

# Your life, your ideas and your foundation

## Area preservation group flourishes

*Courtesy of the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico*

The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico (CFSNM) believes the beauty of a foundation is that you need not be wealthy to make a positive difference in the lives of people throughout the area. It is that belief that drives the CFSNM to work with a wide variety of charitable ideas and see them through fruition.

Mesilla Valley Preservation Inc., an organization dedicated to preserving the architectural legacy of the Mesilla Valley, was looking for a partner organization such as the CFSNM – one that understood the needs, strengths and potential of the Mesilla Valley.

“As a small nonprofit corporation, using the CFSNM for a temporary fund lets us concentrate on our core mission,” said Eric Liefeld, president of Mesilla Valley Preservation. “The foundation does the accounting, provides reports and even acknowledges and thanks donors on our behalf. We also find that being affiliated with the CFSNM gives our donors confidence.”

Mesilla Valley Preservation opened a temporary fund with the CFSNM so it could begin working on preserving and protecting historic properties through direct ownership, long-term stewardship and collaboration, education and training regarding the value of preservation, preservation techniques, traditional construction technology, local architectural history and the history and culture of southern New Mexico. It also provides outreach, advice, technical assistance and financing coordination for owners of historic properties.

“We are also working with the community foundation to explore other collaborative opportunities of mutual interest,” Liefeld said.

Through the establishment of temporary and permanent funds, organizations such as Mesilla Valley Preservation can accept chari-

table contributions to further their mission without going through all the requirements of becoming a nonprofit. Establishment of funds can sustain local charitable organizations, provide scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to the heart.

Through planned giving programs, donors can honor loved ones or leave a legacy that benefits southern New Mexico for generations. As they did with Liefeld and his organization, the CFSNM can advise on how best to maximize contributions, no matter what size.

Currently, the CFSNM manages 34 nonprofit endowments and 40 private endowments. Endowments are permanent funds that are created through a legal agreement, and then professionally managed by the CFSNM. Once an endowment is created, the principal lasts forever, and continues to produce earnings which can then be used to support its intended purpose. In addition to the portion of the funds used for the program, a portion of earnings is returned to the principal of the endowment and a portion is earmarked for management of the endowment.

The CFSNM also manages five scholarships, three donor-advised funds and 15 temporary funds, allowing donors several opportunities to find a cause that fits their charitable desires. Through the CFSNM, donors can contribute with cash, publicly-traded stock, closely-held stock, property, will and bequest assets, charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, life insurance policies and IRA/retirement plans.

For more information on Mesilla Valley Preservation, visit [www.mvpres.org](http://www.mvpres.org).

*The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico is dedicated to helping the Southern New Mexico community now, and in the future. Founded in 2000, the CFSNM offers opportunities for people who want to give back locally. For more information, visit our website, [www.cfsnm.org](http://www.cfsnm.org), or call Luan Wagner Burn at 521-4794.*