About Think New Mexico

Think New Mexico is a results-oriented think tank serving the citizens of New Mexico. We fulfill our mission by educating the public, the media and policy makers about some of the most serious problems facing New Mexico and by developing effective, comprehensive, long-term solutions to those problems.

Our approach is to perform and publish sound, non-partisan, independent research. Unlike many think tanks, Think New Mexico does not subscribe to any particular ideology. Our focus is instead on promoting workable solutions. We use advocacy and, as a last resort, legal action but only within the constraints of Federal tax law.

Consistent with our non-partisan approach, Think New Mexico’s board is composed of Democrats, Independents and Republicans. They are statesmen and stateswomen, who have no agenda other than to see New Mexico succeed. They are also the brain trust of this think tank.

As a results-oriented think tank, Think New Mexico measures its success based on changes in law or policy that it is able to help achieve and which improve New Mexico’s quality of life.

Think New Mexico began its operations on January 1, 1999. It is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to Think New Mexico are tax-deductible.
Letter From the Founder and Executive Director

Last year at this time we reported on Think New Mexico’s role in helping to achieve landmark legislation to phase in full-day kindergarten over a five year period. In September, 5,018 New Mexico five-year olds, or about 20% of the eligible population, enrolled in full-day kindergarten. The early reviews from teachers, parents and others, captured in the collage of newspaper headlines on the cover of this annual report, speak for themselves.

This year, responding to this favorable feedback (and some gentle pushing from Think New Mexico), the New Mexico Legislature and Governor Gary Johnson accelerated the phase in of full-day kindergarten from five years to four years. As a result, approximately 12,500 New Mexico five year-olds, or about 50% of the eligible population, will enroll this coming September. By the 2003-2004 school year every child in New Mexico will have access to full-day kindergarten.

In addition, $15 million was appropriated over a two-year period to build full-day kindergarten classrooms. This appropriation came in response to a four month study by Think New Mexico’s ace student interns indicating that New Mexico would need 169 new classrooms at a cost of slightly more than $16 million to completely implement full-day kindergarten statewide.

The $36.8 million in total appropriations for full-day kindergarten (i.e. $21.8 million for operations plus $15 million for classrooms) is more than four times larger than the funding from last year of $8.7 million. Given Think New Mexico’s $123,417 budget for 2000, this year’s appropriations represent a social return on investment of approximately $300 for every dollar invested in Think New Mexico.

Once again we received lots of bipartisan help. In particular, we would like to thank House Speaker Ben Lujan, House Appropriations Chair Max Coll, Appropriations Vice-Chair Lucky Varela, Appropriations Committee member J. Paul Taylor, Senate Finance Committee members John Arthur Smith and Sue Wilson and Governor Gary Johnson and their staffs. These public servants have actually put children first, rather than just talk about it.

In 2000 Think New Mexico also released a policy report on school reform which navigated a “third way” to education.
reform between vouchers and the status quo. Senate President Richard Romero, a Democrat, and Senator Mark Boitano, the ranking Republican on the Senate Education Committee, introduced Senate Bill 373 based on the recommendations in the report. Unfortunately, SB 373 was merged with a larger reform package that was eventually vetoed. We are continuing to work on this project and will try again next session.

You will find Think New Mexico’s Balance Sheet and Statement of Income and Expenditures for 2000 on pages 12 and 13. Our goal in this Annual Report is to give you information, financial and otherwise, that we would want if our positions were reversed.

In the Financial Summary section, for example, we include a pie chart that documents Think New Mexico’s fund-raising ratio—fund-raising expense as a percentage of income. That percentage was 4.2 in 2000.

We are delighted by the rapidly growing number of foundation partners and individual social investors in Think New Mexico, all of whom are listed on pages 14 to 16. This list also contains many good friends.

Think New Mexico’s all-star Board of Directors’ composition remains the same as when we began more than two years ago. Their brief biographies follow on pages four and five. To provide you with a better sense of the Board, as well as the staff of Think New Mexico, we have profiled board member and former governor Garrey Carruthers and Think New Mexico’s Assistant Director, Carol Romero-Wirth, on pages 10 and 11, respectively.

Finally, we are pleased to report that the Santa Fe New Mexican bestowed one of its annual “Ten who Made a Difference” awards in April, 2000 upon Think New Mexico for helping to make full-day kindergarten accessible to every child in New Mexico. This is the best recognition we could receive because that is exactly what we aim to do at Think New Mexico: make a difference.

Fred Nathan
June 1, 2001

Lynne Loucks Buchen

With this Annual Report, we welcome Los Alamos native Lynne Loucks Buchen to Think New Mexico as our new part-time Finance Manager/Office Manager. We are delighted to have the benefit of her considerable skills, talent and experience.
Think New Mexico’s Board of Directors

Edward Archuleta, a 13th generation New Mexican, is the Director of the Santa Fe office of 1000 Friends of New Mexico, a nonprofit organization that advocates responsible land-use planning, growth management and sustainable development. Edward previously served as the top assistant to former New Mexico Secretary of State Stephanie Gonzales.

Paul Bardacke served as Attorney General of New Mexico from 1983-1986. Paul is a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He currently handles complex commercial litigation with the firm of Eaves, Bardacke, Baugh, Kierst & Kiernan.

David Buchholtz has served on a long list of New Mexico boards and commissions and has advised several New Mexico governors on fiscal matters. David recently served as Chairman of the Association of Commerce and Industry. He is a senior shareholder and former President of Sutin, Thayer & Browne.

Garrey Carruthers served as Governor of New Mexico from 1987-1990. Currently, Garrey is President and CEO of Cimarron Health Plan. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education and the New Mexico Foundation for Educational Excellence.

Elizabeth Gutierrez is an organizational development consultant who is pursuing a doctoral degree in public policy. Liz was a marketing executive with IBM for nearly two decades. She has also served as Director of Administrative Services Department for the city of Santa Fe.

LaDonna Harris is an enrolled member of the Comanche Nation. LaDonna is President and Founder of Americans for Indian Opportunity, a national nonprofit organization that serves as a catalyst for new concepts and opportunities for Native peoples. She was a leader in the effort to return the Taos Blue Lake to Taos Pueblo.
Rebecca Koch is the owner of Rebecca Koch & Associates which provides management consulting services in the areas of development and strategic planning to local and national non-profits. Rebecca was the organizational development consultant for the Santa Fe Business Incubator, Inc. She is a former President of the Board of New Mexico Literary Arts.

Fred Nathan founded Think New Mexico and is its Executive Director. Fred served as Special Counsel to New Mexico Attorney General Tom Udall from 1991 to 1998. In that capacity, he was the architect of several successful legislative initiatives and was in charge of New Mexico’s successful 1.25 billion dollar lawsuit against the tobacco industry.

Frank Ortiz, a career Foreign Service Officer of the United States, has served as United States Ambassador to several countries, including Argentina, Guatemala and Peru. Frank serves on many boards throughout New Mexico.

Roberta Cooper Ramo is the first woman elected President of the American Bar Association. Roberta is a former President of the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico. She is a shareholder with the Modrall law firm and serves on many national boards.

Stewart Udall served as Secretary of the Interior under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. Prior to that, Stewart served three terms in Congress. He is the author of The Quiet Crisis (1963) that tells the story of humankind’s stewardship over the planet’s resources, and To the Inland Empire: Coronado and Our Spanish Legacy (1987) which celebrates Hispanic contributions to our history.
The Year in Review

Helping to enact good laws is only part of what we do at Think New Mexico. We also work to ensure high quality implementation of those laws. With respect to full-day kindergarten, Think New Mexico worked on three aspects of the implementation process in 2000. First, Think New Mexico challenged the State Board of Education's implementation of the full-day kindergarten law on July 5, 2000 and won $870,000 to expand full-day kindergarten to an additional 458 children at high at-risk schools.

New Mexico & Metro

Kindergarten Programs Expanded

8 More Schools To Benefit From Funds

By Riki Keller
Journal Staff Writer

The state Department of Education has tapped a supplemental fund to pay for full-day kindergarten at eight additional schools, including three in Albuquerque.

The department announced the $31.5 million awarded last month was awarded to help expand the kindergarten program. The department early last month awarded $300,000 to help 75 schools for full-day programs.

Second, Think New Mexico organized and hosted a "best practices" conference for full-day kindergarten teachers on September 29, 2000 that brought together nearly 150 teachers and some of the best early childhood experts in New Mexico. Think New Mexico paid for all of the travel, food and lodging expense of the teachers who attended to encourage maximum attendance. Speakers included Tim Hely Ph.D., Research Fellow at the Santa Fe Institute, who spoke about "Minds, Brains and How Young Children Learn" and Western New Mexico University Professor Terry Anderson, who addressed "the Need for a Child-Centered, Developmentally Appropriate Full-Day Kindergarten Curriculum." Many thanks to champion conference coordinator David Griscom for his able assistance and keen organizational skills before and during the conference.
Think New Mexico was blessed to have the services of three truly exceptional student interns in 2000. **Kristina Fisher**, 1998 Valedictorian of Santa Fe Preparatory School, is a junior at Williams College. Kristina has been selected as New Mexico’s sole 2001 recipient of a $30,000 Harry S Truman Scholarship. **Amber Garnett**, was selected as the Outstanding Freshman by the faculty at the College of Santa Fe. **Kate Widland**, 2000 Valedictorian at the Albuquerque Academy, is a freshman at Harvard University. Kate is also a Presidential Scholar. In addition to high student achievement, we look for integrity and a deep commitment to public service when we hire student interns. Kristina, Amber and Kate exemplify all of these qualities. We look forward to their continued contributions to New Mexico’s public policy.

Sheryl McClure, a full-day kindergarten teacher in the Gallup-McKinley County Public Schools, gave Think New Mexico the following feedback about the conference:

“\[I’d like to thank you for the excellent conference you presented. It’s good to have people who work with the legislature get together with the teachers who so desperately need their support. Also thank you for your efforts in attaining full day operational funding for Kindergarten. Too often things change and the people who feel the effects of the change have no contact with those involved in creating the change.\]

Third, concerned about a lack of classroom space and convinced that the cost of building new classrooms necessary to completely implement full-day kindergarten had been overstated, we asked Think New Mexico’s student interns to directly survey the nearly 400 New Mexico public elementary schools about their classroom needs. The interns cross-tabulated their survey results by legislative district and shared them with the Legislature, the Governor and their key staff at the beginning of the legislative session. By the end of the session a two-year $15 million appropriation for full-day kindergarten classrooms was law.

**Survey: Full-day kindergarten not as costly as thought**

**SANTA FE (AP)** A Santa Fe group that led last year’s successful push for full-day kindergarten says the price tag for the program may be far lower than previously thought.

Still the group — Think New Mexico — is urging lawmakers to dedicate a chunk of this year’s budget windfall in paying for the classrooms needed to make full-day kindergarten work.

“We have this bipartisan hewing to conquer the implementation of full-day kindergarten,” said Think New Mexico Executive Director Fred Nathan. “We’re concerned that may sacrifice quality, if we don’t also offer adequate classroom space.”

We found that several school districts would have approximately five kindergarten students per classroom if they received all the classrooms that they told the Department that they needed for full-day kindergarten,” Nathan said in a letter to Gov. Gary Johnson and key lawmakers.
Kindergarten gains; so might schools

Just last year, full-day kindergarten was a tough sale for Think New Mexico, the proactive public-policy research group which had made that basic component of education its first project.

Partly because the New Mexico Legislature was in its short session, but mostly because our senators and representatives have been a hard-headed lot when it comes to public education, the kindergarten advocates had to struggle just to get a hearing in the Senate Education Committee. This despite strong evidence of 5-year-olds' enormous potential for learning — and the opportunity full-day kindergarten meant to the children of our educationally backward state.

The bipartisan group nonetheless persuaded a reluctant Legislature, and an even more reluctant Gov. Gary Johnson, to approve their overdue proposal — but only on a five-year, phase-in basis.

Now, as a new Legislature prepares to convene, full-day kindergarten can't come fast enough. A year ago, some education experts kept their distance from the kindergarten bill for fear that it would detract from their own agenda. This year, they are calling for full-day classes statewide within three years.

Best of all, Gov. Johnson agrees — más o menos: His budget proposal for education would have our kindergartens full-day in four years.
Think New Mexico also released a policy report on school reform in 2000, which received national attention and praise from New Mexico teachers and principals. However, Albuquerque Journal cartoonist John Trever's cartoon proved to be prophetic.

I believe Think New Mexico is absolutely on the right track. Systemic change in the way we provide education as well as how we support and pay for education in New Mexico is of such critical importance ... It is refreshing to see ideas advanced that, if implemented, will result in real, meaningful change. Vickie Sewing, Principal, Salazar Elementary School, Santa Fe. Source: Letter to Think New Mexico (10/4/00).
Board Profile: Garrey Carruthers

Former New Mexico Governor Garrey Carruthers is a charter member of Think New Mexico’s Board. Garrey says of his board service, “when I was Governor, I felt there was a need in New Mexico for an independent think tank which could provide accurate information and nonpartisan public policy research to the Legislature and the Governor, but none existed. I was pleased to learn about Think New Mexico shortly after it was founded and delighted to be invited to serve on its board.”

Garrey grew up on a farm in Aztec, New Mexico, and graduated from Aztec High School in 1957. After obtaining a Ph.D. in Economics he returned to teach Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business at his alma mater, New Mexico State University, which Garrey fondly refers to as the “Yale of the Yuccas.” He eventually attained the rank of Full Professor and also served for a time as Director of the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute at NMSU.

Garrey was awarded a prestigious White House Fellowship in 1974 and served in the U.S. Department of Agriculture under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford. He later returned to Washington D.C. for a four year tour of duty when President Ronald Reagan appointed him Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

In 1986, Garrey emerged from a crowded Republican primary field and later won the General Election to become New Mexico’s 24th Governor. His four-year term was marked by an emphasis on improving public schools and the extremely high quality of his appointments. Because of constitutional term limits on the governor then, he could not run for re-election.

Currently, Garrey is President, CEO of Cimarron Health Plan in Albuquerque. In his spare time he enjoys driving his two vintage 1967 Mustang cars around New Mexico. Garrey is married to Kathy and they have three children and four grandchildren. “We lead a reasonably dull life,” he claims, “but it is punctuated with moments of excitement when the Aggies beat the Lobos.”
Staff Profile: Carol Romero-Wirth

Carol Romero-Wirth joined Think New Mexico as its Assistant Director in June 1999 and has been an instrumental part in its success ever since.

Carol has the whole left brain/right brain thing going at Think New Mexico: her left brain works on policy reports and grant proposals and advocates for Think New Mexico’s policy solutions, while her right brain oversees the budget and accounting aspects of the organization.

As a member of a fifth generation northern New Mexico family, Carol sees Think New Mexico as a wonderful vehicle to bring about positive change. “My mother left the Mora Valley as a young adult seeking better opportunities. My work at Think New Mexico is dedicated to ensuring that future generations of New Mexicans will have more options in the State,” Carol says.

Carol does not lack for educational degrees. She earned her Bachelor of Arts from Colorado College in 1985, received her Master of Public Policy from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin in 1989 and earned a law degree from the University of New Mexico in 1998. She was admitted to the Bar in October, 1998.

Prior to attending law school, Carol served in several state government agencies. These include the New Mexico Commission on Higher Education, the Economic Development and Tourism Department, the Legislative Council Service and the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department. These experiences have provided an ideal foundation and many valuable insights for her work at Think New Mexico.

Carol met her husband, prominent Santa Fe attorney Peter Wirth, while serving as the Budget Director of his uncle Tim Wirth’s successful bid to represent Colorado in the United States Senate. They have two young children, who occasionally visit Think New Mexico’s offices to provide entertainment and supervision.
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Balance Sheet

ASSETS
Cash and Cash Equivalents $126,884
Contributions Receivable 15,000
Prepaid Expenses 3,086
Property and Equipment, Net
of Accumulated Depreciation 6,208
Total Assets $151,178

LIABILITIES
Accrued Expenses $204
Total Liabilities $204

NET ASSETS
Temporarily Restricted $57,366
Unrestricted $93,608
Total Net Assets $150,974

Total Liabilities and Net Assets $151,178

## Statement of Income and Expenditures

### INCOME

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Note: These financial statements do not include in-kind contributions and materials from 2000, which totaled $7,973.

Source: Think New Mexico's IRS Form 990 for 2000.

### TNM’s Fund Raising Ratio

Think New Mexico’s fund Raising expense as a percentage of income in 2000 was 4.2%. (The McCune Charitable Foundation underwrites all of Think New Mexico’s administrative overhead expense through an exceptionally generous two-year grant.)

Source: Think New Mexico’s IRS Form 990 for 2000.
Foundation Partners:
(JANUARY 1, 2000 — DECEMBER 31, 2000)

The Azalea Foundation
Sanford and Jane Brickner
Donor Advised Fund
Sidney & Sadie Cohen Foundation
Cudd Foundation
Shelby Cullom Davis Foundation
Foster Foundation
Frost Foundation
McCune Charitable Foundation
New Cycle Foundation
New Mexico State Employees Charity Campaign
Santa Fe Community Foundation
Solis-Cohen Spigel Family Fund
Eugene V. & Claire E. Thaw Charitable Trust
Edith M. Timken Family Foundation
Witkin Family Fund

In our grant making, we search for groups that bring an extraordinary level of passion to what they do. This is one of the many important qualities that distinguishes the work of Think New Mexico and it shows in the results that they have been able to achieve against remarkably steep odds.

Jeanne and Jim Manning
the Azalea Foundation
Individual Social Investors:
(JANUARY 1, 2000 — MAY 15, 2001)

“...[A] major player again behind innovative changes in the [school reform] bill was Think New Mexico (TNM), the unique and increasingly influential non-profit... In a short time, TNM is soaring as a major asset for the State.” GalleryWatch.com (3/22/01)

- Rick and Kathy Abeles
- Abigail Adler and Paul Abrams
- Ken Albrecht
- Albuquerque Academy
- Anonymous
- Jarratt Applewhite
- Edward Archuleta
- Sam and Ethel Ballen
- Paul Bardacke
- Letty Belin and Doyne Farmer
- Lisa and F. Gregg Bemis
- Shirley Berger
- Fred Berry
- Stuart Bluestone and Judy Naumburg
- '99 Bond Advocacy Committee
- Alpha Lee Brammer
- Bill Brancard and Monica Ontiveros
- Eleanor P. Brenner
- Kate and Peter Brill
- Leigh Ann and Dr. David Brown
- Governor Garrey Carruthers
- Bill and Georgia Carson
- Cimarron Health Plan
- John L. Clubbe
- Wayne Coe
- Joan Z. Cohen
- Bennett and Barbara Cohn
- John Connell
- George Cowan
- Betty Lee Craig
- Michele Croasdell
- Raymond W. Davenport
- Carol K. Ducaj
- Bill and Marion Elson
- Ned Farquhar and Janis Finelli
- Karen Farrell
- Rob and Ellyn Feldman
- Billy Feldman
- David and Peggy Feldt
- Geoffrey Fettus
- First State Bank
- James W. Fishel
- Sandy and Jim Fitzpatrick
- Steven Flance
- Susan Fleischmann
- Tannis Fox
- Jo Franzen
- Anne and Reese Fullerton
- Vickie L. Gabin
- Helen and Bert Gabriel
- José and Cecilia Gandert
- Patricia Gandert
- Amy and Phil Geier
- Marilyn and Don Gevirtz
- Dr. Gary Giblin and Sally Malave
- Betsy Glenn
- Diane and Donald Goldfarb
- Ann Gowdey-Backus
- Barbara and Philip Gudwin
- Liz Gutierrez
- Hazen and Katy Hammel
- LaDonna Harris
- Ted Harrison and Linda Spackman
- John Hart and Carol Prins
- David Harwood and Ellen Marshall
- Karen Heldmeyer
- Patti and Garrett Hennessy
- Jeri Hertzman
- E. Franklin Hirsch
- Jacqueline Hoefer
- Medora and Jim Jennings
- Denise and Bill Johnson
- Norty and Summers Kalishman
- David Kaufman and Elizabeth Jacobson
- E. Donald and Janet B. Kaye
- William E. Keller
- Richard Klein
- Rebecca Koch
- Henry Kohn
- Charlotte and Bob Kornstein
- Ruth and Dr. Paul Kovnat
- Robert Langsenkamp
- allan and nan larson
- Deirdre Lennihan
- Story and Jim Leonard
- Ramón and Nance López y familia
- Dr. and Mrs. Beryl Lovitz
- Meredith and Steve Machen
Think New Mexico’s unique, solution-oriented approach to some of the unyielding problems that confront New Mexico is most welcome and needed.

Owen Lopez, Executive Director McCune Charitable Foundation