing women leaders and their organizations. On its tenth anniversary, Diane announced her retirement and relocation to New Mexico. Here,

she jumped into the nonprofit scene — volunteering with the International Folk Art Market, helping write marketing plans for various Santa Fe nonprofits, serving on the Millicent Rogers Museum board, and achieving her dream of joining the Girls Inc. of Santa Fe board. Diane considers herself a Martha Stewart "wannabe" — entertaining, baking up a storm, and creating her very own Morning Glory Gardens preserves, chutneys, and syrups as well as enjoying the challenges of southwestern gardening. She has boundless energy for the people and projects to which she gives her time and talent. Diane is a wife, stepmom, grandmother, daughter, sister, friend, and proud Weimaraner mom.

Miranda Viscoli



After the Sandy Hook school shooting, Miranda Viscoli suspended work on her Ph.D. to research and write about the problem of gun violence both in New Mexico and the United States. She co-founded and became co-president of New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence. Miranda has created and implemented art-based gun violence prevention programs in schools throughout New Mexico and helped to design and organize the national gun buyback program, Guns to Gardens. She works with schools, school boards, police departments, legislators, city councils, and the New Mexico Department of Health and is responsible for New Mexican gun legislation. A Ten Who Made a Difference, the Mucho Gusto Award, and the National 2021 Peaceseekers Award recipient, Miranda lives with her husband, two children, three dogs, and two cats in Santa Fe.



Marcela Diaz



Marcela Díaz is the Founding Executive Director of *Somos Un Pueblo Unido*, an immigrant-based organization that promotes racial and worker justice throughout New Mexico. She hosted *Nuestra América* for over a decade interviewing community members, elected officials, advocates and academics about the struggles and triumphs of workers and families. Marcela's leadership amplifies the voices of working people, particularly women. *Somo's* work focuses on making concrete improvements in the lives of working families: from drivers licenses without regard to immigration status, to cash assistance for families. Marcela opens doors for those whose stories need to be heard, wraps messages in policy, persuades, persists, and working in coalitions, promotes change at local and state levels. She seldom talks about herself. The work speaks for Marcela.

Miranda and Marcela nominated by SOS.

Nizhoni Denipah, MD



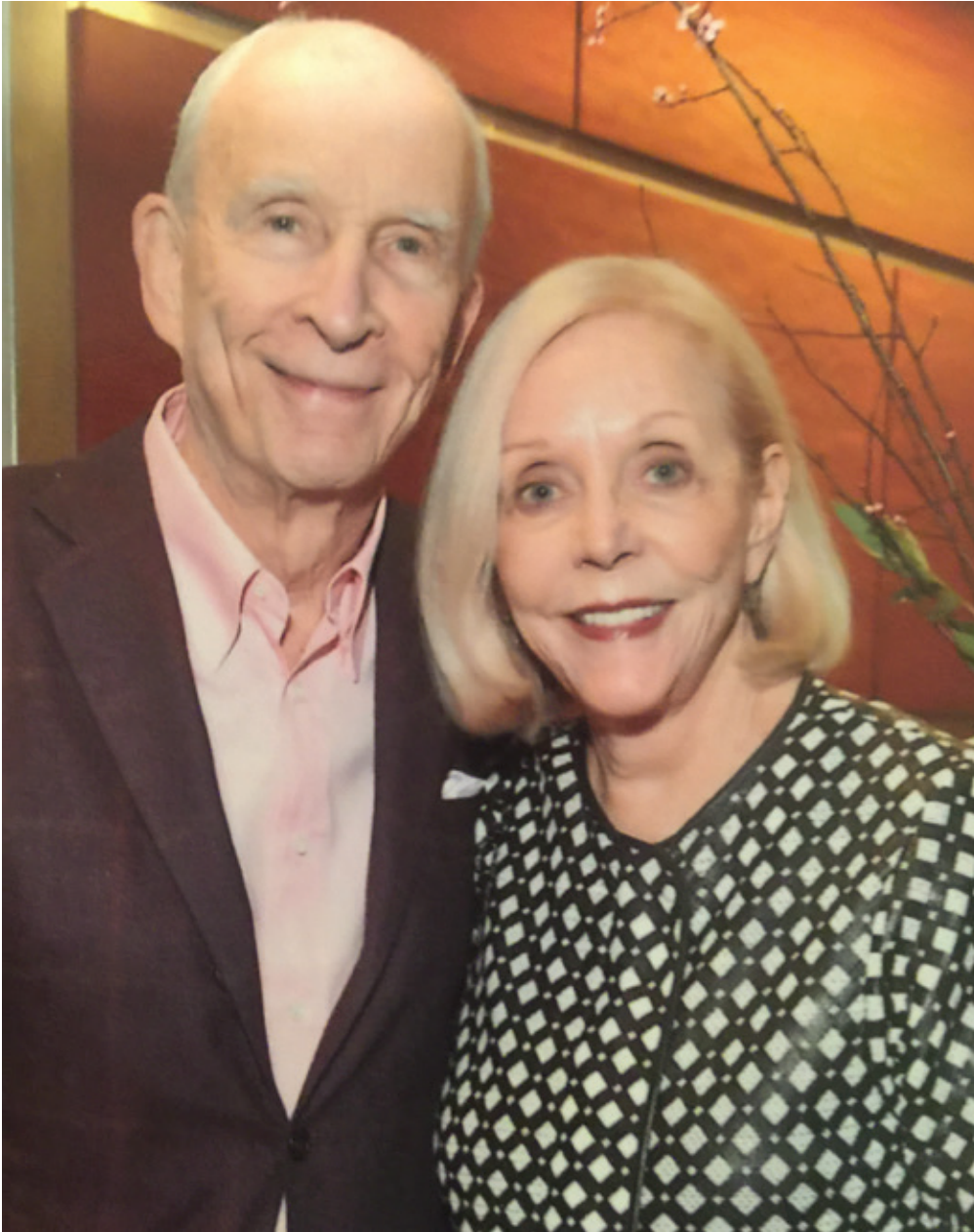
For Dr. Nizhoni Denipah, a physician with Santa Fe Skin Institute, art is a way of life, while medicine is her passion. Her parents are artists who provided for the family making and selling paintings, sculptures, and jewelry. As a child, through painting and sculpting, she observed the relationship between the body's interior and exterior; how the landmarks of the body were the bones and muscles hidden beneath the skin. This is where her interest in the human body and medicine began. Art inherently links to her Navajo, Ohkay Owingeh, Hopi, and Assiniboine heritage and provides balance to her work in academics and research. Dr. Denipah is a board-certified Otolaryngologist-Ear, Nose, Throat, Head, and Neck surgeon. She entered medical school when her daughter Shadé-Phea Young was in kindergarten. Her training has included a decade of rigorous training after the completion of her Master of Science in Physiological Sciences. Through college, she supported herself as an artist, creating

jewelry. Little did she know, this would sharpen her hand-eye coordination for the precision of a surgeon. Her curiosity about the physiology of the human body never faltered throughout her extensive training, nor did her passion for seeing the Art of Medicine. The physiology of the human body and the body's resilience and fragility continues to fascinate Dr. Denipah. She has merged her lifelong passion for art, culture, and medicine into career expertise in clinical, esthetic, and surgery of the head and neck. She is driven by a commitment to her patients, her community, and her family. She is a member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology, the American Academy of Aesthetic Medicine, and the Association of American Indian Physicians.



SANTA FE
SKIN INSTITUTE

Emy Lou Baldrige



Emy Lou Baldrige has made a 30-year mission out of supporting children's causes, giving her time, talent, and financial support to programs that provide resources to those in need. Emy Lou and her husband Jerry founded the Jerry and Emy Lou Baldrige Foundation. She personifies Girls Inc's mission of inspiring girls to be Strong, Smart, and Bold. Her early mentors were her aunts — a Lieutenant Colonel during WWI; a teacher; and a trailblazer who was the first woman to achieve status in the insurance industry Million Dollar Round Table. These early role models gave Emy Lou the confidence to go out and start her own successful Executive Search firm in Ithaca, New York, and achieve success throughout her life. She understood that to make something happen, you just go out and do it. And that is how Emy Lou has always operated! Through volunteer work, she has seen the devastating challenges teens in low-income neighborhoods face and know that they are full of untapped potential. Emy Lou is a

passionate advocate for abused and neglected children. She understands that everyone can make a difference in the life of a child. Emy Lou is recognized for her long resume of community involvement as a child advocate and was appointed by President George W. Bush to the President's Council of Service and Civic Participation. Emy Lou first came to New Mexico in the 1970's and loves her life in New Mexico — the diverse culture is amazing, the climate remarkable, people friendly, and the sky magical. She is an unabashed supporter of Girls Inc. of Santa Fe and we are all the better for it.

Linda Gammon, In Memorium



Linda Gammon, the founder of the Gammon Group real estate team at Keller Williams, was known by clients, colleagues, and friends as one of the smartest, kindest, and most generous people in the Santa Fe real estate community. She and her husband, Joe, came to Santa Fe more than 30 years ago and were home builders for many years. Linda then ventured into residential real estate and, over the years, built a thriving business as one of Santa Fe's top producers. With her ready smile, quick wit, and professionalism, she was a respected and beloved member of our community. She also supported a variety of local not-for-profits including The Cancer Foundation of Northern New Mexico, the Adelante Program at Santa Fe Public Schools helping at-risk youth, the Bienvenidos Food Pantry, and many others. Linda inspired countless young women and men starting their own businesses and mentored many of them. She was always ready to help and was famous for her greeting, "How are you

doing, kiddo?" Linda's legacy of professionalism, kindness, and service will be remembered by all who came in contact with her, and she is sorely missed.

Honored by Craig Cunningham, her business associate, whom she kindly befriended and generously mentored.



Kathleen O'Brien



General Manager for Harry's Roadhouse for over 20 years, Kathleen O'Brien is a staple in Santa Fe and ensures the Roadhouse remains a Santa Fe "must" for tourists and locals. Her integrity and loyalty is unfailing, and she has a profound sense of service. Her patience and power, combined with generosity of spirit and wonderful sense of humor, make her a great friend, role model, and super boss. She is stalwart, kind and absolutely dedicated to her employees and community. Never one to settle, her future goals include equity for employees. Kathleen's generosity, and attention to detail can be seen around the restaurant and in her personal life. Her friends describe her as "pretty mythic. She is the archetypal female strength." Carolyn Fineran, who has known her for almost 30 years, says "Kathleen is a beautiful, powerful woman who stands up for what she believes." She has the ability to stay focused on her goals despite many challenges. Her dream for herself and others is

to own their own lives. Kathleen loves to travel, she is also an amazing cook and loves to cook for friends and is passionate about environmental causes. A woman of many skills, she sews and can fix most things that are broken. She loves to spend time with her dog Gus and her cat Beboo. "Kathleen is such an amazing, strong friend," Sharon Grambo says, "She's helped me through the most difficult times in my life as well as helping me find my dream home and dream life! I can't celebrate her enough." Finally, as her friends relate, "don't forget the twinkling wee people in her Irish roots."

Nominated by Sharon Grambo and Carolyn Fineran.

Linda DeWolf



Linda has always been driven by a sense of purpose and a commitment to following her values of integrity, creativity, passion, and learning. She is a community builder, connector, and catalyst for change. She loves travel, learning about other cultures, and all things art related. She is a strong believer in “giving back” to her community and society at large. She enjoys start-ups and has been a leader in several national initiatives including the National Patient Representative Association, Founder/ President of the VHA Health Foundation, funding innovations in health care. She holds an R.N. and later put herself through college, earning a degree in English, while working full-time and being a single mom of two rambunctious young sons. After her “retirement”, she co-founded GoPhilanthropic Foundation, an international trust-based 501c-3 dedicated to creating a more just, equitable world. She is committed to mentorship and to women’s/ children’s issues and is honored

to sit on the Girls Inc. of Santa Fe Board of Directors. Linda has written and published articles on topics related to art, health care, and advocacy and has held community, state, and national board positions. She is especially proud that the American Hospital Association adopted the first national Patient Bill of Rights under her leadership. Linda has received several awards throughout her career, but what she feels most proud of are her family and her six amazing grandchildren who fondly call her “Lindy” and consider her an inspiration and role model. Linda considers herself a “rolling stone”, having lived in many places. After long dreaming of living in Santa Fe, she made it a reality in 2014.

Nominated with love by Linda’s family and friends.

Laura M. Montoya, New Mexico State Treasurer



New Mexico State Treasurer Laura M. Montoya was sworn into office on January 1, 2023, as the first female State Treasurer of New Mexico and the first Latina State Treasurer in the U.S. Like Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz, Laura believes there is no place like home. She has traveled to many places far from New Mexico, but her heart is connected to our culture, traditions, food, music, lowriders, fiestas and feast days, our diversity, beautiful mountains, rivers and lakes, the experience of having four seasons in the same day, and answering, “Christmas” to the most popular question, “red or green?” Laura loves that drivers wave to each other in rural areas, that English and Spanish are the primary languages in our constitution, and that our people have multilingual conversations and genuinely care about and help one another. She appreciates that our leaders and teachers reflect the communities they serve and are easily accessible. She loves that New Mexico is known for fighting for equal and civil rights, long before it became

popular. Laura’s life experiences haven’t always led her down a “yellow-brick road”, yet she has learned something new every day—sometimes the hard way—from her education, faith, and people. Several experiences have taught her important lessons, but she believes that these experiences of joy and disappointment, have shaped her into who she is today. Sometimes we lose our way and feel far from home, but encountering obstacles and detours along the way may put you in a better place than you ever imagined. What matters is having compassion and understanding for others, and yourself. Laura’s question to you is, “How will you choose to see the world and change how it perceives us; will your actions be smart, courageous, and have heart?”



Lisa Samuel



As a native-born Santa Fean with roots in Spanish and Native American cultures, Lisa's journey was a path of rich experiences to find her destination as a minority business owner, entrepreneur, and principal of her own premier design firm. Her path was not an easy one but she's well-known for being an overcomer, a dreamer, and a doer. Despite being only 19 and divorced, with two young children, she had big dreams and was willing to take risks which led her to move to California with her children to pursue an Architecture Degree at American Business College. When complete she returned to her hometown of Santa Fe and built a family. As life progressed, she raised her three children while mostly working for herself doing the things she enjoyed. After all, she was the daughter of an entrepreneur so what else would you expect? She spent time learning all the basic pieces she would need to complete the puzzle she was working towards, including: wallpaper installation, and mechanical

engineering. Once her children were on their own, she took her final step of getting her Interior Design degree from Santa Fe Community College. From there, she opened up her first design firm and began doing exactly what she loves. Since then, her dream has grown to serve clients in multiple states across the U.S. She's the recipient of many design awards. It may not have been easy, and the obstacles she overcame were reminders of the sage advice she still gives her children, "Inch by inch it's a cinch, mile by mile it's a trial."

Nominated by Lisa's family, friends, and colleagues with enormous gratitude and pride for all she is, has become, and has taught us.



Monica Glasses



“Who I am as a weaver rests on the shoulders of my beautiful mother, ashinai shima, who I said goodbye to three years ago. She was my biggest ally and motivator,” says Monica Glasses. Monica, a 6th generation Navajo (Dine’) rug weaver, lives and works in the Navajo Nation in Northeastern Arizona. Her childhood on the reservation was hard, without conveniences such as electricity. As a child, weaving was a hobby. As a teenager, it paid for school activities. Monica became a rug weaver before her mother passed away. While helping her mother weave, her mother’s designs inspired her. Monica included these designs in her work, including pictorial weaving. Her mother would say, “When you have a weaving up, it talks to you and tells you to take that piece of art to completion.” Monica learned that weaving takes devotion, patience, and optimism. Today Monica teaches the next generation of weavers, including her daughters. Her older daughter sells her rugs to pay for a degree in Early

Childhood Development. Her nine-year-old is still in the learning process. Monica turned her life around by believing in her dreams and staying strong. She is a mother of four, a wife, an aunty, and a sister. Her family depends on her while also helping her make life decisions. Monica learned that a master weaver is more a reflection of life. She has learned to reach out for assistance from her family and friends and the importance of communication, lifelong learning, and achieving goals. Monica wants to better the world and teach her children to better themselves.

Malouf on the Plaza nominated Monica Glasses for her skills as a master weaver as well as her role as a mentor in her community.



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Bold



Inspirations



Teresa Leger Fernandez, U.S. Representative



Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez represents New Mexico's 3rd congressional District. Representative Fernandez is a 17th generation Northern New Mexican. She was born in Las Vegas, New Mexico and was a participant in the state's first Head Start class. She graduated from Yale and Stanford law school. In Teresa's law career, she won legal battles involving voting rights, tribal sovereignty, environmental issues and Acequia water rights. She was also a Clinton and Obama presidential appointee and worked as a White House Fellow. In Teresa's first term in Congress, she secured federal investments to provide more New Mexico families with clean water; fought to bring infrastructure investments supporting job growth while rebuilding roads and bridges and expanding rural internet access. She fought to pass the Hermit's Peak Fire Assistance Act for full federal compensation for communities impacted by the wildfires. Teresa is also the ranking member of the Subcommittee for Indigenous

Peoples of the United States and serves in the leadership of the Democratic Women's Caucus. Throughout she has been a voice for all New Mexicans. Teresa tackles tough issues, the ones that aren't popular or don't always get public attention but will make the daily lives of all New Mexicans better. She is guided by "ahora es cuando"-it is time now — to take the bold action required to protect the things we love — our families and communities, our democracy, and this beautiful place we call home.

We are proud to honor Representative Fernandez for her inspiring and unwavering commitment to serving the people of New Mexico during her entire career. She is the epitome of a Strong, Smart, and Bold daughter of New Mexico. Nominated by Ann Livingston and Sheila Vaughn.

Michelle (Mica) Chavez



Michelle (Mica) Chavez is a long time Santa Fe resident and professional chef. After a 20-year career in the restaurant industry, Mica transitioned to teaching, spending 11 years as the lead instructor and department chair of the culinary program at Santa Fe Community College. She taught many students and aspiring chefs and mentored young adults in the juvenile detention center, several of whom went on to have careers in the restaurant industry. In 2017, Mica joined Monte Del Sol Charter School, where she created their first elective culinary program. In addition to teaching juniors and seniors, she provides after school mentorship to 5-6 students who are interested in elevating their culinary skills and techniques. She is consistently praised as a teacher, inspirational role model, and mentor who makes a difference. Mica has a thriving business as a private chef and has prepared meals for hundreds of residents and visitors alike. She also teaches at the Santa Fe School of Cooking on weekends.

She is loved by her clients and cooking school guests and is often recognized when she is out and about in Santa Fe. Mica has cooked for numerous dignitaries and celebrities and has been featured on CNN, the Food Network, and CBS Sunday Morning. She is very proud of these accomplishments; however, nothing fills her with more pride than dining out and bumping into the students she has taught and mentored who are doing what they love in the kitchens of Santa Fe.

Nominated by her partner, family, and friends who adore her and benefit greatly from her cooking!

Lillian Montoya



Lillian Montoya is the President and CEO of CHRISTUS St. Vincent, north-central New Mexico's full-service regional health system. She is the hospital's first female CEO since the original Sisters of Charity founded the hospital in 1865. Prior to becoming CEO, Lillian served as the hospital's Chief Operating Officer. During her tenure, she has led an organizational transformation of CHRISTUS St. Vincent. This effort has positioned them to earn a Best Place to Work recognition for four successive years, highest Associate engagement scores in all of CHRISTUS Health, and became part of the Mayo Clinic Care Network of hospitals for its commitment to quality, safety, associate engagement, and patient experience. As a native New Mexican, Lillian has distinguished herself as an active participant in many community, business, and educational organizations. She has been repeatedly featured as a New Mexico top business "Power Broker" by New Mexico Business Weekly. Lillian was

also recognized with the 2021 American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) Senior-Level Healthcare Executive Regent's Award for making significant contributions to the advancement of healthcare management excellence. Prior to her work with CHRISTUS St. Vincent, Lillian led organizations and initiatives to strengthen New Mexico in the areas of higher education, economic development, venture capital, and early childhood education. Lillian loves being a mother to her two adult children, Josh and Elena, who inspire her every day. In Lillian's free time, she enjoys cooking and gardening and is known for her green thumb.

It is with honor that the St. Vincent Hospital Foundation collaborates with a dynamic, transformational leader like Lillian and recognizes her as an inspirational leader.

Emily Garcia

Emily Garcia, NDI New Mexico's Associate Director of Outreach is the daughter of a drama professor/playwright and grew up acting in children's theatre. Her dance training began in college at the University of New Mexico, where she studied flamenco, ballet, and modern dance. During her college studies, she traveled to Urbino, Italy for a semester abroad focusing on the techniques of Graham and Horton. She graduated in 2001 with honors, receiving a B.A. in Theatre and Dance. After graduation, Emily relocated to Santa Fe and became an instructor for NDI. Over the years, Emily has worked in different areas of the organization including writing and directing Reach Out: The Sweet Sounds of Motown.

Together, Liz and Emily are making a positive impact on the lives of youth across New Mexico. Their dedication to NDI's mission is inspiring.



Liz Salganek

National Dance Institute's (NDI) New Mexico's Artistic Director Liz Salganek grew up in Santa Fe, where she trained in ballet, jazz, and modern dance. In 1997 she moved to New York and earned her B.A. in Dance from Barnard College of Columbia University, graduating summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. She joined the faculty of the Barnard Dance Department after graduation and danced with several modern dance companies before returning home. She joined the NDI staff in 2006 and has taught in programs across the state. Liz brings her love of teaching and NDI's mission to managing the artistic department, while building a staff dedicated to using the arts to engage, inspire, challenge, and support our youth.



The EQUUS Team

EQUUS creates conditions for transformative learning. As a woman-owned and run leadership development organization, we liberate the wisdom, resilience, power, authentic expression, and leadership capacities of our clientele. We assist people to be better humans in their lives, communities, organizations, and families. Meet our amazing EQUUS team:



Kelly Wendorf, CEO: a master coach, published author, spiritual mentor, and socially responsible entrepreneur. Her early experiences were shaped by the natural and ancient world where she learned to listen to forces within people, nature, and moments. This unconventional education grants her a gift of perception that liberates untapped potential and hidden gifts within individuals and organizations, helping them to solve problems through a wisdom-informed, wholeness approach. She has lived and worked around the world, studying with spiritual and Indigenous leaders in India, Africa, Indonesia, and Australia. Such immersion in multicultural perspectives honed a passion for creating new narratives in the human condition, empowering high-performing individuals, organizations, and their leaders to wield meaningful change. Named 'a CEO whisperer', she works with clients from Amazon and Microsoft to those in underserved communities.





Stephanie Handley, COO: an accomplished entrepreneur, who is an advocate for women-owned businesses. As a dedicated mother, she is passionate about instilling in her family a love for self-sustainable homesteading, a healthy ecosystem, and an appreciation for the natural world. Her commitment to these values is evident in her role at EQUUS and how she lives her life and runs her own business, inspiring others to embrace an eco-conscious mindset and way of life.



Kelsey Booker, Chief Storytelling and Client Engagement Officer: a devoted mother, and a passionate advocate for native wildlife, medicinal herbs, foraging, and plant-based medicine. Her enthusiasm for these practices is contagious, and she inspires others to explore the benefits of natural remedies and sustainable living. She engages with our audiences by telling the EQUUS story and sharing it around the world.



Emma Chalut, Chief Technology, Media, and Design Officer: a multi-faceted creative, specializing in web design and brand development, Emma is the design architect of EQUUS. With a background in fine art, her passion and experience focus on art and creative institutions, from art departments to acting as a visiting artist and designing branded content for clients. She specializes in brand strategies, creative project conceptualization, and media design.



Laura Leggette, Executive Assistant: an adventurous soul, exploring the world deeper into the ocean and higher into the sky. An aviation enthusiast, she is training to become a licensed pilot, facilitating animal rescue flights. Her dream is to create an animal sanctuary and educational retreat facility, focusing on the connection between spiritual health and the planet. She encourages forward momentum and accountability in her EQUUS role.

Tamora Fellows



According to the Girls Inc. Girls at Nina Otero, “Miss Tammy is an extraordinary person with a big heart and a lot of kindness. She is supportive, understanding, helpful, and good to people. She treats you like her own child, helping you in whatever way she can. She has a great sense of humor and loves to joke around. She takes care of us and is always ready to help people. She is very welcoming, making sure everyone around her feels happy and comfortable. You can tell she loves people and goes out of her way to help them in any way she can. Everyone appreciates all the hard work she puts into making sure everyone is taken care of. Her positivity and kindness are contagious, making everyone around her feel better about themselves and their lives. Miss Tammy is a great role model for others to look up to, showing that it is possible to be kind and helpful while still having fun.”

Tammy has spent seven years as a teacher and 16 as a school counselor. She strives to be available for all children, and starts each day with the intention of listening, interacting, and loving each student where they are at, honoring their story and celebrating them every day. Tammy’s so passionate about helping others, she has a private practice in town for adult women and adolescent girls. She’s married to her supportive spouse and is the mother of two strong,

beautiful young women — a teacher and a counselor. Tammy has two wonderful sons-in-law, three grandchildren, and one on the way.

The Girls Inc. students at Nina Otero School nominated Tamora Fellows.

Sponsored by Liberty Ranch Infinite Possibilities Fund.

Maggie Toulouse Oliver, Secretary of State New Mexico



What is courage? It is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to act in spite of it. It requires strength of character, a willingness to take risks, and a determination to persevere in the face of challenges.

Secretary of State, Maggie Toulouse Oliver, is a woman who exemplifies courage. A staunch defender of democracy, she challenges the status quo, speaks out against injustice, and advocates for marginalized groups. Some of her many achievements include modernizing New Mexico's voter registration system, supporting laws making it easy for all New Mexicans to exercise their right to vote, and founding the Native American Voting Task Force to increase voter turnout in those communities. She's worked with the Department of Homeland Security to recognize and govern elections as critical national infrastructure. She went before the U.S. House Oversight and Government Reform Committee as an expert witness on election

cybersecurity, and testified to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration of the dangers of election denialism and misinformation.

In these discordant times, people in the elections ecosystem have found themselves under siege and Maggie is no exception. Despite the many threats to her personal safety, she has never lost the moral courage to put democracy first. Maggie has strength of character, a willingness to take risks, and a determination to persevere in the face of challenges. She truly embodies the values and virtues of Girls Inc. of Santa Fe, making her a superb role model for girls and young women in our community.

Maggie is nominated by Caren Shiozaki, who is grateful that she is our Secretary of State, and honored to share her friendship.

Karrye Ramos



Ms. Ramos has high expectations for students, accepting nothing but their best. Her support and unconditional love for 'her' girls is on display when year-after-year they return (in equal measure to boys) as they are forever bound to her. Karrye has been an educator for 22 years, starting her career as a middle school teacher at Ortiz Middle School before firmly planting roots at Nina Otero Community School where she not only is a master and cherished teacher, but a leader amongst colleagues. It is Karrye Ramos that our girls need in their lives to show them how to respect themselves and others, how to lean in and on those who support them, how not to compromise their dreams, and to unselfishly give back to other girls in hopes of 'inspiring' them.

Nominated by Keyway Marketplace.

Judith Moir



They say next to every good man is a great woman and it's personified by Judith aka "Santa Fe Red." Judith is my Zozobra deputy and is invaluable to the team. I am deeply grateful for her contributions to our club, community, and kids! Judith always goes the extra mile. Her reliability and professionalism are second to none, and I completely trust her ability to handle any task that we throw at her. Judith is a kind and caring person who is willing to lend an ear and offer support. Her positive attitude and friendly demeanor make her a joy to work with, and she has the respect and admiration of everyone in our Zozobra Family. Judith is a shining example of what a great human being is!

Nominated by Ray Sandoval and the Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe/ Zozobra.



Nadine Porterfield-Gurule



The Girls Inc. girls at Nina Otero say: “Mrs. Porterfield is an amazing person who is funny, loving, kind, understanding, caring, and encourages us to be more artistic. She’s there for us, providing comfort and hugs. She is creative, helpful, inspiring, has a great sense of humor, and makes people smile. She’s a great listener and teacher who knows how to make people feel better. When I’m having problems she understands me and offers advice. She treats everyone like her own child and is encouraging to those around her. Artistic and trustworthy, she shows people new things while always having fun in the process. Her presence in school as a mother figure is invaluable; she has a place in her heart for everyone.”

Girls Inc. is integral to who Nadine is today. As a girl, she used to walk to Hillside each day where she learned to sew, enjoyed arts and crafts, baked, gardened, attended field trips, found sea fossils downtown, and met her best friends. As she walked to the GISF, formerly the Girls’ Club, Nadine passed her grandmother’s on her way. Her grandmother loved hearing hopeful girls and wished she had the same opportunities as Nadine. The Girls’ Club staff treated the adolescents with kindness and understanding, the girls knew they were important and capable. This is a mindset

Nadine holds dear and shares with her students. The Girls Club was a starting point for Nadine’s creativity - the arts, storytelling, and communications. After working in TV news, the film industry, and marketing, Nadine believes she has the best job in the world teaching art at SFPS. She married her best friend, they have twins, Josette and Joey, who run cross country and track.

Nominated by Girls Inc of Santa Fe Students at Nina Otero School and Diane Ramsey.

Reena Szczepanski, New Mexico House of Representatives Majority Whip



Reena Szczepanski entered politics a few years after college and currently serves as New Mexico House Majority Whip, State Representative District 47. During her first legislative session, she was nervous and not sure if she was ready for this big job. She remembers listening to an awful, inhumane debate about immigration. It made her feel sick; she walked out of the Capitol and called her mentor in tears. She told her mentor that she didn't think she could do this. As the daughter of immigrants, Reena felt that these powerful people would neither hear nor respect her. Her mentor listened and said, "That's exactly why we need you here. Walk back into the Capitol like you belong. Because you do." She went back and kept going because she knew she couldn't be the only person who felt they didn't belong. Eighteen years after that moment of fear, Reena was sworn in as the first Asian American member of legislative leadership in the history of our state. It wasn't the last hard day. In the years since, there

have been debates on issues like women's health, LGBTQ+ rights, and criminal justice that have been difficult. But there's a major difference — the New Mexico House has become one of the most diverse chambers in America and one of the few that is majority women. It's because the women who were once made to feel they didn't belong came together to run for office and win. And win again. And win some more. She wants our girls in New Mexico to know that no door is closed to them. They will lead the conversations. They will decide for themselves what rooms they want to be in. They belong.



Sobria en su comportamiento y elegancia, la Srta. Bermejo brinda apoyo incondicional constante a los niños. Como coordinadora de Communities in Schools en la Escuela Nina Otero, la Srta. Bermejo, también conocida como la Srta. Yesi, como se la conoce con cariño, de puertas abiertas y de corazón abierto brinda a todos y cada uno de los niños un lugar seguro y acogedor para hablar, llorar, reír y participar. Como hablante nativa de español nacida en Aguascalientes, México y ahora ciudadana de los Estados Unidos, la Srta. Bermejo puede llegar a los estudiantes más vulnerables que han encontrado una nueva vida en un nuevo lugar que no está exento de los desafíos de tratar de “encajar”- hasta que tengan a la Srta. Yesi en su campamento. Su espíritu juvenil y su belleza son bienvenidos por las chicas que se reúnen a su alrededor para preguntarle dónde se peina o si me pueden ayudar a encontrar mi clase, o a regalar una chaqueta y un sinfín de preguntas más que se les ocurren solo para poder ‘pasar el rato’ con ella. La Srta. Bermejo dejará a Nina Otero después de este año escolar para emprender una nueva y emocionante aventura en la comunidad de Santa Fe. Las niñas la extrañaran, solo para descubrir que lo que ella significó para ellas, nunca se irá. La Srta. Bermejo se unirá al equipo de Breakthrough Santa Fe, ayuando a los jóvenes en su camino hacia la universidad.

Nominated by Keyway Marketplace.



Miss Indian New Mexico Inc.



Natalie Arellanez, Board President



Nicole Johnny, Board Vice President/
Treasurer



Janessa Bowekaty, Board Secretary



Kari Vallo, Board Voting Member



Miss Indian New Mexico LIV, Alysia Coriz

Miss Indian New Mexico Inc. is a non-profit organization that aspires to preserve and revitalize the diverse cultures of all Tribal Nations in the State of New Mexico. The organization was established in 2019 by former Miss Indian New Mexico titleholders. They work towards this goal by upholding, honoring, and encouraging young matriarchs from tribes across the State to participate in the annual Miss Indian New Mexico pageant. As of 2023, there have been 54 Miss Indian New Mexico titleholders and a new sister will be crowned later this year in September as the 55th Miss Indian New Mexico!

The Miss Indian New Mexico Inc. Board of Directors' goals include supporting Native women in leadership skills, establishing good relationships with other non-profit organizations, sharing knowledge of diverse cultures and tribes of New Mexico, and modeling the teaching and traditions of women within our tribal communities. The Board consists of former Miss Indian New Mexicos, beginning with Natalie Arellanez, Board President, Nicole Johnny, Board Vice President/Treasurer, Janessa Bowekaty, Board Secretary, and Kari Vallo, Board Voting Member. With great hope and spirit, they "look forward to continuing our work and mission of Miss Indian New Mexico and expanding the work of the organization to foster more positive opportunities and experiences for young Native women."

The Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women is pleased to honor the Miss Indian New Mexico organization and the women who have represented them.



Rosie Sandoval



Rosie Sandoval is a remarkable woman and a constant source of love, support, and guidance. Her family can count on her for anything. She has never let them down. Rosie is hardworking, dedicated, and always puts her family first. She has sacrificed a lot to ensure that they had everything needed to succeed. Her selflessness and generosity are inspiring. Rosie has a great sense of humor, a knack for making people comfortable and welcome, and a way of bringing out the best in everyone. Her kindness and compassion have touched everyone who has met her. She is loved and respected by all. And everyone who knows her is thankful for Rosie being a mentor, friend, teacher, and fantastic mother. She has positively impacted her son and the lives of many others.

Love you, Mom! Ray

Dr. Veronica C. Garcia



Veronica has faced adversities and had the strength and the support of family, friends, and faith to weather them. She is an education champion and a lifelong learner. Veronica boldly stepped into leadership positions when young women weren't holding the jobs that she pursued in her twenties and early thirties. As a child, Veronica wanted to be a teacher and later a tv journalist. She started college in communications, and it has served her well, including as New Mexico's first secretary of Education. An Albuquerque native, Veronica loves our state - the cultures, diversity, warm people, fantastic weather, beautiful blue skies, vistas, and traditions. She believes "there are no more unbreakable glass ceilings. We will have a woman president, we will have more women in leadership positions, and we will have more women in any field of work to which they endeavor; the sky is the limit!"

Sherry Hooper



If you know Sherry Hooper, you know that she finds pure joy in creating food-secure communities across northern New Mexico. In her 30 years of leading food banks, Sherry has affected profound change. Known for her smile, emphatic hugs, and passion for ensuring no one goes hungry, Sherry is an example of what it means to choose joy. Rising from a childhood where her mother struggled to make ends meet, Sherry committed herself to bringing a full pantry to every parent, child, and senior. Sherry arrived in Santa Fe in September of 2001, with a decade of experience at a food bank in Kansas City, MO, her hometown. Her visionary leadership transformed The Food Depot's approach to providing hunger-relief services across northern New Mexico, increasing the amount of food distributed, the nutritional value of the food provided, and, most importantly, the number of people receiving much-needed services. Under her direction, The Food Depot has become recognized as

an innovative and respected nonprofit, winning the Santa Fe Community Foundation's Piñon Award twice, most recently as the "Tried and True" nonprofit. Sherry also leads the New Mexico Association of Food Banks. She was instrumental in creating the Santa Fe Food Policy Council and serves on numerous boards, policy groups, and committees working toward solutions to the issue of poverty. Recently, she co-authored the "Report to the Mayor: Ending Childhood Hunger in Santa Fe" and advocates for systemic change around hunger and poverty. Sherry is deeply connected to her family and enjoys travel, delicious meals, and a good book.

The Galpert Cisneros Group of Wells Fargo Advisors Gratefully Nominates Sherry as "An Incredible Community Asset."



Signe (Sig) I. Lindell, City Councilor, District 1



Councilor Signe Lindell was born and raised on a New York dairy farm but has been in Santa Fe since 1984. While she was not born in Santa Fe, she says she got here as soon as she could! Sig, to her friends, was the first person in her family to attend college. At age 25 she completed a Doctorate Education from West Virginia University and has worked in a variety of industries before retiring. She was a Kent State University professor and owner of an Albuquerque small business “Signs Now” shop. She also spent five years working for Homewise Inc., a nonprofit affordable housing organization in Santa Fe that helped her develop a deep understanding of the community. Sig was elected to the Santa Fe City Council in 2014. She is currently serving as Mayor Pro Tem and City Councilor of District 1. Some of the important projects that Sig has been involved with, but not limited to, include major legislation in animal protection, leadership on legalizing Food Trucks as well as outdoor dining spaces, LED street

light conversion, downtown public bathrooms, a pickleball complex at Fort Marcy, and a nuisance ordinance. In her eight years as a City Councilor, Sig is an ever-presence at community events and is always ready to pitch in to help raise money for the nonprofits Santa Fe so generously supports. Sig has been with her partner, Maria Sanchez, for 27 years. She says she’s lucky at love, friendships, dogs, and life!!! She focuses on making a difference, brings good humor to all, and “lives life’s rich pageant daily!”

Nominated by the Sig Circle of Friends who are always inspired by her to make a difference!

Caren Shiozaki



Caren is an inspiring and extraordinary woman who has achieved innumerable accomplishments professionally and personally. She is the epitome of a GISF girl: strong-willed, smart-beyond the pale and bold-in her values and opinions. She has many close friendships, strong family values and a love for animals, especially canines. Caren graduated with a BS in Genetics from UC Berkeley. As a business technology executive, Caren is currently a partner at Fortium Partners where she serves as an influential digital risk leader. Prior to joining Fortium, Caren held senior management positions at MST, Belo Corporation, AmEx, and Bank of America. Caren serves as a Senior Research Fellow at DivIHN Integration, where she provides expertise on digital risk strategy, cyber security, M&A due diligence, and business ethics. No doubt, there's an interesting story how she moved from genetics to business technology.

Caren was a driving force at Girls Inc. for over six years. She served on the Board, on various committees, and as Board Chair. Caren's passion for dogs culminated in her becoming Board Chair at the Santa Fe Animal Shelter where she also chaired several committees. Caren has served as Board Chair at both SIM National and Santa Fe Alliance for Science. In her spare time (when most of us sleep), Caren is an active trail hiker, an accomplished baker and an extraordinary role model for young women. Check out her shoe closet.

*Nominated by Liberty Ranch
Infinite Possibilities Fund and
Sheila Vaughn.*

Sayuri Yamada



Sayuri Yamada is a second-generation entrepreneur whose passion and dedication to public service have left a lasting impact on our community. The daughter of first-generation Japanese immigrants — a successful entrepreneur and an internationally acclaimed artist — Sayuri has inherited a deep understanding of the value and craft of creating something from nothing.

Sayuri's first entrepreneurial experience was working alongside her father in his international software company. Sayuri then worked for the New Mexico Chamber of Commerce, which led to a position at PNM. Over the next 17 years, she built the PNM governmental and public affairs team into one of the most successful advocacy teams in New Mexico. In October 2022, Sayuri founded her own company, Kizuna Strategies. In Japanese, Kizuna means "close relationships forged through mutual trust and support" which reflects Sayuri's

extensive background of bringing businesses and organizations together to create tangible change. She is particularly experienced in developing projects that create and advance environmental, economic, and community sustainability. Growing up in a family that encouraged her to eschew the safe path and pursue her dreams, Sayuri has an especially strong understanding of the importance of role-modeling leadership and courage for the next generation of women, a mission she shares with Girls Inc. Her awareness of the importance of women mentoring other women has been a guiding light in her community work, leading to her involvement with the New Mexico chapter of the International Women's Forum and other empowerment-based organizations. As this newest chapter of her life unfolds, Sayuri is the first to say she's still seeking, and that creating a life rooted in authenticity, service, and passion is an ongoing journey.



Sharon Woods is co-founder of Woods Builders and the mother of three. She is known for designing and building hundreds of the finest homes in Santa Fe in the past four decades. Woods Builders was founded by Sharon and Robert Woods in 1977 and together they pioneered the design-build concept with architectural design and construction being performed by the same team. The pair quickly built the company into one of the most recognizable brands in Santa Fe, completing numerous award-winning projects and were featured in many prominent publications such as Architectural Digest and the television show, This Old House. In 2008 Sharon's sons, Rob and Shane, joined the company and now serve as the second-generation owners, continuing to build Santa Fe homes and using the same standard of excellence that Sharon used while building the company from the ground up! Sharon has also co-authored the best-selling coffee table books, *Santa Fe Style* and

Santa Fe Homes. She was also appointed by two different Santa Fe city mayors to chair the City of Santa Fe Historic Board and has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Santa Fe BusinessWoman of the Year Award. Today Sharon is the current Board Chair of the Santa Fe Children's Museum and spends her free time with her four grandsons here in Santa Fe and visiting her daughter and her family in New Zealand. She can often be found bicycling around Northern New Mexico with her husband Rob Elliot.

We are proud to support our mother, Sharon Woods. Her legacy of teaching, leading and giving will continue to inspire young girls and women in Santa Fe and indeed, all of New Mexico, for generations to come. Rob Woods, Shane Woods, and Amber Fayerberg.



New Mexico Women. Org Board and Staff



New Mexico Women. Org (NMW.O) advances opportunities for self-identified women and girls statewide so they can lead self-sufficient, healthy, and empowered lives. Our strategic focus is gender justice and healing. Gender justice recognizes diverse gender identities and is intersectional, encompassing racial, environmental, and economic justice, with an underlying commitment to end patriarchy. Gender justice cannot be achieved without collective and individual healing from harms inflicted by systems of oppression. Deeper healing cannot be sustained without justice. We honor and celebrate all the incredible communities and self-identified women and girls with whom we partner across New Mexico. None of us show up to this work alone. We draw strength and learning from our ancestors, families, friends, neighbors, and femme-tors as we conjure, dream, fund, and work for futures rooted in gender justice. Our communities inspire us. We also want to celebrate the growing NMW.O team and Board for how they show up with care and intentionality, bringing creativity and commitment to their communities. We are honored to be working at the intersections of gender justice and healing in service of self-identified women, girls, and gender expansive youth today, and for generations to come!

“None of us show up to this work alone. We draw strength and learning from our ancestors, families, friends, neighbors, and femme-tors as we conjure, dream, fund, and work for futures rooted in gender justice.”

Top Left to Right: Dr. Patricia Trujillo (Board Secretary), Carli Romero (Program Manager), Gina Montoya (Operations and Resource Development Manager), Dr. Fatima van Hattum (Program Co-Director), Elsa Lopez (Program Manager), Jacqueline Lovelace Johnson (Board Member), Felice Gonzales (Board President)

Bottom Left to Right: Melanie Garcia (Senior Operations Manager), Sarah Ghiorse (Executive Director), Renee Villarreal (Program Co-Director), Teyo Saree Abraham (Communications and Social Media Manager)

Not pictured: Joan Brooks Baker (Board Resource Officer), Kate Ferlic (Board Treasurer), Agnetha Jamie Gloshey (Board Member)

Pat Vincent-Collawn



Stroll through your local Costco and you may see PNM Chairman Pat Collawn walking the aisles. Never would you imagine that this modest animal-loving introvert picking up pet food and the latest Costco cardigans was responsible for leading New Mexico's clean energy revolution.

To understand Pat's impact on New Mexico you have to go back to the hot and sunny Monday morning in June of 2007 when she joined PNM, the state's largest electricity company. As she walked into the Albuquerque office, Pat knew that the sun shining on her that morning would be the key to unlocking New Mexico's energy future. Pat also understood that every step taken to transform the electricity sector had to be in balance with customer needs—especially any cost changes in an economically challenged state.

PNM soon became a well-respected outlier in the industry, a black swan which was one of the first in the energy industry to publicly recognize climate change. With Pat's leadership, PNM has led the energy industry's actions to address global warming through 100% carbon-free electricity—a feat yet unmatched by other industries. PNM set a groundbreaking carbon-free goal five years ahead of New Mexico's mandate and became the first investor-owned utility to commit to zero-carbon electricity within a definite timetable.

Throughout this transformation, Pat continued to keep the focus on customers and communities impacted by the transition to clean energy, which included training, support and funding to workers, the local region and to Indigenous communities. It's because of Pat's work in renewable energy that she was invited to speak with President Joe Biden at a White House roundtable meeting to discuss the clean energy transition and the importance of forward-thinking legislative action in addressing climate change.

Pat was awarded the Electric Energy Institute's Distinguished Leadership Award for her significant contributions to the U.S. electric power industry's fight against climate change. As the sun shines in New Mexico, the impact of Pat's efforts spreads across our country. Pat is an inspiration for us all as we each play our part in climate action. It's because of Pat's work in renewable energy that she was invited to speak with President Joe Biden at a White House roundtable meeting to discuss the clean energy transition and the importance of forward-thinking legislative action in addressing climate change.

Siembra High School Honorees



Yaritza Marquez, 10th Grader

Yaritza is a determined student who doesn't let anything stand in the way of her goals. At fifteen, she knows exactly what she wants out of life and strives everyday to do so. Her dream of becoming a midwife motivates her to show up, do her best work and remain positive. Yaritza always has a smile on her face that lights up a room. She shows optimism and compassion in all aspects of life. Yaritza is inspirational to not only her peers, but all of the staff at Siembra who know her. It is amazing to see such strength, determination and perseverance in someone so young. Yaritza is an important influence on all the people around her and Siembra is lucky to have Yaritza as an empowering student.



Brinly Sandoval, 11th Grader

Brinly is committed, driven, and passionate. Not only is Brinly committed in the classroom, but at home and on the volleyball court. Brinly is on Siembra's starting volleyball team and is a devoted player. She leads the team in their chats and cheers for her peers. Brinly always displays a positive attitude and a smile. At home, Brinly helps take care of her younger siblings. She helps with child care, picking up her siblings and getting them ready for bed. Brinly helps around the house by cooking dinner and assisting with laundry. In spite of all of her commitments outside of the classroom, Brinley is also a dedicated student and is excelling in all of her classes.

Nominated by Siembra High School, Albuquerque.



Elizabeth Montoya, 12th Grader

The late Tupac Shakur once said, “Long live the rose that grew from concrete when no one else ever cared.” Elizabeth, or Liz as we all know her, is a beautiful flower who grew out of the small crack of concrete. Through each milestone of hardship, she pushed herself through the rough and heavy pieces of the cement of life to make herself who she is today. This ambitious young lady is a creative thinker, an entrepreneur that takes risks and uses her failures as learning opportunities and an advocate. She has a beautiful soul that shines light through the people she surrounds herself with. We at Siembra have no doubt that Liz will break societal stigmas that define us.



Serina Hardage, 2023 Siembra Graduate

Tenacity, grit, and perseverance describe Serina Hardage in a nutshell. Serina has been able to support herself through high school. She has self-advocated to receive accommodations and modifications to her schoolwork and has maintained a 4.0 GPA at Siembra. Serina has made decisions for herself early in her young life so that she could become who she is today. She is an entrepreneur, a high school graduate, a hard worker, independent, responsible, and a woman of color and has broken the mold. She demands justice and loyalty which are two qualities that she shows every day at school. She is an example of breaking generational trends and has already begun to create new, positive ones.



SIEMBRA LEADERSHIP
HIGH SCHOOL

Audrey Herrera-Castillo



Santa Fe
Audio
Visual

Audrey is a native New Mexican, born and raised in Santa Fe. During high school, she became a parenting teen, propelling her to live an inspired life. She graduated from SF High School and began a 30-year career in state government through a high school work-study program. She worked to the top of state government, retiring in 2018 as the Deputy Cabinet Secretary of the NM Tourism Department. That same year, she founded Momentum Santa Fe, a strategic thinking company that helps clients unearth solutions to complex problems. Audrey is an ICF certified transformational coach. She brings her expertise in marketing, program development, strategic planning, and workflow development to provide long-term solutions with actions plans and follow up.

Sharing inspired wisdom in digestible nuggets is where Audrey finds self-fulfillment. Her goal is to be the person who inspires someone in a spontaneous moment that

resonates with them for years. To this end, she has created a self-discovery playground at TheLoveOfYourLife.org. Here, they believe you are the love of your life. Free tools help anyone cultivate self-love.

Audrey is a board member and mentor with the Mother Tongue Project. Located at SFCC, MTP supports parenting students to gain critical reading and writing skills so that they can effectively give voice to their thoughts and experiences, advocate for their children, and successfully realize their dreams. MotherTongueProject.org.

Audrey has three sons, Edward, Jaycob and BenRobert. She has traveled to many parts of the world and looks forward to having her passport stamped again soon, now with her seven-year-old granddaughter Layla.

Audrey is proudly nominated by her husband, Miguel Castillo, owner of SF Audio Visual and Star Aquatics.

Sarah Nickerson



Two years ago, Reverend Sarah Nickerson founded inSpirit. It took courage, patience, and a huge leap of faith! When Sarah was a child, she created a singing group with her sister called the Glitter Girls. She loved to sing, felt free and energized by something that was bigger than her. When she graduated from high school, Sarah's Dad said, "You make a difference by being Sarah." She knows we all have gifts we share by being ourselves. Today Sarah sings, dances, and guides others in meaningful movement. Sarah imagines a future for girls that honors their bodily autonomy, which is not dictated by the societal pressure of what girls look like but celebrates who they are, where a girl can dictate what freedom looks and feels like, and where girls of all cultures are seen, heard, and honored.

Nominated by Nance and Ramon José López.

Leigh Ann Brown



When Leigh Ann moved to New Mexico thirty years ago, she left the best job in the world to live in "the most beautiful place in the world". In the late 1980's, she was on the team that went city to city activating commercial cell phone service for AT&T. Her first cell phone weighed 45 pounds, was the size of a briefcase and cost \$6,000! In Santa Fe, she longed to use her education and professional experience to make a difference in her new community. She began working with a variety of non-profits, and over the years have served on the boards of a hospital, chamber music, public and private schools, a college, at-risk children's programs, and folk art. What has she learned? Giving to others has given her more than she could ever possibly give in return.

Nominated by Nance and Ramon José López.

Julia Bergen



Julia Bergen is a smart, strong, and bold woman who has committed much of her life to enacting positive change in New Mexico. First, as Executive Director of Fine Arts for Children and Teens (FACT) and then as Executive Director of Communities In Schools of New Mexico (CIS), Julia has led by example — her commitment to education, equity, and the well-being of children in our community is truly inspirational. Smart: Recognizing that effective collaboration leads to stronger organizations, Julia has continuously sought to build connections across our community, working with school administrators, pueblo leaders, business owners, funders, policy makers, and other non-profit partners to further the work of FACT and CIS. Strong: When the COVID-19 pandemic closed schools across New Mexico, CIS was forced to find new ways to connect with the students and families that the organization serves. Within days, Julia developed a plan and mobilized

the CIS team to get crucial resources like food, internet connections, and emergency funds to those that needed them most. Bold: As Julia saw how community schools can advance equity, support student and family well-being, and promote academic success through her work with CIS, she championed the community school movement to benefit students across New Mexico. After years of legislative advocacy by Julia and others, the statewide Community Schools Act was passed into law in 2019. Julia's passion and dedication to making things better for others is inspiring — and serves as a model to all of us to try to do better ourselves.

*Nominated by Liberty Ranch
Infinite Possibilities Fund and
Rachel White.*

Kathleen Wall



Kathleen Wall (Jemez Pueblo), an accomplished clay and multimedia artist, mother of three, and an IAIA alumna '14, shares her work with the public through exhibitions, art markets, and artist residences. Wall's creative pursuits in clay are "reflective of her ever-evolving identity and relationship to her Pueblo heritage," and were instilled by her mother and aunts. Her art depicting charming Native characters earned her Museum of Indian Arts and Culture's 2020–2021 "Living Treasure." She was the IAIA Artist-in-Residence '21, the IAIA 2021 Virtual Scholarship Gala and Auction featured artist, and the 2021 IAIA President's Convocation and Campus Blessing keynote speaker.

Sareya Taylor



Twenty-one-year-old Creative Writing BFA student Sareya Taylor (White Mountain Apache Tribe and Navajo Nation) is the Inaugural Youth Poet Laureate of Phoenix and was featured by *Teen Vogue* as one of their 2022 "21 Under 21" and as one of "11 Indigenous Youth Making a Difference in their Communities." Taylor has served on the Young Woman of Color for Reproductive Justice Leadership Council and as president of the Youth Council of Future Inspired Native American Leaders. Sareya is a UNITY (United National Indian Tribal Youth) "25 Under 25" awardee. Taylor shared their poem "I Am" and won Ms. AIHEC at the 2023 American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) Conference. Taylor has served as a COVID-19 Tribal Relief Aid Advocate.



The Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) recognizes the creativity of IAIA alums who lay the groundwork for upcoming students... Kathleen Wall, the one who comes before, and Sareya Taylor, the one who comes after.

Catherine Oppenheimer



Catherine loves New Mexico and its open spaces, light, and history as well as the people and culture. She is an explorer and inspiration to many and is the epitome of the creative spirit having founded the National Dance Institute of New Mexico in 1994 (NDI-NM) and the New Mexico School for the Arts (NMSA) in 2010. From a very young age, Catherine studied classical ballet and music and when she was just 18 years, she was accepted into the New York City Ballet and that opportunity changed her life. "Being surrounded by brilliant artists, dedicated to making art, was a real-time introduction into believing that dreams can come true. It was a road map for my life and future work." Catherine is the perfect example of how the alchemy of hard work and good intentions can come together to create projects that positively impact one's community and over the years has been recognized many times for her good works and contributions. She is also one of those rare individuals who embody a learning mindset in

whatever she tackles. Much of Catherine's personal philosophy has been formed from her extensive travel which has given her a true appreciation for the freedoms and basic rights we enjoy, yet sometimes take for granted in the U.S., such as women voting, owning property etc. As Catherine says, "More than ever, we need the voices of girls and women to speak up to bring collaboration, compassion, and kindness to the fore for humanity and for our struggling planet. Somehow, we need to craft a new paradigm for what success looks like and I believe girls and women are the rightful leaders of this vision."

Nominated by Judith Espinar.

Lisa Nordstrum



Santa Fe Prep History Teacher Lisa Nordstrum has a deep appreciation for the layered history and cultural diversity of New Mexico. She is especially interested in the often lesser-known women who were instrumental to our history. Through funding from the NM legislature, Lisa developed a K-12 curriculum, which will serve to further educate students across NM on the contributions of women to our state. She created an honors women's history course for Prep seniors, using the New Mexico Historic Women Marker Program. Lisa is a proud alumna of Girls Inc. (formerly The SF Girls' Club) and says the program provided her with lasting leadership and creative skills, an opportunity to meet girls from other schools and create lasting friendships, and female role models who inspired some of her future decisions.

Monica Jojola



Monica Jojola is a Native American from the Isleta Pueblo and speaks Tiwa fluently. She attended college at The University of New Mexico and worked in the corporate world. In 2011, she left her job on a Friday and started her own company the following Monday. You could say she is a one-woman force. Fast forward to present and her small business, Montech Inc., is a business of over 100 employees in over twelve states; many of them, including Monica, have top military and government security clearances. It is an SBA-certified 8(a), Small Disadvantaged Business, Woman-Owned Small Business, and an American Indian Owned Business. In an interview, Monica said, "I should not be an anomaly as a Native American woman business owner with a nationwide footprint." Monica has a daughter who is a college graduate, serves on several boards, and enjoys mentoring young women.



Girls Inc. of Santa Fe Staff





The staff at Girls Inc. of Santa Fe devote their daily lives to helping the youth in our community grow up to be strong, smart, and bold by envisioning powerful girls in an equitable society. They are a team of artists, playwrights, athletes, farmers, pet-parents and people's parents, students, roller-skaters, rugby players, and readers. The staff is ebullient, passionate, kind, sensitive, smart and caring. GISF Staff, using research-based programming, provide girls, ranging from five to 18, with age-appropriate pro-girl resources, such as: peer engagement, adult mentoring, Health Sexuality curriculum and a "Mind + Body" initiative focused on wellness and self-care. Fortunately, Girls Inc. has worked with girls in our community for over 65 years, and our comprehensive Girls Inc. Experience is a direct and compelling response to the issues girls face. Our operational plan focuses on love, and our core belief in prioritizing relationships by being people-centric.

- 89% of the GISF girls want to attend college.
- 97% believe they can be leaders themselves.
- 100% believe they have a great future ahead of them.



Girls Inc. staff are the embodiment of our core values: healthy, educated and independent. We appreciate and honor their expertise and dedication to New Mexico Youth. Here's to the next generation of Inspirational women!

Nominated by Liberty Ranch Infinite Possibilities Fund and Sheila Vaughn.

Inspirations Nominators/Donors

ORGANIZATIONS

Bishop's Lodge, Auberge Resorts Collection
Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women (CSVANW)
Enterprise Bank and Trust
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Maya Pool
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Diane Ramsey and Bruce Johnson
Ray Sandoval
Caren Shiozaki
Jane Shreffler
Michael Spencer and Ron Bauer
Janice Sunderland
Sheila Vaughn
Christine Taylor Waddill
Lisa Williams
Rob Woods
Shane Woods
Jeff Zilka

Thank you

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Linda DeWolf, Girls Inc. Board of Directors

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Strong Smart Bold



Thank you for joining us on this thrilling journey through the pages of *Inspirations*! To discover more about Girls Inc. and our empowering mission, visit girlsincofsantafe.org and be inspired to make a difference in the lives of remarkable young women and girls.

**girls
inc.**

of Santa Fe