**Good News New Mexico**

February 20, 2025, Stacy Sacco, sasacco@aol.com

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In addition to the warm New Mexico sunshine that greets you every morning, I’m sure you’ll agree that New Mexicans are generally more friendly by nature and add to that warm embrace. Our friendly demeanor is palpable, and is reflected in the following local organizations, programs and publications:

**Be Greater Than Average LLC**, <https://begreaterthanaverage.org/>

“Where fun a learning collide. Be Greater Than Average offers the best in STEM learning, focuses on building learners into leaders. Be Greater Than Average has been offering our learners unique STEM learning opportunities since 2005. Our goal is to build skills that support learners in their overall growth, development and leadership skills. Our learners typically start with one of our many engaging camps or classes to learn something new or to explore an interest. While our company teaches students about the technology of building robots, 3D printers, drones and other emerging technologies, we also emphasize critical project management skills. Those skills include working in a collaborative team environment where ideas and experiments are discussed and implemented. In addition, students learn about the Innovation and Evaluation of the Engineering Design Process, and develop an understanding of the science behind technology and how it fits into our world to make it a better place for everyone. Students begin their journey as a learner and with our guidance and time-tested program they quickly grow their skills and abilities, resulting in strong leadership and career skills.”

**Choose One**, <https://www.chooseone.us/>

Sponsored by the City of Albuquerque, the program encourages citizens to get “get involved. choose one thing and do it.”

**Colt Balok Show**, <https://www.coltbalok.com/>

The Colt Balok Show | TV Talk Show | Love Without Limit. “To inspire our viewers to be the best versions of themselves through uplifting and relatable entertainment is very important to us, and our objective is to inspire our audience to chase self-growth, embody empathy, and discover true purpose.”

**Global Meaning Institute**, <http://www.globalmeaninginstitute.com/>

As a pioneer and leader of the Meaning Movement, the [Global Meaning Institute](http://www.globalmeaninginstitute.com/contact.html) provides strategic advising, public speaking, lecturing, and seminars on the concepts and practices of  MEANINGology® and MEANING First Innovation®.

**Impact and Coffee**, <https://www.impactandcoffee.org/>

Impact & Coffee meets the first three Tuesdays of the month at 9am, and brings together the nonprofit community to support people doing great things. Each meeting typically features two six-minute talks by nonprofit community leaders and provide a forum for nonprofit professionals to make personal connections. . Guest speakers typically focus on new, exciting developments in nonprofit programming, how the community can help solve any challenges that have arisen in planning or implementation, and to provide a forum for nonprofit professionals to make personal connections.

**Jennifer Riordan Foundation**,<https://thejenniferriordanfoundation.org/>

The Jennifer Riordan Foundation was formed in 2018 to honor the kind spirit and carry on the legacy of Jennifer Riordan, a pillar of philanthropy and kindness throughout the Albuquerque community. The Foundation’s mission recognizes, supports and spreads acts of kindness in the **spirit of Jenn.** The Spark Kindness movement started by connecting with community organizations and schools to help make Albuquerque the kindness capital of the world.

**One Albuquerque Fund**, <https://onealbuquerque.org/>

The One Albuquerque fund was created to provide opportunities for individuals and organizations to give back to our community.

**Our Gratitude Collective**,<https://www.ourgratitudecollective.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/collectgratitude/about>

Antonia Montoya, MS, CHES, aka Antonia The Grateful, is an entrepreneur who offers several business offerings that relate to gratitude (a membership website - full of gratitude guidance, inspiration and private gratitude sharing - workshops, webinars, wellness coaching, events, and consulting).

**Play Nice in Your Sandbox**, <https://www.productiveoutcomes.com/>

Based in Northern New Mexico and founded by Ron Price MA, a personal coach (Productive Outcomes Inc.), college professor and noted author, Ron talks about the positive results of being nice with others, and gives you tools to put these ideas into practice with all of your relationships, everyday. Some of his books include:

- PLAY NICE In Your Sandbox at Work: How to Avoid Disputes, Manage Conflict & Move from Conflict to Cooperation

- PLAY NICE in Your Sandbox at Church

- PLAY NICE in Your Sandbox at Home

- PLAY NICE in Your Sandbox at School

**Rio Grande Mindfulness Institute (RGMI)**, <https://www.facebook.com/RGMINM/>

“RGMI trains students, faculty, and leaders with the skills they need to manage stress, behave with courage and kindness, and tap into their creative potential. We offer a range of services, including retreats in pristine nature on our 20-acre campus. Programs focus on developing a personal mindfulness practice. This can be the foundation for resilience, self-care, teaching and leading. The RGMI approach to training is informed by long experience with school reform, youth leadership development, diversity education, nature-based learning, and Peter’s Senge’s notion of the “learning organization.” At any age or stage of development, we believe that a grounded mindfulness practice can improve your leading and learning. This includes emotional regulation, stress reduction, mental concentration, curiosity, and creativity. Our programs take into account the unique needs of your learning style, personal culture, and organizational setting. We also have creative ways to support the kind of change you’d like to see. These support systems may take the form of virtual meetings or periodic site visits. Our current service offerings are:

- One-day Retreats

- Multi-day Retreats

- Trainings at Your School or College

- Consultations”

**Stop Bagging, Start Bragging**,<https://stopbaggingstartbragging.com/>

A movement to inspire to emphasize the many positive attributes of our local community, culture, food and weather and stop the negative talk about New Mexico.

**Tell ABQ**, <https://tellabq.com/>

“A local guide to what’s good and where to go in Albuquerque! We are Albuquerque’s newest guide to finding the best restaurants, breweries, plumbers, landscapers, healthcare professionals and so much more! We support local and small businesses. Built out of a need to connect local businesses with their loyal customers, and helping new customers find great businesses. In a busy world of social media, our app is geo-targeted to let our users know when they’re close to their favorite businesses and let’s businesses alert customers about what’s going on any time of the year.”

**Thank Forward Movement**, <https://thankforward.com/>

The founders of the movement, Julie & Mia, are Co-Active trained coaches and businesswomen.  Amid life’s ups and downs they found healing through the expression of gratitude. Utilizing life coaching foundations, they partnered on the creation of the Thank Forward Movement to inspire others to spread gratitude.

**The Kindness Club**, <https://www.thekindnessclub.net/>

Founded by Melinda Forward, the Kindness Club offers programs to create more positive cultures in schools, including Inspiration ROCKS!, Mirror Messages, 1,000 Thank Yous. Simple, yet powerful, these tools help create schools that are more connected, healthy, and inspired.

**The Magic of Happiness**, <https://www.sandramcknight.com/>

“Join me on a wild musical adventure into JOY and the reality that we are all in this world together! Entertaining you is my dream and it has come true...as I perform with audiences around the world with Laughter, Story and Song. Together we dream big, sing loudly, feel the intimate moments and change the entire world vibe! Suddenly there is more Lightness, Fun and Joy.”

**The Mindful Center of New Mexico**,<https://themindfulcenter.com/>

The Mindful Center was created by Jim DuVal, in 1991, after the stress of his job landed him in the emergency room with debilitating stomach pain. When modern medicine couldn’t help…he began to meditate. As his symptoms slowly disappeared, he devoted his life to meditation and became an intern at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center with Dr. Jon Kabat Zinn in his 8-week Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) programs. On returning to New Mexico, Jim founded The Mindful Center (formerly The Mariah Institute) and began teaching meditation full time. He retired from teaching in 2007, but continues to act as consultant with his daughter Michelle DuVal.

**The Why Institute**, <https://whyinstitute.com/>

The Institute provides an exam and training to provide clarity and direction for discovering your WHY.   They believe that nothing is more powerful than clarity of purpose, whether personally or professionally and help you get clear, stand out and play big by creating products and services to help you discover, articulate and live your WHY. Their WHY Formula includes: **WHY** – We believe that progress and success happen when we find a better way; **HOW** – How we do that is by making things clear and understandable; and **WHAT** – What we bring are simple yet powerful solutions to help you move forward.

**Links to Other Related Organizations:**

New Mexico supports hundreds of nonprofit organizations that help various communities and population segments across a wide range of needs. To identify a group that supports your constituency, many of the following organizations offer searchable databases, leadership training and access to funding for nonprofit leaders:

* ACF Philanthropy Central Partners (with links to 99 local philanthropic organizations), <https://www.albuquerquefoundation.org/philanthropy-central-partners.aspx>
* Albuquerque Community Foundation, <https://www.albuquerquefoundation.org/>
* Albuquerque Zen Center, <https://www.azc.org/>
* American Sustainable Business Council, <https://www.asbcouncil.org/>
* Bioneers - A Revolution from the Heart of Nature, <https://bioneers.org/>
* Center for Action and Contemplation, <https://cac.org/>
* Center for Nonprofit Excellence, <https://www.centerfornonprofitexcellence.org/>
* Center for Spiritual Living – Albuquerque, <https://www.abqcsl.org/>
* Center for Spiritual Living – Rio Grande, <http://www.riograndecenterforspiritualliving.org/>
* Center for Spiritual Living - Santa Fe, <https://santafecsl.org/>
* Certified B Corporations, <https://bcorporation.net/>
* Consciousness, Mindfulness, Compassion Int’l Association, <https://www.cmc-ia.org/>
* First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque, <http://uuabq.com/>
* Ghost Ranch Education and Retreat Center, <https://www.ghostranch.org/>
* Global Meaning Institute, <http://www.globalmeaninginstitute.com/>
* Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), <https://www.globalreporting.org/>
* Gross National Happiness Commission, <https://www.gnhc.gov.bt/en/>
* Gross National Happiness USA, <https://gnhusa.org/>
* International Coach Federation, <https://coachfederation.org/>
* Mindful New Mexico, <https://www.mindfulnewmexico.com/>
* Monastery of Christ in the Desert, <https://christdesert.org/>
* Net Impact, <https://www.netimpact.org/>
* NM Center for Meditative Inquiry, <https://meditationnm.wordpress.com/>
* Share New Mexico, <https://www.sharenm.org/>
* The Integral Business Leadership Group, <http://www.businessintegral.com/>
* The Mandala Center, <https://www.mandalacenter.org/>
* The Mindfulness Institute, <http://themindfulnessinstitute.com/our-methods/>
* Tourism Council of Bhutan, <https://www.tourism.gov.bt/>
* UNM B Corporation, <https://www.mgt.unm.edu/nmbcorps/default.asp>
* UNM Center for Life, <https://hsc.unm.edu/health/patient-care/integrative-medicine/>
* World Happiness Report, <https://www.earth.columbia.edu/sitefiles/file/Sachs%20Writing/2012/World%20Happiness%20Report.pdf>
* World Values Survey, <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/wvs.jsp>

**Key Contacts:**

melindasforward@gmail.com;

sandra@sandramcknight.com;