



When my wife Susan and I moved to New Mexico in 1986, we were quickly smitten by the essence of the state; its people, landscape, unique cuisine and comfortable multicultural mix. Over the years since, we have tried to do our part to help New Mexico become an even better place by supporting the community however we could by volunteering our time and money to organizations which we thought could do the most good. United Way of Central New Mexico has always been on the top of that list.

But our state continues to be challenged in many ways. Our student achievement scores are far below par, while poverty and single parent births are much too common. Each time I see a list of how badly New Mexico stands compared to other states on such things as national student test scores or graduation rates, it hurts. No one wants to be on the bottom of a good list.

That is why I think that our local United Way's current strategy is so important. Its core focus on programs like Mission Graduate and Mission Families address the underlying causes of many of the problems in our community and they are already showing success.

These efforts, of course, cost money. MacKenzie Scott's recent extraordinary gift will give a giant boost to United Way of Central New Mexico's ability to attack our long running problems, but I believe that this is also a perfect time to insure that the results of her gift will be sustained long into the future.

To accomplish that, Susan and I have joined with a small group of long-time United Way supporters to kickstart a long range effort to significantly boost UWCNM's endowment fund. A robust endowment will allow UWCNM to commit to multi-year programs for our community. We hope that many of you who might read this will join us.

We are looking for someone who would like to become a million dollar donor to United Way, with all its national recognition and honors. Susan and I wish to help someone reach that noble goal. If you agree to contribute \$100,000 to UWCNM's endowment fund each year for 5 years, we will match your contributions and you will get credit for the entire amount and become a million dollar donor immediately. Here is your chance to make an impact that will last even beyond your lifetime!

David & Susan Weymouth