

PROGRAM BOOK

ndi
NEW MEXICO





ndi new mexico
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YOUNG LIVES
ACROSS OUR
STATE FOR
OVER THREE
DECADES.

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It is Garcia Automotive's honor to support NDI New Mexico, who will serve over 8,000 children this year, helping them build confidence, improve their health, and succeed in school. We love to serve our community that supports us!



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NDI NEW MEXICO

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DEAR FRIENDS

OF NDI NEW MEXICO



Today's performance is the culmination of weeks of dedication in which students have learned not only teamwork and dance choreography, but also about the power within themselves. As these students step into the spotlight, we celebrate the commitment and courage they have shown on their way to the stage—as well as the confidence, resilience, and joy of accomplishment they will carry into their lives. We hope you see all this reflected in their bright smiles, soaring leaps, and triumphant final pose.

At NDI New Mexico, we believe that engaged, confident, and healthy young people are the foundation of a thriving future for our state. NDI programs are founded on a simple yet profound belief: every child has the potential to achieve excellence. Our programs are designed to give children opportunities to rise to a challenge and discover what they are capable of, to grow in environments that affirm who they are, and to build meaningful connections with their peers, teachers, and community. Through this work, students come to understand not only that they can achieve excellence, but also that they belong, are valued, and have something unique to contribute to the world.

Because we know that what children learn in our programs travels with them into classrooms, homes, and communities, our Core Four values—work hard, do your best, never give up, and be healthy—are more than a motto. They are tools that our students internalize, empowering them to navigate challenges, build resilience, and live purposefully.

This year, thanks to the generous support of individuals, businesses, foundations, government partners, and our public schools, NDI New Mexico is reaching more than 8,000 students across the state. Inside this program book you will find a window into that work—stories of student transformation, portraits of our gifted teaching artists, and a look at the broad community of people who believe, as you do, that investing in children is the most meaningful investment of all.

Thank you for being part of the NDI New Mexico experience. Now, get ready to celebrate the excellence within every child.

It's Showtime!

Kate Moss
Board Chair

Russell Baker
Executive Director



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* In Memoriam



OUR MISSION

NDI New Mexico is founded with the knowledge that the arts have a unique power to engage and motivate children. The purpose of our distinctive programs is to help children develop discipline, a standard of excellence, and a belief in themselves that will carry over into all aspects of their lives.

EMPOWERING

NEW MEXICO'S YOUTH

HOPE.
GUIDANCE.
RESILIENCE.
SAFETY.

A LIGHTHOUSE IN THE STORM

New Mexico ranks 50th in the nation for child well-being. That statistic is not abstract. It lives in classrooms where students arrive distracted or discouraged. It lives in communities that lack coordinated youth development resources. It lives in families navigating economic instability, mental health challenges, and the lingering effects of a global pandemic.

And yet, every day across our state, children show up with extraordinary potential.

At NDI New Mexico, we believe that potential deserves protection and cultivation. It deserves structure. It deserves excellence. It deserves joy.

In uncertain times, our programs serve as a lighthouse: steady, visible, and unwavering. A lighthouse cannot calm the storm. It does not remove the waves. It offers guidance. It signals safety. And it helps each ship to navigate the waters.

This is the work we do!





I CAN

LEARNING ABILITY AND RESILIENCE

Here in New Mexico, where many students lack consistent access to arts education, safe spaces, and daily physical activity, our programs provide structured, age-appropriate challenges that cultivate stamina, discipline, and perseverance.

Each class includes sustained cardiovascular activity, strength-building, and conversations about healthy habits—reinforcing that excellence requires caring for both body and mind.

Resilience is not taught through lectures. It is built through repetition, risk-taking, and support.

We see it in students who begin hesitant and unsure—overwhelmed by noise, by peers, by self-doubt—and who slowly choose to return, to try again, to stand a little taller. We see it in children who once said, “I can’t,” and who now say, “I can.”

Earlier this spring, that resilience was on full display in our advanced company performances. In Santa Fe, **Feast of Voices** brought together dance, live choral music, storytelling, and folklore to honor the flavors, families, and traditions that define New Mexico. In Albuquerque, **The Neverending Story** illuminated the enduring power of imagination and belief—reminding audiences that transformation begins when we choose to believe in what is possible.

During today’s performances, that spirit continues.

In Santa Fe, **Forces of Nature** explores the immense power of the natural world and the profound resilience required to thrive within it. From renewal after destruction to growth after adversity, the performance celebrates nature’s ability to endure—and invites each student to recognize that same strength within themselves. Each rehearsal, each correction, each moment of effort is a reminder that they, too, can be a force of nature.

“I know, I can”



I AM

STRENGTHENING IDENTITY AND SAFETY

Hope takes root in environments where children feel seen, valued, and safe to be themselves.

In classrooms across New Mexico, students arrive with unique identities and lived experiences. Some feel invisible. Some feel unsure of their place. Some mask uncertainty behind resistance.

At NDI New Mexico, we create youth-centered, safe, structured spaces where identity is not challenged—it is revealed, cultivated, and celebrated.

Our Teaching Artists do not simply instruct—they guide. They model boundaries, discipline, empathy, and joy. Instructors hold students to high standards while ensuring they feel valued and supported.

In our advanced teams and company programs, students step into leadership roles. They become mentors themselves—guiding younger dancers, modeling excellence, and carrying the light forward.

Identity is strengthened not through isolation, but through belonging.

*"I am happy
and healthy"*





WE CONNECT

BUILDING COMMUNITY AND BELONGING

A lighthouse is not only a beacon—it is a shining light of hope.

Children work together to learn choreography, grow their abilities, and strengthen connections, building their sense of community beyond dance. The resulting performances unite families, schools, and communities in celebration. They transform gyms and theaters into spaces of shared pride and collective hope.

In Albuquerque, **Route 66: Legends of the Road** honors the Centennial of the Mother Road with a musical journey from Chicago to Los Angeles. Route 66 has long symbolized freedom, adventure, and the enduring spirit of possibility. It connects towns, cultures, and generations across miles.

Like Route 66, NDI New Mexico is a pathway. A steady route through challenge. A place where children discover direction, momentum, and the courage to move forward.

Whether through the raw power of nature, the open road, the gathering of voices, or the courage to imagine a better world, each performance this season reflects the same truth:

RESILIENCE IS LEARNED.
GUIDANCE MATTERS.
CONNECTION SUSTAINS US.

*"We Dance
together"*



Joy and Rigor:

THE LIGHT THAT GUIDES

THIS YEAR, NDI NEW MEXICO IS SERVING MORE THAN 8,500 STUDENTS IN 90 PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACROSS 29 COMMUNITIES, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OVER 300 TEACHERS.

Children rise to high expectations when those expectations are wrapped in encouragement.

Our recipe for success is simple and powerful:

- Excellence Through Effort
- Identity Through Expression
- Community Through Connection

This recipe results in our Impact Model for Youth and Families, telling the story of what we do through the impact we create. It is grounded in three pillars:

OPPORTUNITIES. POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT. CONNECTIONS.

In our classrooms, joy and rigor coexist. Students are challenged physically, mentally, and creatively. They are asked to work hard, do their best, never give up, and be healthy. They rehearse choreography, learn to keep time and work together, to project energy, to move with precision.

They also learn what it means to care for their bodies and minds. Through our Hip to Be Fit® curriculum, students build stamina, strengthen muscles, increase flexibility, and understand the connection between hydration, nutrition, heart rate, and emotional regulation. In a state facing significant health disparities, movement becomes more than choreography, it becomes a pathway to lifelong wellness. And they learn something even more important:

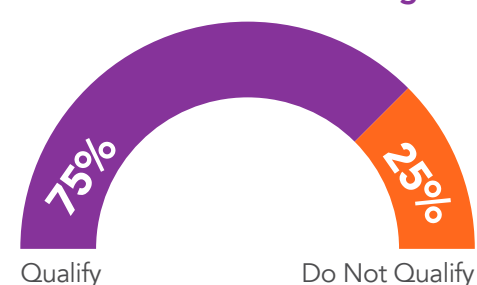
"I CAN."

WHO WE SERVE



65% Hispanic
19% Anglo
7% Native American
6% African American, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Mixed Race
3% Prefer not to say

NDI New Mexico Students Qualifying for the Federal Free or Reduced Cost Meal Program



ALBUQUERQUE

21st Century Public Academy
A. Montoya Elementary
Adobe Acres Elementary
Alameda Elementary
Alamosa Elementary
Bandelier Elementary
Bel Air Elementary
Chamiza Elementary
Cochiti Elementary
Comanche Elementary
Coral Community Charter
Dolores Gonzales Elementary
E.G. Ross Elementary
East San Jose Elementary
Edward Gonzales Elementary
Eugene Field Elementary
Inez Science and Technology Magnet
Janet Kahn School of Integrated Arts Magnet
Lew Wallace Elementary
Longfellow Dual Language Magnet
Los Ranchos Elementary
Monte Vista Elementary
Montezuma Elementary
Mountain View Elementary
Navajo Elementary
North Valley Academy Charter
Osuna Elementary
Reginald Chavez Elementary
Rio Grande Academy of Fine Arts
Sandia Base Elementary
Sierra Vista Elementary
Whittier Elementary

RIO RANCHO

Colinas del Norte Elementary
Maggie Cordova Elementary
Puesta del Sol Elementary
Sandia Vista Elementary

NORTHERN NM

Alcalde Elementary
Chimayo Elementary
E.T. Salazar Elementary
Hernandez Elementary
James H. Rodriguez Elementary
Ohkay Owingeh Community
Pablo Roybal Elementary
Tony E. Quintana Elementary

SANTA FE

Acequia Madre Elementary
Aspen Community
Atalaya Elementary
Carlos Gilbert Elementary
Cesar Chavez Elementary
Cochiti Elementary
El Camino Real Academy
Gonzales Community
Kearny Elementary
Salazar Elementary
Sweeney Elementary
Tesuque Elementary
Turquoise Trail Charter

RESIDENCY

ARTESIA

Central Elementary
Hermosa Elementary
Roselawn Elementary
Yeso Elementary
Yucca Elementary
Grand Heights Early Childhood

CARLSBAD

Cottonwood Elementary

CUBA

Cuba Elementary

DULCE

Dulce Elementary

GALLUP

Red Rock Elementary

HATCH

Rio Grande Elementary

HOBBS

Broadmoor Elementary
Booker T. Washington Elementary
College Lane Elementary
Coronado Elementary
Edison Elementary
Jefferson Elementary
Sanger Elementary
Southern Heights Elementary
Stone Elementary
Taylor Elementary
Will Rogers Elementary

LAS CRUCES

Hermosa Heights Elementary
Sonoma Elementary

LAS VEGAS

Mike Mateo Sena Elementary
Sierra Vista Elementary

LOVINGTON

Yarbro Elementary

MAGDALENA

Magdalena Elementary

RATON

Raton Intermediate School

ROSWELL

Nancy Lopez Elementary
Pecos Elementary

SILVER CITY/BAYARD

Central Elementary
G.W. Stout Elementary
Harrison Schmitt Elementary
Jose Barrios Elementary

SOCORRO

Cottonwood Valley Charter
Midway Elementary
Parkview Elementary
San Antonio Elementary

TAOS

Enos Garcia Elementary

TULAROSA

Tularosa Intermediate School

WAGON MOUND

Wagon Mound Elementary



*2025-2026 Projections



A PATHWAY OF STABILITY

From in-school classes to residencies, from SWAT and Celebration Team to Company XCel, from Dance for Joy in Pre-K classrooms to Teaching Excellence® workshops for educators, NDI New Mexico offers not a moment—but a pathway.

Children can begin in early childhood and continue through high school graduation. At every stage, they encounter consistency, structure, high expectations, and belonging. They also encounter predictable routines, safe adult relationships, and physical outlets that support mental health, stress regulation, and long-term well-being—critical foundations for academic engagement and lifelong success.

In a state ranked last in child well-being, a reliable safe harbor matters. A reliable, steady light. And stability is not passive. It is active, intentional, and rooted in community.

IN-SCHOOL PATHWAY

IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

(3rd–5th Grade)

Elementary school children learn perseverance, focus, and commitment. Our teaching artists integrate dance with youth development techniques, using movement as a tool to enhance concentration, instill a strong work ethic, and inspire achievement. In-School Programs take place in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, and the Española Valley (North Program), as well as dozens of other communities around the state through our Residency Program.



ADVANCED TEAMS

(4th–9th Grade)

Students have opportunities for more rigorous training, skill-building, and performance opportunities through our SWAT Team, Celebration Team, and Summer Institute programs. Students work with guest artists, learn diverse styles of dance, and are often inspired to continue to more advanced technical dance training, with our Company XCel.



AFTER-SCHOOL PATHWAY

YOUNG CHILDREN'S DIVISION

(Ages 3–6)

In Creative Movement and primary levels of dance in the After-School programs at The Hiland Theater and The Dance Barns, children as young as three begin exploring movement, coordination, and self-expression. Classes build physical strength, support social, emotional, and cognitive development, and inspire a love of dance.



AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

(Ages 3–18)

JUNIOR AND SENIOR DIVISION
Dancers have opportunities for beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels of many genres of dance including ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop, modern dance, and much more.

I CAN. I AM. WE CONNECT.

A lighthouse stands because someone built it. Maintains it. Powers it.

Our work is possible because teachers partner with us. Because families trust us. Because communities open their doors. Because supporters invest in the long-term development of New Mexico's children. Together, we are not simply responding to statistics.

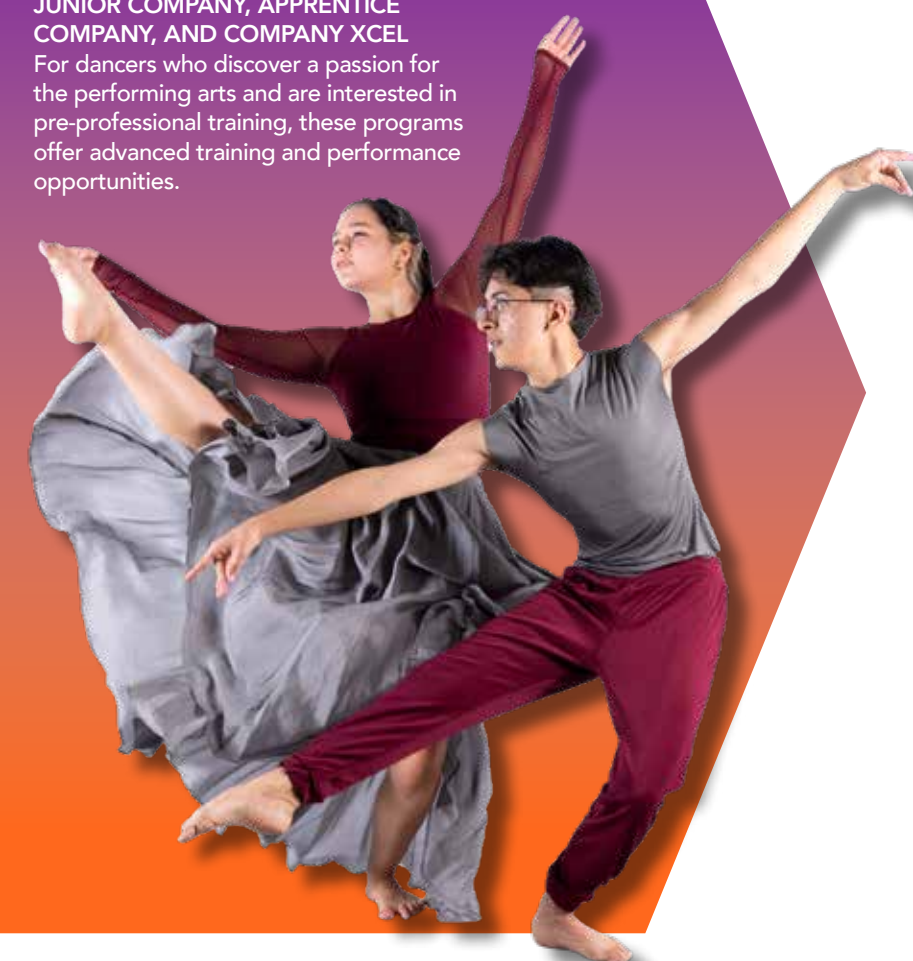
We are building a generation of young people who can navigate challenges with resilience. Who can express identity with confidence. Who can connect with empathy. Who can care for their bodies and minds. Who can stand in the storm—and shine. And who can say, with conviction:



PRE-PROFESSIONAL COMPANIES

JUNIOR COMPANY, APPRENTICE COMPANY, AND COMPANY XCEL

For dancers who discover a passion for the performing arts and are interested in pre-professional training, these programs offer advanced training and performance opportunities.





A Shining Light of Hope

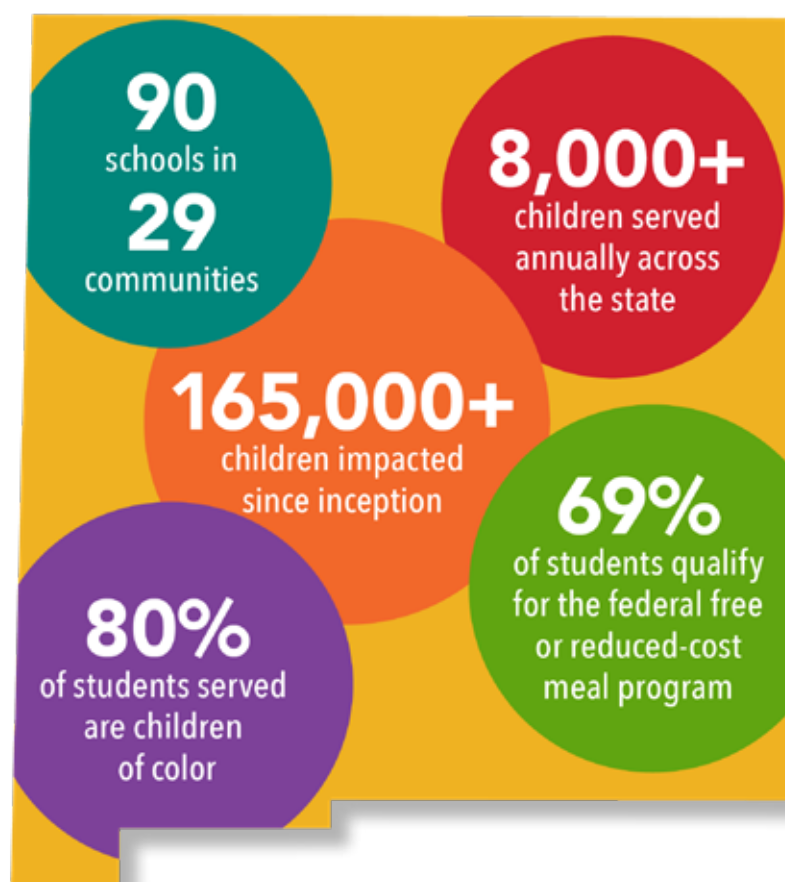
MEASURABLE IMPACT AND SUSTAINABLE RESULTS

For more than three decades, NDI New Mexico has been a transformative force in the lives of thousands of children across the state.

With an unwavering commitment to excellence, our organization fosters **ACADEMIC SUCCESS**, **PERSONAL WELL-BEING**, and **LIFELONG HEALTHY HABITS** through the power of our programs and unique methodology.

OUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

By implementing a robust culture of assessment and continuous improvement, NDI New Mexico has established itself as an **IMPACTFUL** and **RESULTS-DRIVEN** organization, demonstrating **MEASURABLE SUCCESS YEAR AFTER YEAR.**



PROVEN ACADEMIC AND BEHAVIORAL OUTCOMES

As New Mexico grapples with poverty and sub-par academic performance, NDI New Mexico offers a proven solution.

Over nearly two decades, we have sponsored multiple independent studies—including research conducted by the University of New Mexico (UNM) Center for Education Policy Research—to examine how our programs influence academic achievement, physical health, and social development.

Time and again, the findings confirm what we see every day: participation in NDI New Mexico leads to **HIGHER TEST SCORES**, **STRONGER GPAs**, and **HEALTHIER BEHAVIORS** that improve physical well-being and foster critical life skills.

A study by The University of New Mexico's Center for Education Policy Research analyzed data from over 41,000 students in grades three through nine. The findings were striking:

30% to 42% Higher GPAs

NDI New Mexico students consistently had higher GPAs than their peers —30% to 42% higher on average.

6%-17% Higher Assessments

On standardized assessments, NDI New Mexico students outperformed their non-participating peers by 6%-17% in math, reading, writing, and science.

Long-Term Academic Success

NDI New Mexico students demonstrated marked improvements in self-discipline, focus, planning, and prioritization skills, key indicators of long-term academic success.

Further research conducted with The University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center focused on the impact of NDI New Mexico's Advanced Training programs. The results were impressive:

1.5-2.5 Times More Proficient

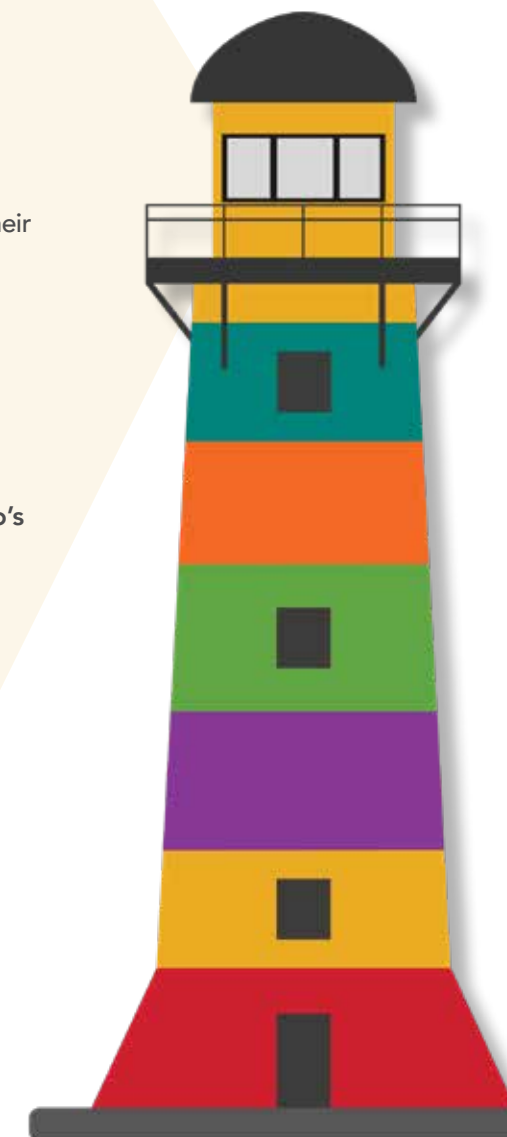
Students in Advanced Training were 1.5-2.5 times more likely to be proficient in math, reading, and science standardized tests than their non-participating peers.

57% Less Absences

Participants had 1.5-2 times higher odds of having fewer than 10 absences per academic year, indicating stronger school engagement and attendance.

2.7 Times Less Disciplinary Infractions

Students in the Advanced Training programs were 2.7 times less likely to have disciplinary infractions, reinforcing the program's effectiveness in promoting positive behavior and self-regulation.



Beyond the Numbers: A CULTURE OF CONFIDENCE AND EXCELLENCE

While statistics and independent assessment paint a compelling picture of success, the personal experiences of students are equally telling. Survey results highlight the profound impact of NDI New Mexico on students' self-esteem and motivation.

Through structured programs and mentorship, NDI New Mexico students cultivate key life skills such as **TEAMWORK**, **GOAL-SETTING**, and **PERSEVERANCE**. Using arts education as a catalyst for development has helped thousands of children not only succeed in school but also build resilience, creativity, and leadership skills that serve them well into adulthood. Classroom teacher surveys paint a similar picture of impact.

STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS:



TEACHER SURVEY RESULTS:

A MODEL FOR LASTING IMPACT

The longer a child participates in our programs, the more profound the impact. NDI New Mexico's Impact Model for Children and Families underscores the organization's long-term commitment to fostering positive outcomes.



LOOKING AHEAD: A CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

As NDI New Mexico enters its fourth decade, we remain committed to evaluating and refining our programs to maximize and assess impact. A new program evaluation will soon be launched to further measure the long-term benefits of participation, ensuring that NDI New Mexico continues to be a beacon of excellence for children across the state.

Through dance, discipline, and a dedication to excellence, NDI New Mexico is shaping the future—one student at a time. The results speak for themselves:

- HIGHER ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
- IMPROVED WELL-BEING
- DEVELOPMENT OF CONFIDENT, RESILIENT YOUNG LEADERS

In the face of the many challenges facing our youth, NDI New Mexico stands as a powerful force for change, proving that with the right support and opportunities, every child can succeed and excel.



2026 GRADUATES

No matter which pathway through the programs a student travels at NDI New Mexico, students who stay in the program for multiple years and participate in our advanced training opportunities emerge as engaged, motivated young leaders, carrying forward the values of teamwork, respect, and resilience.

Examples of these young leaders are our Celebration Team Graduates, and our graduating Seniors from The Hiland and Dance Barns After-School programs. These dancers have participated in NDI New Mexico programs for anywhere from 5-12 years, benefiting from the long-term impacts of the pedagogy. We celebrate and congratulate our 2026 graduates; we are so proud of you!



**WORK HARD,
DO YOUR BEST,
NEVER GIVE UP,
AND BE HEALTHY**



Congrats! TO OUR
2026 GRADS:

ALBUQUERQUE:

**Sedona Aragon
Nathan Baca
Zoe Back
Camila Carreon
Jaley Everage
Alyssa Gallegos
Mia Hernandez
Elisa Lopez-Horst
Emily Perez
Janna Pinex
Cecilia Rodriguez
Silvia Rodriguez
Mikayla Roybal
Sophia Roybal**

SANTA FE:

**Zoe Benson
Ziamara Chavez
Adam Dakhli
Kamilla Davis
Amara Jafar
Lexie Riley
Lilli Robins
Rebekah Segura
Antonio Serna**

OUR PURPOSE IS TO
INSPIRE
EDUCATE &
EMPOWER
The Next Generation



OUR PROGRAMS

At NDI New Mexico, our mission is to inspire, educate, and empower the next generation. We believe that all children have the capacity to learn to work hard, never give up, do their best, and ultimately experience success. Combining arts education with youth development, our transformative programs instill confidence, discipline, and resilience—creating a lasting impact on students, their families, and their communities.

IN-SCHOOL PROGRAM

The NDI New Mexico In-School classes are taught at public elementary schools during the school day as part of their curriculum. Led by expert instructors and live pianists, these classes engage 3rd-5th graders, including those with special needs, in Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, Santa Fe, Pojoaque, and the Española Valley, and instill the values of our Core Four philosophy: **WORK HARD, DO YOUR BEST, NEVER GIVE UP, AND BE HEALTHY!**

Students receive 15-30 weeks of instruction, culminating in an exciting final performance that showcases their growth. These transformative classes are completely free for children and their families, ensuring every child has access to the fundamentals for success in school and beyond!

CHILDREN:
3,151

SCHOOLS:
56



THE ART OF TEACHING SPOTLIGHT Jessie DuBois

ALBUQUERQUE OUTREACH ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

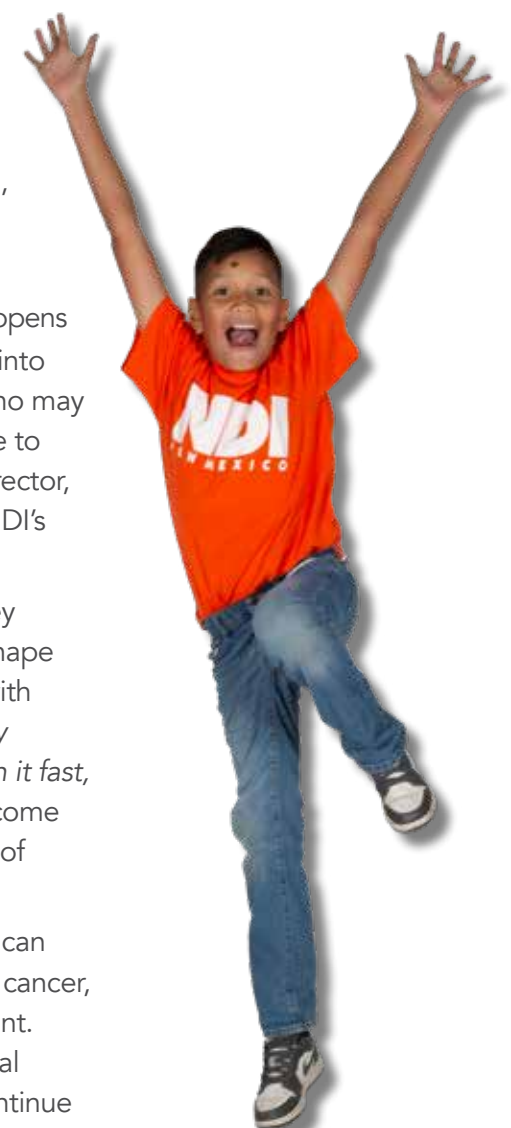
A true Albuquerque native, Jessie DuBois has been part of NDI New Mexico since 2010, bringing both deep roots and dynamic energy to her work. She began dancing at just three years old, later graduating from the University of New Mexico with a degree in Theatre and Dance. At 18, she launched and directed the Albuquerque-based company Dance eXcesS (DXS), performing and choreographing for over a decade while training with nationally recognized artists. Yet it wasn't until she attended an NDI Summer Institute performance that she discovered the work that would ultimately define her path. Soon after, she began apprenticing with NDI, and as she puts it, it "sealed her fate."

"In the public schools, teaching kids, that is my why,"

Jessie shares. Each day, she witnesses the joy and transformation that happens when students—many experiencing dance for the very first time—step into the classroom. She has a particular passion for working with students who may begin hesitant, especially boys, and watching them shift from reluctance to full participation and pride. Today, as Albuquerque Outreach Artistic Director, Jessie has helped introduce thousands of children to the arts through NDI's In-School Programs, currently reaching 37 public schools across the city.

Jessie's teaching is rooted in connection. She meets students where they are—drawing from the music, movement, and cultural influences that shape their world—while creating a space that is structured, joyful, and alive with possibility. *"Coming to an NDI class offers them an escape from a heavy world,"* she says. *"It allows space for them to just be themselves. I teach it fast, and we have a blast."* In her classroom, students from all backgrounds come together on equal footing, building confidence, discipline, and a sense of belonging through shared experience.

Over the years, Jessie has seen firsthand how powerful that experience can be—from a student returning to dance as a way to heal after childhood cancer, to many others finding confidence, resilience, and joy through movement. Many of her former students stay connected, some pursuing professional dance careers, others becoming teachers themselves. Whether they continue dancing or not, Jessie knows the impact endures—empowering young people to move through life with strength, identity, and possibility.



RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Our Residency Program brings the transformative power of our In-School Programs to rural and urban schools across New Mexico. Over one to three weeks, our traveling team immerses students in daily classes that build confidence and creativity, culminating in thrilling performances that unite schools, families, and communities.



COMMUNITIES:
21

CHILDREN:
3,075

SCHOOLS
47



HIP TO BE FIT®

BE HEALTHY is one of our Core Four principles for excellence! Integrated into every class, Hip to Be Fit® encourages kids to stay active, make smart choices, and build endurance. By promoting healthy habits, we empower New Mexico's children and families to embrace lifelong wellness.



SUPER WONDERFUL ADVANCED TEAM (SWAT) AND CELEBRATION TEAM PROGRAM

On weekends, our SWAT and Celebration Teams offer continuing dance opportunities for students introduced to NDI in the In-School Program at their schools in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. SWAT and Celebration Teams are a full scholarship program and are offered free of charge to all participants.

COMMUNITIES:
7

CHILDREN:
1,681



EARLY CHILDHOOD OUTREACH PROGRAM

Through our Dance For Joy curriculum, young dancers (ages 3-6) embark on a joyful journey of movement and self-expression. Developed in collaboration with Allegra Lillard, this research-backed program nurtures creativity, coordination, and key developmental milestones, fostering confidence and a love of learning.

CHILDREN:
353

SCHOOLS:
23



AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

THE DANCE BARN (SANTA FE) AND THE HILAND THEATER (ALBUQUERQUE)

When the school day ends, our After-School Programs provide a safe, structured, and inclusive space where children ages 3-18 can build confidence, explore their potential, and develop essential life skills. We offer high-quality classes, from ballet to hip-hop, that foster creativity, resilience, and a strong sense of belonging. Sliding-scale tuition ensures every child has access to an enriching after-school experience—whether they're stepping into their first class or pursuing a future in the performing arts.

CHILDREN:
960



PRE-PROFESSIONAL COMPANIES

Children and teens who participated in our After-School Program and are ready to take their training to the pre-professional track may be invited to audition for our Companies.

Junior Company

(ages 10-13, intermediate level)

Apprentice Company

(ages 13-16, intermediate/advanced level)

Company XCel

(ages 15-18, advanced level)

Our Company program offers a pre-professional track where students are given additional performance opportunities, work with guest artists, participate in master classes, and receive support for scholarship funds to pursue advanced summer training.



SUMMER PROGRAMS

Dance doesn't stop when the school year ends! Our Summer Programs at The Dance Barns in Santa Fe and The Hiland Theater in Albuquerque offer exciting classes in ballet, jazz, hip-hop, tap, modern, and more! With sliding-scale tuition, high-quality training is accessible to all.

NDI NEW MEXICO ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Daniel Herrera



NDI NEW MEXICO ALUMNUS AND ALBUQUERQUE ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER

Daniel Herrera's connection to NDI New Mexico began early—at Navajo Elementary, where his mother served as principal. He was just a "tiny tot" when he first stepped into an NDI class. His very first role was playing "the sheriff," which culminated in being lifted offstage by a group of older dancers. What stayed with him wasn't nerves, but the feeling of something exciting, structured, and bigger than himself. Even then, NDI planted the seeds of discipline, confidence, and connection that would guide him for years to come.

At NDI, Daniel discovered a powerful way of learning. Movements were taught step by step—each piece building toward something greater. That approach became foundational, shaping how he tackled challenges in school, athletics, and beyond. Paired with NDI's Core Four—Work Hard, Do Your Best, Never Give Up, Be Healthy—it gave him a framework that he carried into every part of his life. As he grew, NDI also gave him opportunities to lead, including choreographing a section of a Chicago-themed performance—an experience that affirmed his voice, built confidence, and showed him he was capable of more than he had imagined.



The sense of community at NDI left an equally lasting impression. From the excitement of performance days to the camaraderie backstage, Daniel felt part of something larger—a community that believed in him. When he chose to pursue baseball, it was not a departure from NDI, but a continuation of what it had given him. The confidence to perform under pressure, the discipline to prepare, and the resilience to persevere carried him through New Mexico Junior College, the University of New Mexico, and into four years of professional baseball.

Today, Daniel brings those same lessons into his work in private banking at UMB Bank, where he navigates complex decisions and builds meaningful relationships every day. Though he no longer dances, the values he learned at NDI remain central to who he is. Reconnecting with the organization as an adult reignited his passion for its mission, inspiring him to serve on the Albuquerque Engagement Committee and give back to the next generation. His story is one of many—but a powerful reminder of what is possible when children are given the opportunity to discover their potential and carry it forward into their lives.



TEACHING ARTISTS ARE THE
BACKBONE OF NDI NEW MEXICO,
AND THE KEY TO OUR IMPACT.



The Art of **TEACHING**

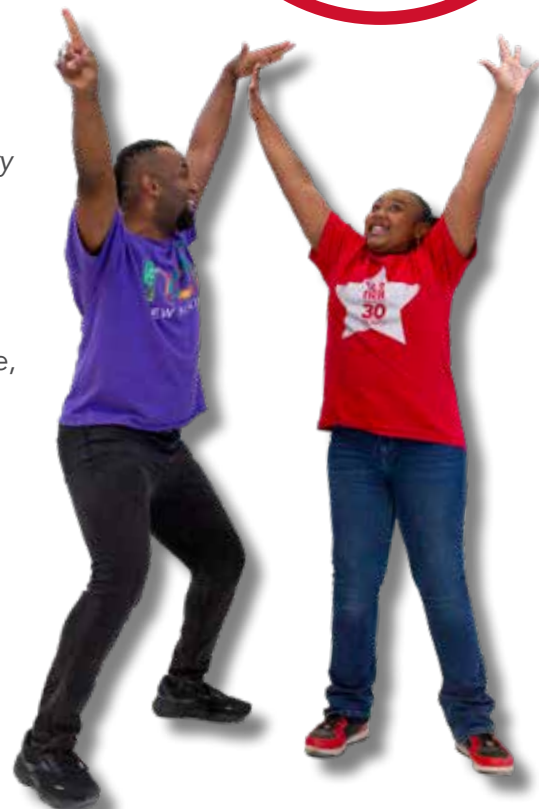
We invest in robust training to deliver our methodology to children in our In-School Programs, work with high caliber choreographers to create vehicles for student development in Advanced Training Programs, and create enrichment opportunities for teaching artists in every program to continue developing their practice. The example our teaching artists set when they aim for excellence themselves is one of the most inspiring things about NDI New Mexico.

TEACHING

EXCELLENCE®

Our **Teaching Excellence®** Workshop is a critical building block in preparing teaching artists to lead fast-paced, engaging classes. Our methodology is rooted in the teachings of Jacques d'Amboise and Founding Artistic Director Catherine Oppenheimer, as outlined in her book *Teaching Excellence: A Guide to Establishing an Elementary School Dance Program Based on the Work of National Dance Institute*. During the two-week intensive, participants work directly with children alongside master teachers, gaining hands-on experience in NDI New Mexico's highly interactive, joyful, and athletic approach.

2026 WORKSHOP:
ALBUQUERQUE
AUGUST 10-21, 2026



TEACHING EXCELLENCE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

NDI New Mexico is proud to collaborate with Allegra Lillard to present her Dance For Joy curriculum and teacher training. This curriculum and pedagogy provide solid concepts, activities, and strategies for teaching artists to create a joyful journey for young children to reach key early childhood development milestones, supporting their physical, emotional, social, and cognitive development.

2026 WORKSHOP:
SANTA FE – MAY 18-22, 2026
ALBUQUERQUE – JULY 13-17, 2026



STAFF ENRICHMENT AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Annual staff training is vital to the success of NDI New Mexico's programs, equipping our teaching artists to inspire and support every student. This year, our Outreach teaching artists and musicians received three days of professional development from NDI's Collaborative for Teaching and Learning, with Emily Meisner and Yakir Ben-Hur. The team learned and practiced skills that keep the pacing and flow of classes engaging for children, bring creativity and partnership to the relationship between the teaching artist and musician, and support the development of great choreography. Artistic staff also benefited from a new program providing financial support to participate in relevant professional development opportunities outside the organization. So far, staff have participated in workshops on creating inclusive classrooms for children with disabilities, Spanish language courses, and workshops to deepen technical skills and in specific dance disciplines. At NDI New Mexico, we believe that the best teachers are life-long learners, and we are committed to supporting that learning in order to bring the highest quality programs to New Mexico's youth.



MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT

Steve Figueroa

MUSICIAN

Born into a musical family, Steve Figueroa was largely self-taught—playing drums at age nine before transitioning to piano as a teenager. Over the years, he became a fixture in New Mexico’s music scene as a keyboardist and bandleader, performing across jazz, Latin, and pop genres. His path to NDI New Mexico came through longtime friend and former Musical Director Bert Dalton. Initially hesitant—*“I didn’t see myself working with kids,”* Steve admits—he agreed to fill in for a single class. That one morning turned into more than two decades of teaching. *“I ended up really liking it,”* he says. *“And here I am, 20-plus years later.”*

What began as a favor quickly became a calling. Steve discovered a deep connection with students, using music as a bridge into their world. By incorporating familiar tunes and responding in real time to the energy of the classroom, he helps create an environment that is both structured and joyful. *“At its heart, NDI is a motivational program,”* he says.

“We use music and dance to show kids that if you work hard, do your best, and never give up—you can succeed.”

His playing becomes a constant, dynamic partner in the classroom—matching the instructors’ energy and guiding students through movement, rhythm, and expression.

Steve is especially inspired by NDI’s reach—bringing high-quality arts education to schools and communities where access is often limited. He sees firsthand how students grow, not only physically and artistically, but emotionally and socially. In a world increasingly shaped by screens, he values how NDI draws students out of their shells, encouraging them to be active, engaged, and connected to one another. *“The energy we put out there,”* he reflects, *“is the same energy the kids give back.”*

After more than two decades, the impact of that work continues to come full circle. Steve has met former students who remember their NDI experience vividly—some now adults, some even colleagues. For him, those moments are a powerful reminder of the lasting impression of the program. Through his musicianship, consistency, and care, Steve helps create the foundation for every class—supporting teachers, inspiring students, and bringing the joy of music to life in a way that resonates far beyond the studio.

Teaching Artist IN RESIDENCE



This program gives students the opportunity to work with a professional choreographer and their team of guest artists. Students are inspired, challenged, and have their horizons expanded as they learn not only about what dance can develop in them as individuals, but also learn about the career opportunities in the field.

Ellen Weinstein

2025-26 TEACHING ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

We were thrilled to welcome Ellen Weinstein, National Dance Institute’s Artistic Director Emerita, as our 2025-26 Teaching Artist in Residence. Ellen began teaching and choreographing for NDI in 1986 and served as Artistic Director from 1995 to 2021. A visionary leader in arts education, she expanded Jacques d’Amboise’s founding mission to provide every child access to participatory dance and music, growing NDI’s In-School Program to serve thousands of children across New York City. She also helped establish the Associates of National Dance Institute (ANDI), a national network of programs.

During her tenure, Ms. Weinstein’s choreography was performed at renowned venues including the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, and the White House. She developed NDI’s Artist-in-Residence program, creating opportunities for students to work directly with distinguished artists while supporting emerging choreographers—particularly artists of color—in refining their craft within the NDI Method. She also launched the NDI Collaborative for Teaching and Learning, a pioneering professional development initiative that trains teaching artists and arts organizations nationwide.

During her visit to Santa Fe this year, Ellen set her choreography to Aretha Franklin’s “Respect” on the Santa Fe Celebration Team, and also shared incredible archival footage of her work as one of the first teaching artists to come to New Mexico with Jacques! Our dancers and audience were delighted to see video of Ellen teaching at Alvord Elementary School in 1991, and one of our current Celebration Team parents recognized her sister as one of the children dancing with Ellen! It was an inspiring full circle moment that hit home the impact that the program has had for generations.

Ellen’s experience also included a special panel conversation with the NDI community featuring NDI New Mexico Founding Artistic Director **Catherine Oppenheimer**, and program alumni now serving in leadership roles: **Jesse Martinez**, NDI New Mexico board member, and **Jermaine Jones**, Executive Director of the National Dance Institute in New York.





THE ART OF TEACHING SPOTLIGHT

Alex Langley

NORTH OUTREACH ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Alex Langley's journey into dance began with a moment of recognition. As an eighth-grade piano student, he passed a studio and saw a Black male dancer moving with strength and artistry—an experience that changed his path. He went on to study at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts and train with Dallas Black Dance Theatre, carrying with him a clear purpose: *"I always knew I wanted to give the same opportunity to dance to a kid like me—someone who had never seen anything like that, and certainly not anyone who looked like me."*

After graduating from Point Park University, Alex built a dynamic professional career spanning concert dance, musical theater, commercial work, and international touring, while also dedicating more than 15 years to arts education and outreach. Today, as NDI New Mexico's North Outreach Artistic Director, he brings that full breadth of experience to students across the state. *"Every experience in my career led me to this moment,"* he shares.

In the classroom, Alex sees transformation happen in real time. Students who may begin hesitant are drawn in by the energy, the music, and the joy of moving together. *"At first, it's something completely different from their everyday life,"* he says. *"But once they start to move, to count, to shout and express themselves—they get it."* Through moments of play, creativity, and shared experience, Alex helps students build confidence, discipline, and a sense of belonging—opening the door to possibility, just as it once opened for him.

For Alex, this work is about far more than dance—it is about access, identity, and opportunity. At NDI New Mexico, he creates a space where students feel seen, supported, and challenged to grow. Each class becomes a place where young people discover what they are capable of—learning to work hard, do their best, and never give up. In doing so, Alex is not only shaping dancers, but helping to shape confident, connected young people who carry that sense of possibility into every part of their lives.



THE ART OF TEACHING SPOTLIGHT

Pamela Ladas

SANTA FE ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE AND DANCE BARNs TEACHING ARTIST

Pamela Ladas was practicing as a Doctor of Oriental Medicine when she first discovered NDI New Mexico through one of her patients—and immediately knew she wanted to be involved. Drawing on her background in dance, she joined the NDI New Mexico artistic staff in 2003, returning to the studio to dance, choreograph, and teach children. *"I think all young people have so much creative potential,"* Pamela shares. *"They naturally love to act, express themselves, and move—and NDI gives them the freedom to do that."*

Pamela also values being part of the creative, collaborative process with other teaching artists—especially this year, as she takes on *"writing the show"* for the end-of-year event. Developing new ideas, selecting music, creating choreography, and writing lyrics and poetry are all still in progress, and she admits, *"The puzzle of how it will all come together is both nerve-racking and thrilling."*

"I have seen so many dancers grow not only in skill, but in belief in themselves, belief that if they really work hard and persevere, they can succeed, that they are special and have what it takes. I am so happy when we can help young people become more self-confident—it makes my heart soar!"



THE HILAND THEATER

A Legacy of Connection



For more than 75 years, The Hiland Theater has been a gathering place along historic Route 66, a beacon of culture, creativity, and community in Albuquerque. Since opening in 1950, the glow of its marquee has drawn families, students, and neighbors together, evolving from a beloved movie house into a home for live performance and shared experience. When NDI New Mexico partnered with Bernalillo County to restore the building and reopen its doors in 2012, The Hiland entered a new chapter, once again filled with energy, connection, and purpose.

Today, The Hiland is at the heart of NDI New Mexico in Albuquerque, welcoming thousands of children and families each year. Inside its studios and theater, students experience the joy and rigor that define NDI, building discipline, confidence, and a belief in themselves.

Now we seek to build on this foundation by extending that same sense of opportunity, belonging, and community beyond the building and into the surrounding neighborhood. As part of this vision, plans are underway to enhance the exterior experience, including a welcoming courtyard, improved pedestrian access, and an updated marquee that reflects the vibrancy inside.

We envision The Hiland Theater's role as a vibrant cultural and youth development hub at the center of a connected neighborhood. With thoughtful design, strong partnerships, and continued investment, the area surrounding The Hiland can evolve into an even more dynamic and welcoming space for families, artists, and residents. As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Route 66, we are excited to embrace this opportunity to both honor The Hiland's legacy and expand its impact for generations to come.

SPOTLIGHT

Hilma Chynoweth



HONORING A NEIGHBORHOOD, BUILDING THE FUTURE

Chair of the Activating Hiland Committee:

A group of key stakeholders dedicated to an initiative that brings youth development, community, and creativity together at The Hiland Theater.

For Hilma Chynoweth, The Hiland Theater is more than a historic landmark along Route 66—it's a place filled with memory, community, and possibility.

Growing up in the neighborhoods around UNM, Hilma remembers The Hiland Theater as a vibrant gathering place. Today, as an NDI New Mexico board member and a leader of the Activating Hiland Committee, she is helping imagine how this beloved theater can once again serve as a hub for the community.

Hilma first encountered NDI more than 25 years ago while volunteering with the Junior League of Albuquerque. At the time, she simply knew it as a program that brought dance to children. Over the years, through deeper involvement and eventually joining the board, she came to see the organization's broader purpose.

"Early on, I realized it was more than dance, it was a youth empowerment organization," she recalls.

For Hilma, the impact of NDI is clearest when listening to students and families describe how the program has helped them build confidence, belonging, and joy. The Activating Hiland Committee aims to bring that same spirit to the surrounding neighborhood. By expanding performances, partnerships, and community events at the theater, NDI New Mexico hopes to create a welcoming space where families, neighbors, and students gather year-round.

"If we have positive activity coming in and out of that building," Hilma says, "it will have a ripple effect."

Through collaboration with community leaders, local residents, and volunteers, Activating Hiland is working to honor the theater's rich history while shaping a new era of connection and opportunity for Albuquerque families.



Deepening Impact Through Partnership

NDI is proud to share the stage with the dancers from The Lightning Boy Foundation in its culminating year-end event, beautifully aligning their acknowledgment that the arts have a unique power to engage and motivate children, using dance to strengthen their abilities, identities, and a sense of belonging in their communities.

The Lightning Boy Foundation is a nonprofit organization in Northern New Mexico that provides traditional hoop dance instruction and other dance programming to youth, ages two and up. Their mission is dedicated to nurturing and building confidence and integrity through culture and artistic expression.

A previous partnership between NDI New Mexico and the Lightning Boy Foundation was centered around a collaborative grant from the City of Santa Fe in 2022, which culminated in *River Gives Life*, a dance film set in a New Mexico arroyo that highlights the artistry of hoop dance while honoring cultural traditions and the natural landscape.

Valentino Tzigiwhaeno Rivera was a boy who, from a very young age, participated in traditional pueblo dances, traditional hoop dancing, hip hop and breakdancing, performing all over the world. Valentino danced at Pearl Harbor for the homecoming of the USS *Santa Fe*, and performed with a tribally inclusive team of dancers from New Mexico, traveling from San Diego and Phoenix to Paris, Florence, and the U.S. Embassy in Geneva, where they performed for ambassadors attending the UN Human Rights Council.



Son of George Rivera, former Governor of Pojoaque Pueblo and a renowned sculptor, and Felicia Rosacker-Rivera, Valentino was involved in a car accident that caused a traumatic neck injury, leaving him paralyzed and unable to speak or move. He fought with remarkable strength to regain his cherished abilities, enduring numerous surgeries over 14 months. Valentino passed away at the age of eight—a sacred number in Native communities—having, in his short life, already filled a remarkable dance card on this earth.

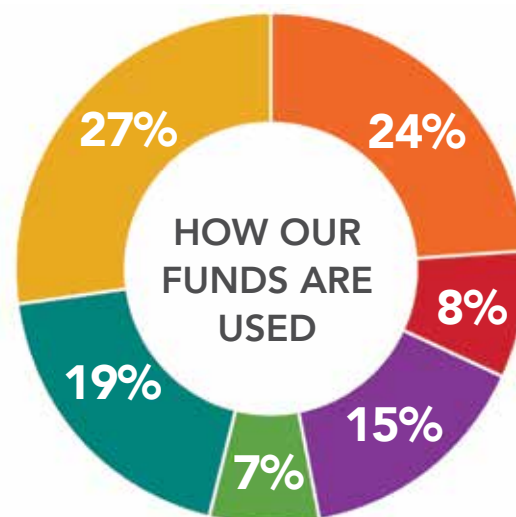
As his mother, Felicia Rivera said of him, *"Valentino left a lasting impression everywhere he danced... While many people are advised to 'dance like no one is watching'... Valentino danced like the whole universe was watching."* George Rivera's sculpture of their son wearing Hoop Dance regalia is in the permanent collection at the Santa Fe Museum of Indian Art and Culture, indeed, for the world to see.

A year after his passing, his mother Felicia established the Lightning Boy Foundation, naming it in honor of 'Tzigiwhaeno' ('lightning' in Valentino's Tewa language), and whose signature initiative is making the Traditional Hoop Dance that Valentino practiced and performed worldwide, available to all tribal youth in the area. The Hoop Dance is said to have its origins in the Pueblos of Northern New Mexico, where it continues to be danced as a healing art form.

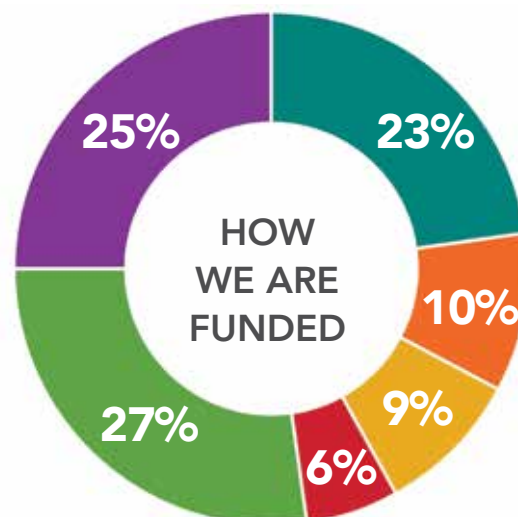
Give the Gift OF EXCELLENCE!

EVERY DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE THAT CAN LAST A LIFETIME FOR A CHILD.

Your generous investment in NDI New Mexico provides access to excellence for thousands of underserved children and creates opportunities for youth in our state to build better futures. Our work is guided by our belief in children, as well as our commitment to social responsibility, excellence, sustainability, and financial integrity. To ensure program sustainability, we depend on and are grateful to our diverse funders.



- 24%** In-School, SWAT, Celebration Team, Summer Institute
- 8%** Residency Outreach In-School
- 15%** Development and Marketing
- 7%** Teaching Excellence
- 19%** Administration
- 27%** Dance Barns and Hiland After-School Programs



- 23%** Individuals and Boards
- 10%** Earned Income
- 9%** Foundations and Grants
- 6%** Corporate
- 27%** Government
- 25%** Endowment

WAYS TO GIVE

A gift to NDI New Mexico can be made in a number of different ways—as a bequest, as a memorial or tribute to another person, as an online donation, or as a contribution to the NDI New Mexico endowment. All charitable donations help children achieve success and are tax-deductible.

DONATE ONLINE

www.ndi-nm.org/donate

JOIN A GIVING CIRCLE

Circle of Friends: \$1-\$999
 Founders' Circle: \$1,000-\$4,999
 Circle of Distinction: \$5,000-\$9,999
 Circle of Excellence: \$10,000-\$99,999
 Pillars of Excellence: \$100,000+

GIFTS OF SECURITIES

Common stocks and mutual funds

PLANNED GIVING

Bequests, charitable gift annuities and trusts, or IRA rollovers

NDI NEW MEXICO ENDOWMENT

Support NDI New Mexico's financial security and initiatives for today and tomorrow

HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

Make a tribute gift in honor of a joyous occasion or in memory of a loved one

FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE PARTNERS

Grants and sponsorship opportunities support programs and events

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS AND UNITED WAY

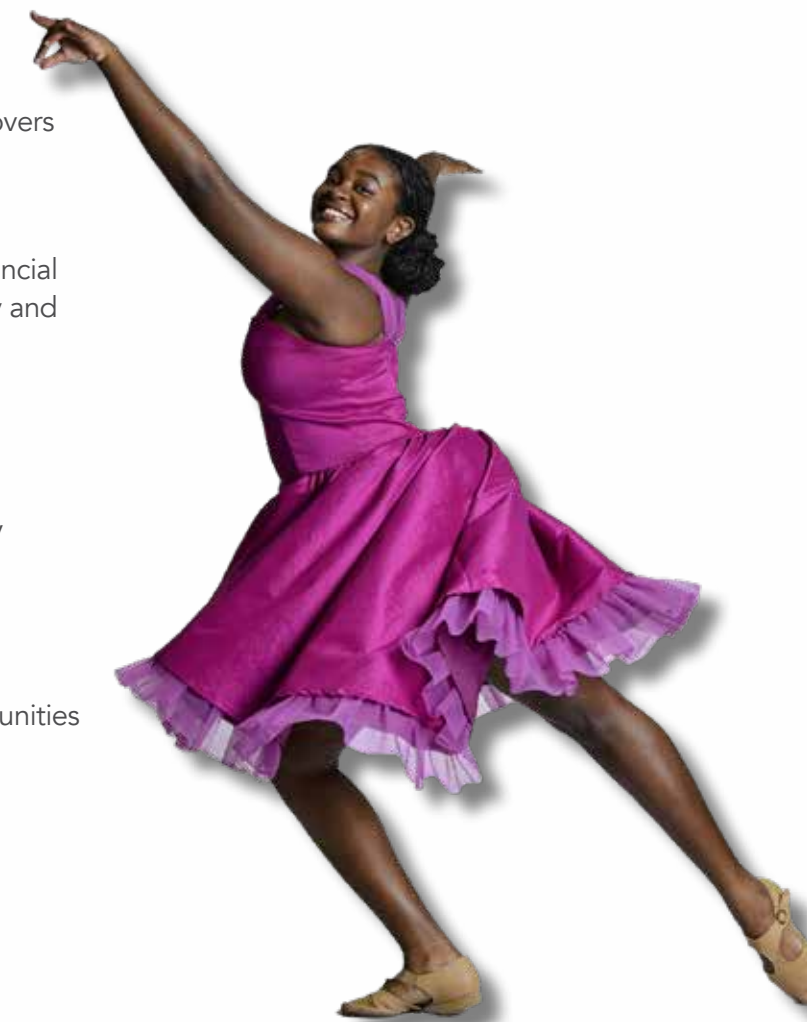
Recommend or designate a gift to support NDI New Mexico programs

MATCHING GIFTS

Many employers will match gifts or volunteer hours donated

MONTHLY GIVING

Sustain NDI New Mexico programs with year-round impact





LEGACY GIVING SPOTLIGHT

*Leslie Nathanson Juris and
Hervey Juris*

SILVER SNEAKERS LEGACY SOCIETY

For more than 25 years, Leslie Nathanson Juris and Hervey Juris have quietly helped shape the future of NDI New Mexico. Their journey with the organization began through chance encounters and community connections, but quickly grew into a deep commitment to the children of New Mexico.

When the couple first moved to Santa Fe, they were introduced to NDI through friends and colleagues who believed strongly in its mission. Watching students perform—and seeing the joy, discipline, and confidence the program inspired—made a lasting impression. As Leslie reflects, it was clear they were witnessing something powerful: a program that helps children discover their potential and build the skills to succeed both on and off the stage.

Leslie's professional background in leadership and strategic planning soon became an asset to the organization. Working alongside NDI's early leadership, she helped guide conversations with parents, staff, and community members that ultimately shaped the organization's long-term vision and strategic direction.

Hervey, a labor economist, contributed in a different way—helping NDI think about sustainable structures for teaching artists and long-term organizational growth.

Together, they have supported NDI for decades, including sponsoring programming in Chimayó and introducing friends and colleagues to the organization's work.

Today, their commitment continues through a legacy gift as members of the Silver Sneakers Legacy Society, ensuring that NDI's impact will endure for generations.

For Leslie and Hervey, legacy giving is about investing in the future.

"We want to make a difference in the lives of young people in New Mexico," Leslie says. "We can't imagine a better way to do it."

Through their generosity, the promise of opportunity, confidence, and connection that NDI provides will continue long into the future.

SILVER SNEAKERS

YOUR LEGACY. THEIR FUTURE.
YOUR DANCING FOOTSTEPS
LAST FOREVER.



Thanks to the commitment and planning of our generous Silver Sneakers Legacy Society members today, children in New Mexico will continue to be inspired to work hard, do their best, never give up, and be healthy for many generations to come.

Anonymous
Ann N. Aceves
Charmay Allred*

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Beth Beloff and Marc Geller
Jean and John Berndt
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Susann and Paul Weaver*
Eileen Wells
Helen Wertheim
Gretchen K. Williams
Mayand Charlie Wilson

🦿 Founding Member
*Deceased

Thank You!

ENDOWMENT

Endowment funds are essential to the long-term sustainability of NDI New Mexico's programming. Gifts to our Children's Future Fund support the financial health of the organization and help keep our programs thriving in perpetuity. We are deeply grateful to the following friends for their foresight, generosity, and care:

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Ann Aceves, Aceves-London
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Beth Beloff and Marc Geller
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Marietta Leis and David Vogel
Helen Wertheim, The Robert
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Jerry and Gloria Westheimer
Nancy Zeckendorf

*Deceased



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Thank You! TO OUR SUPPORTERS

NDI New Mexico is grateful for every gift we receive! Contributions to our various funds—annual giving and event support, and capital and endowment gifts—are recognized from the time period March 15, 2025 to March 14, 2026. Please know that every effort has been made to present a complete and accurate list of our supporters. We apologize for any errors or omissions and appreciate your corrections.

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NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SPOTLIGHT

20 YEARS OF IMPACT, HEALTH, AND OPPORTUNITY

For more than 20 years, the New Mexico Department of Health has been a vital partner in advancing the well-being of children and families across the state through its collaboration with NDI New Mexico.

Together, this partnership has brought evidence-based, arts-integrated programs with a focus on physical activity, nutrition, and overall wellness into public schools and communities statewide—reaching thousands of children each year, particularly in communities most impacted by health disparities.

At the heart of this work is NDI New Mexico’s Core Four—**Work Hard, Do Your Best, Be Healthy, Never Give Up—and Hip to Be Fit®**, our innovative wellness curriculum, which integrates joyful movement with lessons in healthy living. Through this approach, students increase physical activity, build knowledge around nutrition, and develop habits that support lifelong health—while also gaining confidence, strengthening connections, and experiencing a true sense of community.

This partnership has been especially critical in sustaining and expanding NDI New Mexico’s residency programs in every corner of the state, ensuring that children in communities from Española and Gallup to Hobbs, Silver City, and beyond have access to high-quality, culturally responsive programming that supports both physical and emotional well-being.

Over two decades, NDI New Mexico has worked alongside leaders in the Governor’s Office, the Senate, and the House to build and strengthen this partnership—one that has remained steadfast through changing times, always centered on serving New Mexico’s children and communities.

The results are both measurable and meaningful: improved academic outcomes, increased engagement, and healthier, more confident, and connected students prepared to succeed in school and in life.

Together, NDI New Mexico and the Department of Health are not only improving outcomes for children today—they are building a healthier future for New Mexico.



Thank you
to NDI for promoting and improving the well-being of children and families across New Mexico. The partnership between the New Mexico Department of Health and NDI demonstrates our combined commitment to serving New Mexicans through community engagement.

Gina M. DeBlassie,
Cabinet Secretary,
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Department of Health



Thank You!

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CORPORATE GIVING SPOTLIGHT

Leonardo Razatos and Giuliano Marcheschi



PLAZA CAFE AND CAFE PIAZZA

In Santa Fe, Plaza Cafe has long been a place where community gathers. Founded in 1905 and purchased by Leonardo Razatos's father in 1947, the restaurant has been part of the city's story for generations.

Leonardo grew up in the restaurant alongside his brothers, watching it evolve alongside Santa Fe itself. Today he and his partner, Giuliano Marcheschi, continue that legacy while bringing new energy to the city's culinary and philanthropic life.

Giuliano's journey to Santa Fe began in Milan, where he worked in the fashion industry before the couple returned to New Mexico during the pandemic to help preserve Plaza Cafe's family legacy. Together they also opened **Cafe Piazza**, inspired by Giuliano's love of authentic Italian cuisine and the warmth of home.

As business owners, Leonardo and Giuliano are often asked to support community causes. Over time, they made a deliberate choice to focus their philanthropy where it could have meaningful impact. That focus led them to NDI New Mexico.

After attending their first NDI gala, they were struck by the joy and confidence the students brought to the stage. For Leonardo, the program helps young people build skills that extend far beyond dance. For Giuliano, what stood out most was the sense of belonging NDI creates for children who may otherwise feel like outsiders.

"Kids need a place where they can feel proud of who they are."

Their giving is rooted in gratitude and a desire to strengthen the community they now call home. Through their partnership with NDI, Leonardo and Giuliano are helping ensure that more children across New Mexico have the opportunity to discover confidence, belonging, and possibility.



Thank You!

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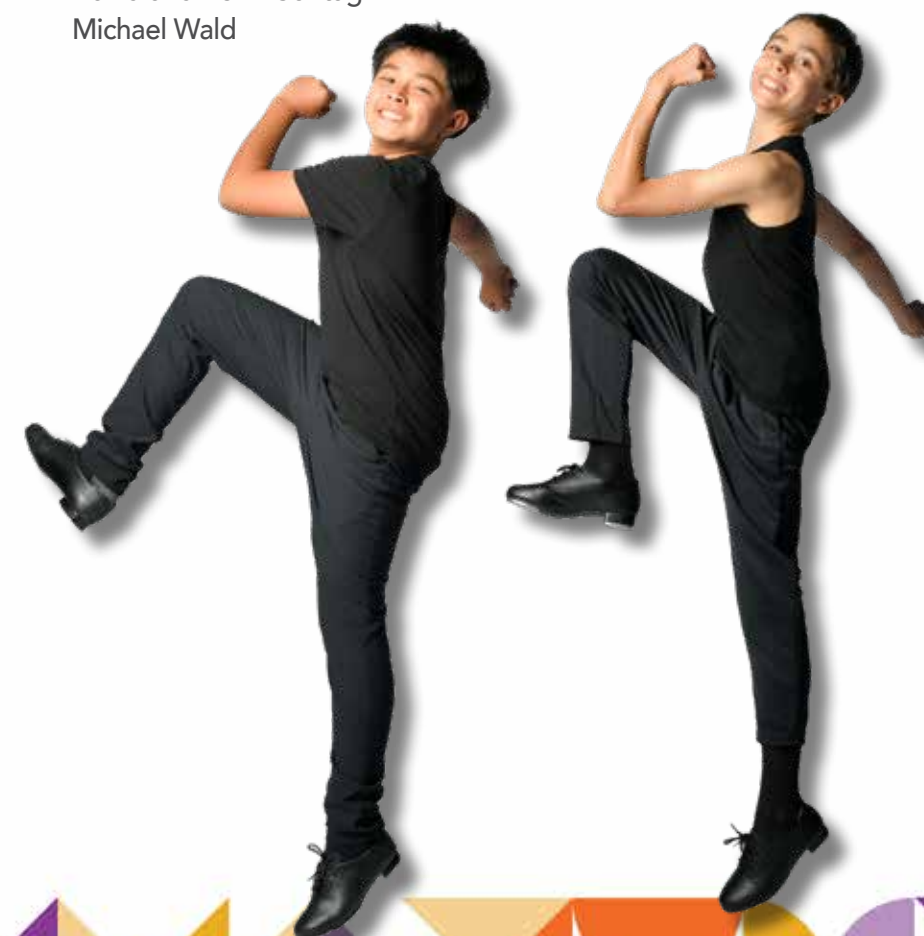
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Thank you for your belief in us and for joining us in celebrating our children's success! Your gift is a statement of support of children's futures.



Thank You SPECIAL FRIENDS!

NDI New Mexico extends our heartfelt gratitude to the many individuals and organizations who helped make this year unforgettable. Your partnership, creativity, and generosity continue to enrich the lives of our dancers and strengthen our community.

A special thank you to our incredible guest artists who joined us this year to enrich the experiences of our dancers and collaborate with our staff! Thank you to **Tom Porras, Kimberly White, Layla Amis, Rulan Tangen, Francois Achan, and Feli Bea** for your teaching and beautiful performances with our Hiland dancers for Moving Stories. Thanks, as well to our ABQ collaborators: **Staz Aranaga, Jo Redline Christian, Nico, and Wise Fool New Mexico** for their magical characters.

Thank you to those whose choreography and dedication were instrumental in shaping Spring into Motion: **Rodney Rivera, Dawn Bacon, Zak Ryan Schlegel, Melissa Briggs, and Alex Langley** as well as our NDI families performing alongside their progeny. We're grateful for the artistry of **Frances Carreon, Kathrynne Hanlin, Nina, Niko, and Alexei Klimenko, and Ellie Briggs**. Special thanks to **Lynn Zeck** and **Chef Fernando Olea of Sazon Restaurant**, as well as **Chef Fernando Ruiz** and the beautiful **Zia Singers**, directed by **John Tirranno**, for blessing our Feast of Voices with theirs, and to **Victoria Bruneni** and **What The Truck Catering** for feeding our dancers and guests at special events. We were grateful to include the creative compositions of choreographers **Cammie Griffin-Tokunbo of Rhythm Nation LV Dance and Fitness** and **Ellen Weinstein** and **Emily Meisner of National Dance Institute** to challenge our dancers in our Spring Showcases in Santa Fe and highlight the traditional dances of the **Lightning Boy Foundation** as our Guest Artists onstage with us.

Thank you to all our friends at **Española Valley High School** for so generously hosting the North End-of-Year Event, especially **Moving Arts Española** and **Senator Leo Jaramillo** for performing as guests.

Thank you to those who made our In-School events possible, for hosting us and the dedicated **PRES** and **ECRA teachers** for participating and dancing in their respective events including: **Pojoaque Valley School District, Superintendent Dr. Channell Segura, Pablo Roybal Elementary School (PRES) Principal Lynda Lujan-Trujillo, Vice Principal, Elizabeth Pacheco, Coach Juan Ortiz, In-School Coordinator Angela Martinez, and El Camino Real Academy (ECRA) Principal Evan Gourd.**

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We're also grateful to the **Santa Fe Fire Department** and **Santa Fe Police Department** for bringing joy and excitement with their presence in our End-of-Year Events.

To our partners in government—the **New Mexico Legislature** and the **Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham**—thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission.

Our Residency Department thanks **NM Tech's Macey Center in Socorro, RN Tydings Auditorium in Hobbs, Estelle Yates Auditorium in Artesia, Principal Victoria Franks (Hermosa Heights Elementary), and Joseph Flores (Las Cruces Public Schools)** for hosting performances and trainings. Thank you to **Presbyterian** for partnering with us for **Sewing with a Purpose** and to the volunteers from their **Health Plan Place** who helped make costumes for our dancers!

Thank you to all the **public school teachers, principals, education assistants, secretaries, custodians,** and all the staff at our participating public schools, your partnership makes our In-School Programs possible!

We're grateful for the invaluable pro-bono support of **Katherine Treadwell of Salesforce** and dedicated volunteer, **Teena Buice**, for their help enhancing our database systems, and **Deborah Peacock** and **Lenny Katz** for legal expertise and advice.

Thank you to **Garcia Automotive Group** for underwriting our **VIP Gala Sponsor Parties** and to **The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum** for hosting our Santa Fe event and the **Hollow Spirits Distillery** for hosting our Albuquerque event.

We express our gratitude to the members of the Investment Committee: **John Burnham, Susan Dubin, Peter Frank, Maria "Meb" Gordon, Christian Hoffman, David Lee, Joni Pierce, Peter Frank** and **Sonya Priestly** for serving on the Audit Committee; and **Nadia Paisano** for serving on the Finance Committee.

We are most appreciative of **Jennifer Watson** Co-Chairing the Santa Fe Gala Committee, and **Shaw Bowman, Cinnie Dulin, and Elizabeth Geier** for serving on the Santa Fe Gala Committee.

We are also most grateful for the Albuquerque Engagement Committee: **Nancy Blaugrund, Louise Campbell-Tolber, Karen Ellingboe, Katie Gardner, Marcia Gordon, Daniel Herrera, and Dezaree Vega-Garcia.**

NDI New Mexico is thankful for its Activating Hiland Committee members: **Rathi Casey, Joe Farr, and David Foster**, as well as our Corporate Council: **Joanie Griffin, Co-Chair, Arishanda Campbell, Kelly Famiglietta, Joe Farr, Alex Hauger, Bill Lang, Will Martinez, Jess Sanchez, Michael Stordahl, and Dr. Steven Tolber.**

We also appreciate those community members serving our Albuquerque Gala Committee: **Chair Trish Farr, Tooey Boyden, Laura Brunik, Krys Custer, and Liza Martinez.**

And finally, to our amazing **parents** and **community** volunteers: your time, energy, and heart make everything we do possible. We truly couldn't do it without you.

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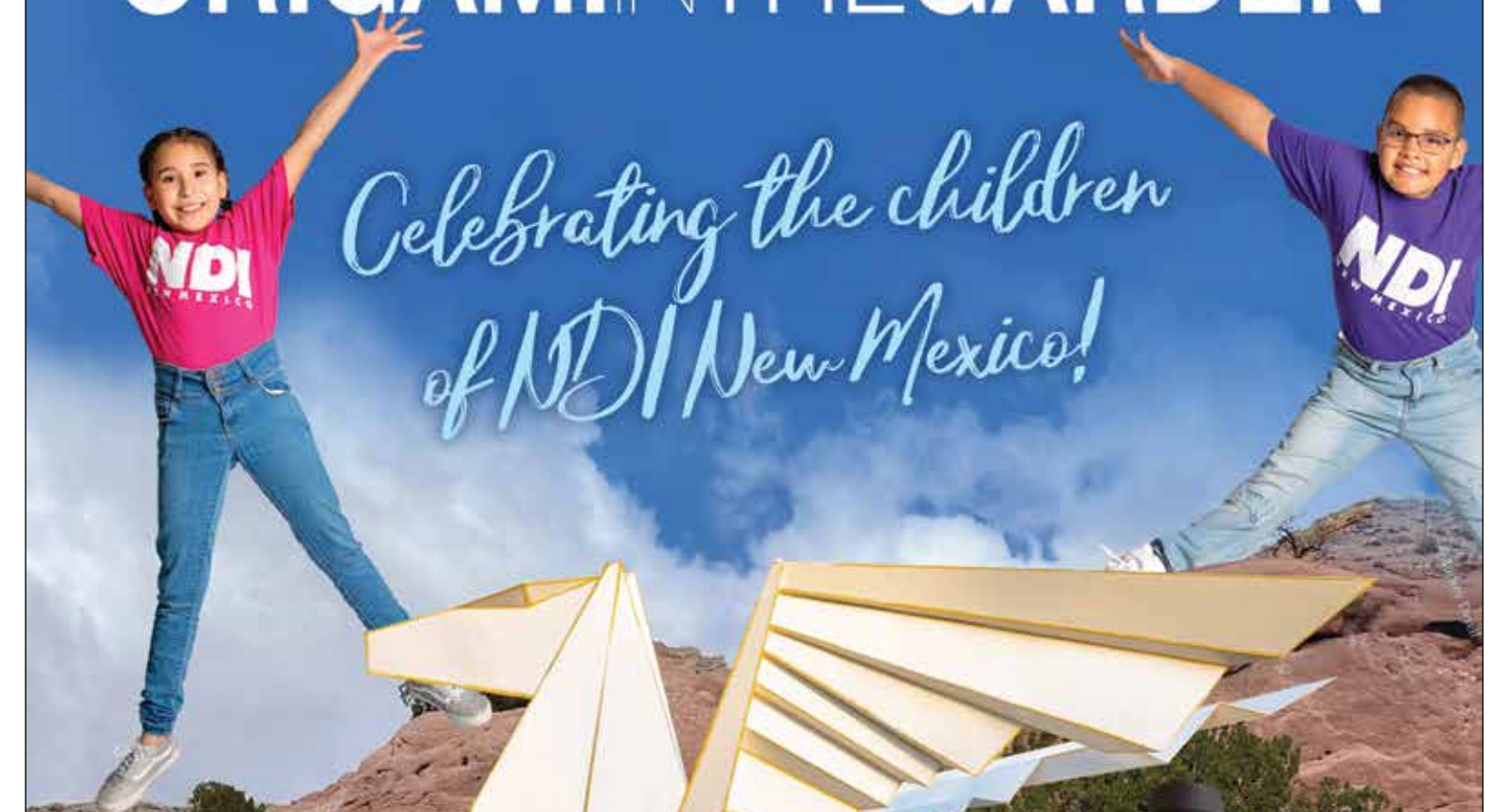
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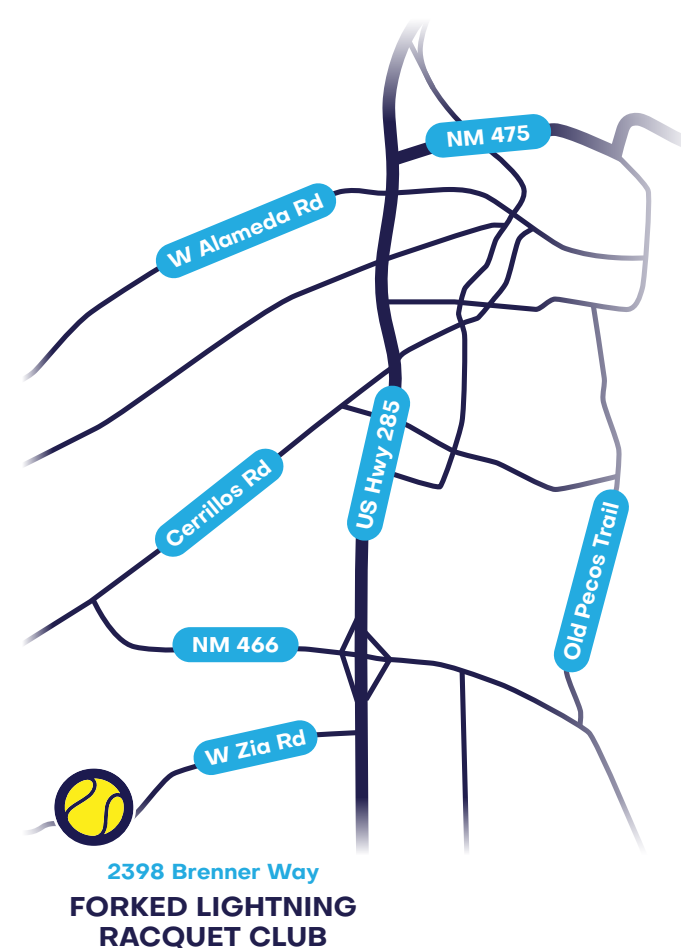
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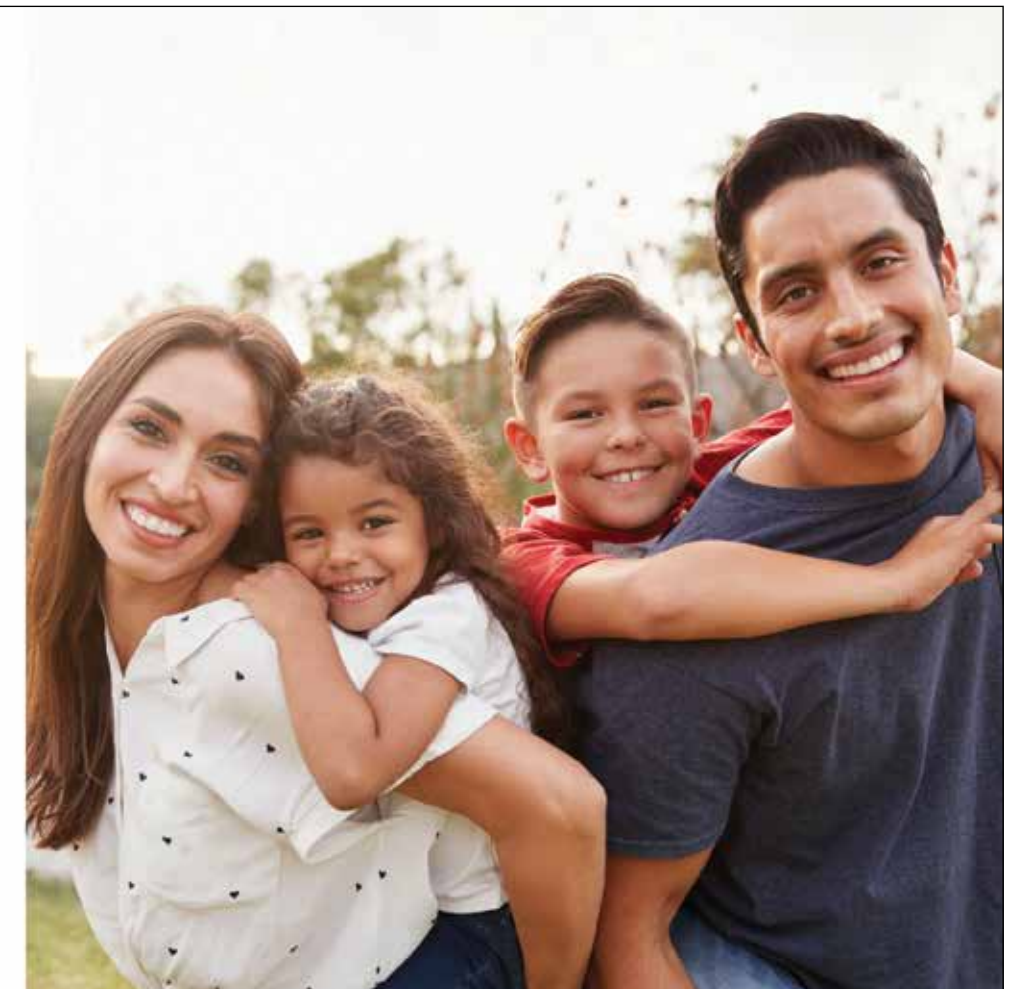
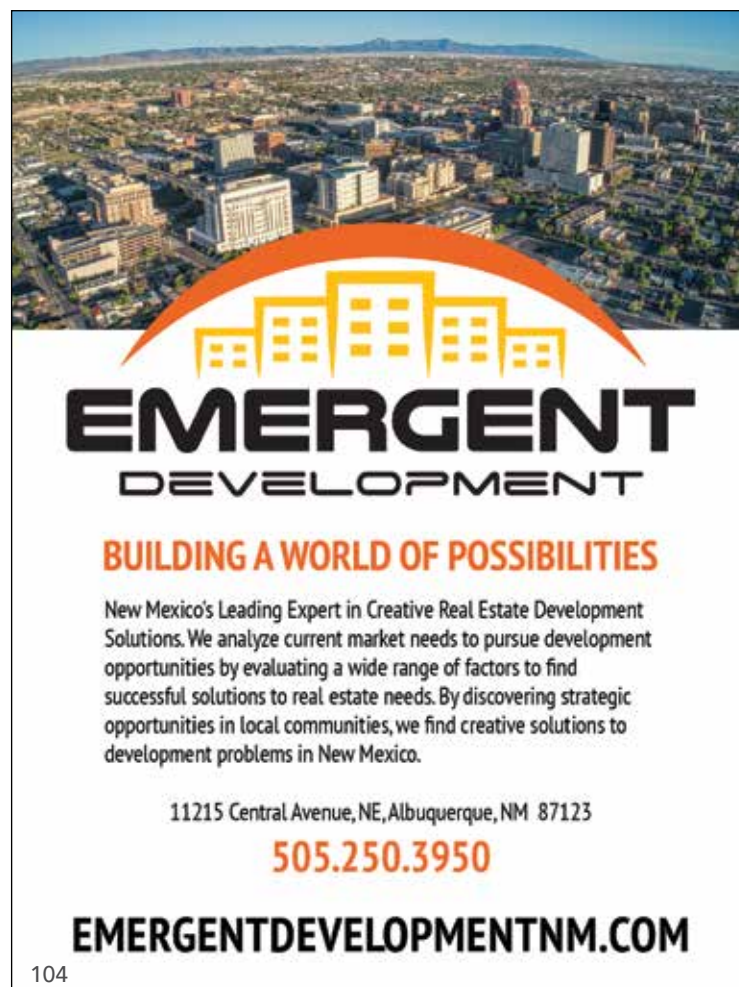
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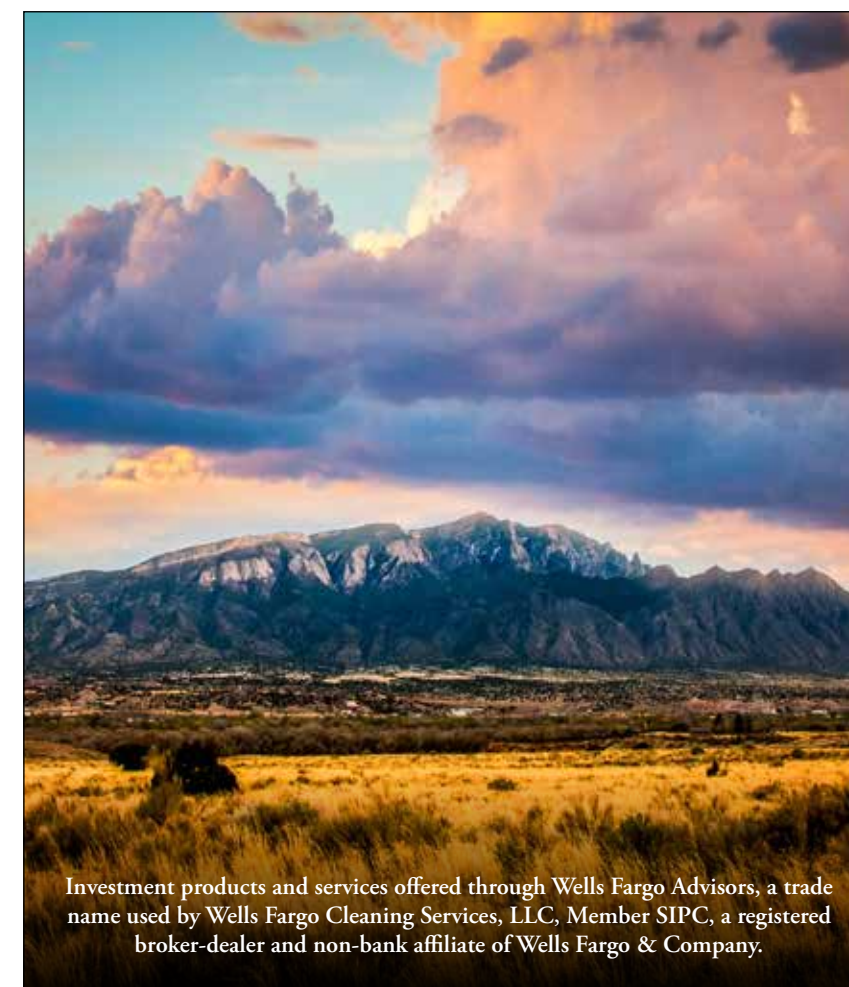
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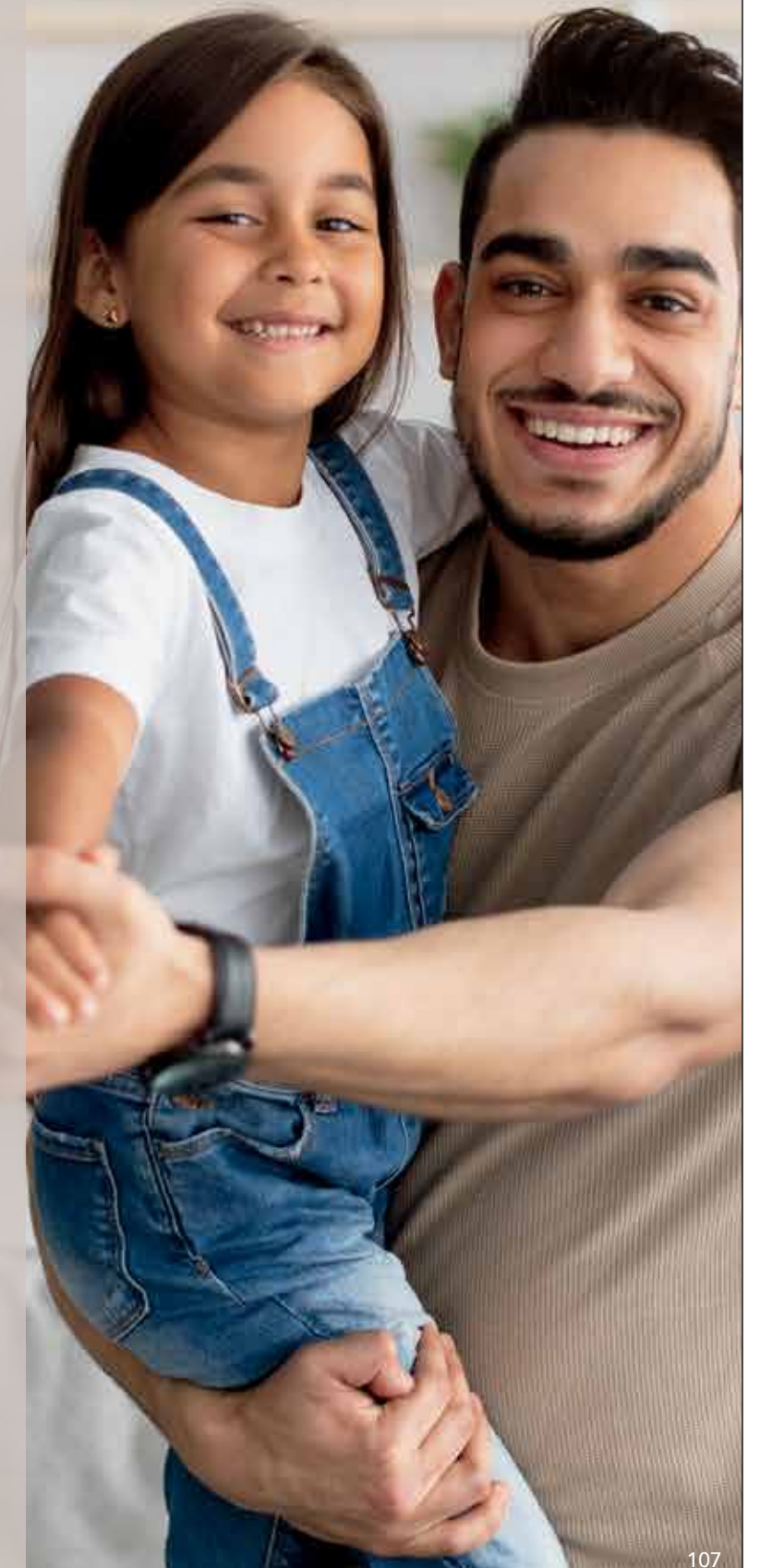
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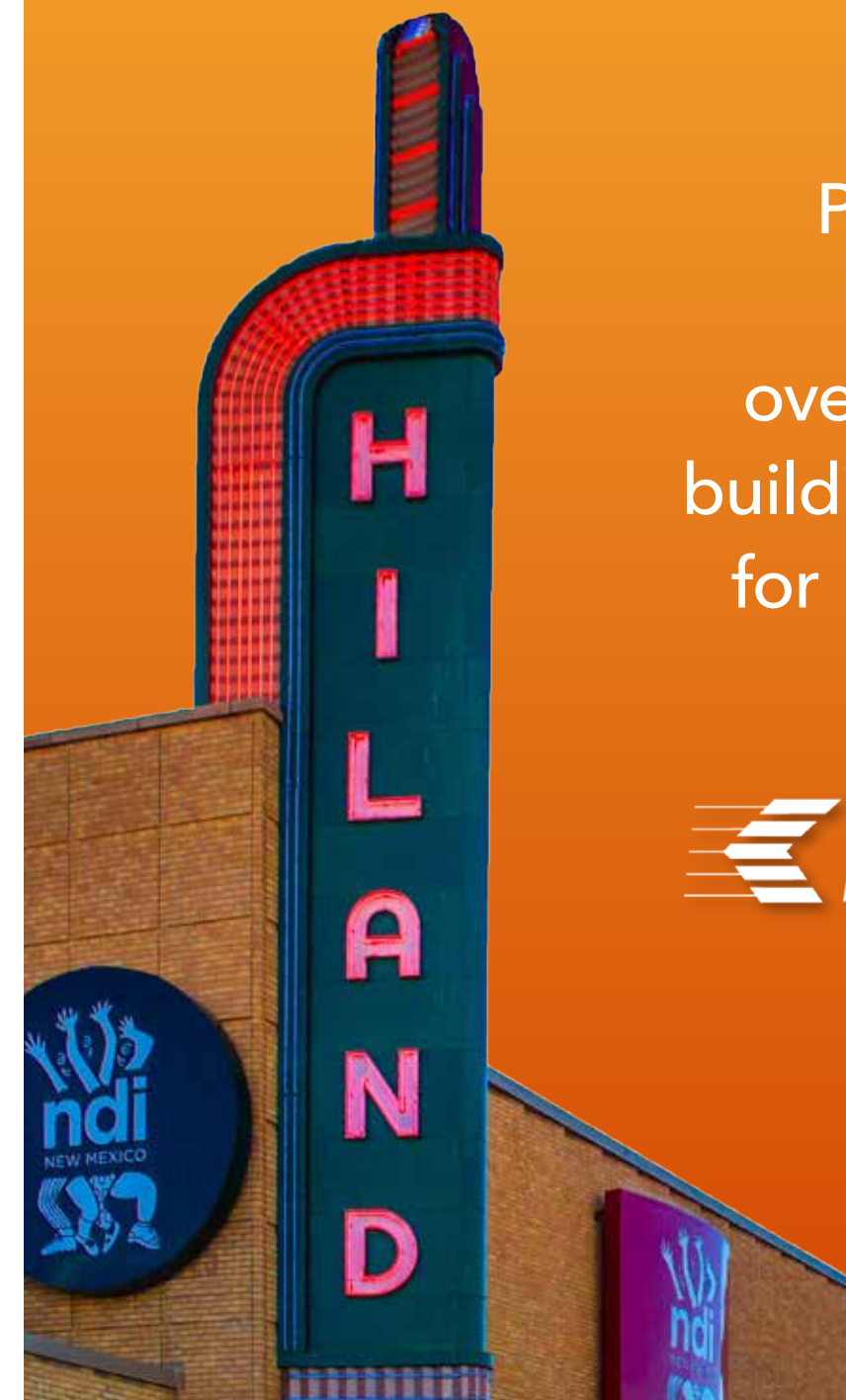
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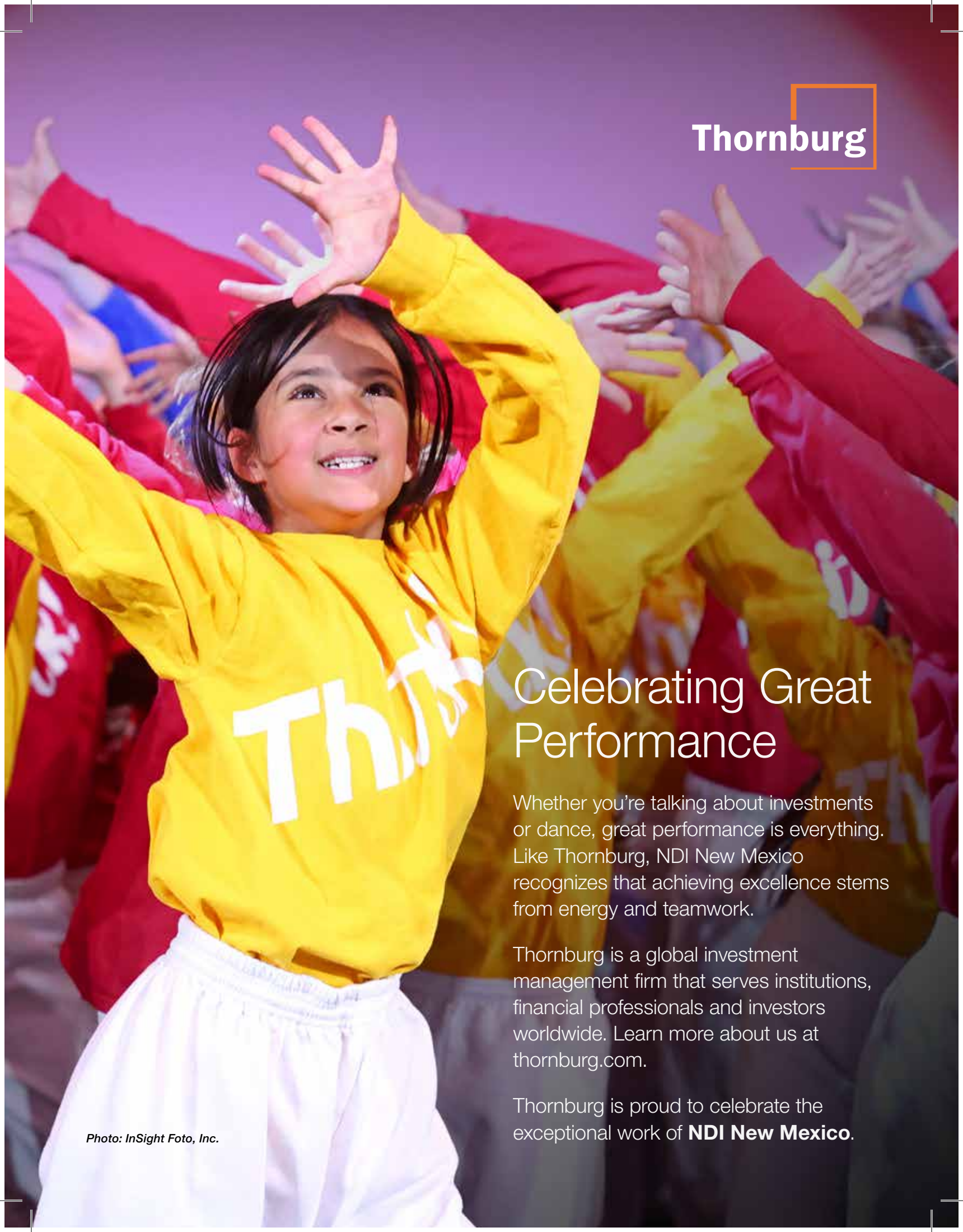
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