

GILA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

When I think about what the Gila Community Foundation accomplished in 2025, I do not begin with a balance sheet. I think about the organizations that kept serving, the community leaders who gained tools to lead more effectively, the families who received help during an emergency, and the charitable resources that will remain invested here for generations.

Those are the stories behind this annual report.

Our transition to the Gila Community Foundation represented more than a change of name. It reflected the organization we are becoming: a regional foundation connecting people, resources, knowledge, and philanthropy across Southwest New Mexico.

Our role is unique. GCF does not compete with the organizations doing direct service - we help make their work possible. Through Pathways to Progress, fiscal sponsorship, grantmaking, donor advised and endowed funds, emergency response, and regional partnerships, we strengthen the people and organizations working every day for our communities.

In 2025, more than \$618,000 was invested back into our region through grants and direct support. But our impact reaches beyond any single number. When an organization becomes stronger, the people it serves benefit. When an endowment grows, generosity can continue for generations. And when donors, nonprofits, businesses, governments, and community leaders come together, our entire region becomes stronger.

That is the work of a community foundation—and that is what your investment in GCF makes possible.

Thank you for investing in the place we all call home.

With gratitude,



Jamie Sechrist
Executive Director
Gila Community Foundation



Our Mission:

The Gila Community Foundation builds a stronger, more resilient community by fostering sustainable philanthropic growth.

Our Vision:

As the leader in community giving, our vision is to facilitate tangible impact for donors and the community.

A FOUNDATION BUILDING THE FUTURE OF SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO

The Gila Community Foundation does not deliver meals. We do not shelter families in crisis, mentor children after school, create public art, preserve our history, or respond to every emergency...

...But we help make all of that possible.

Every day across Southwest New Mexico, people are doing extraordinary work to strengthen their communities. They are leading nonprofits, organizing volunteers, feeding families, protecting survivors, supporting young people, preserving culture, responding to emergencies, and building solutions to challenges that are uniquely our own.

Behind that work must be something strong enough to sustain it.

That is where the Gila Community Foundation comes in.

WE STRENGTHEN THE ORGANIZATIONS PEOPLE DEPEND UPON

WE CONNECT GENEROSITY WITH OPPORTUNITY

WE TURN GENEROSITY INTO ACTION IN A CRISIS

WE BUILD PERMANENT RESOURCES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

WE PROVIDE THE ORGANIZATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE THAT ALLOWS

IDEAS TO GROW

Across Grant, Luna, Hidalgo, and Catron counties, GCF continues to evolve from an organization that manages charitable funds into something much larger: A foundation for the people and organizations building the future of Southwest New Mexico.

WE STRENGTHEN THE ORGANIZATIONS PEOPLE DEPEND UPON



GILA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

In rural and frontier communities, organizations are often led by small staff and dedicated volunteers who are expected to navigate increasingly complex responsibilities—from board governance and financial oversight to fundraising, compliance, and strategic planning—with limited access to professional training and technical assistance.

GCF is working to change that.

In 2025, 68 nonprofit professionals, board members, volunteers, and community leaders participated in **Pathways to Progress** programming, with **GCF** investing more than \$20,000 in training and capacity-building support.

Participants gained practical tools in areas including nonprofit compliance, governance, fundraising, organizational policies, strategic planning, grant writing, and storytelling—skills they could take directly back to the organizations and communities they serve.

The impact continues long after a workshop ends:

- **A better-trained board makes better decisions.**
- **Stronger financial systems protect an organization's future.**
- **Better fundraising helps sustain essential programs.**
- **Sound governance builds donor confidence.**
- **Strong organizations can serve more people—and serve them better.**

Pathways to Progress does not strengthen just one mission. It strengthens the people and organizations carrying out many of them.

**And stronger organizations today
create stronger communities for years to come.**



WE CONNECT GENEROSITY WITH OPPORTUNITY

In 2025, GCF partnered with **Southline Transmission Project** to bring **\$214,000** in charitable investment into communities across Southwest New Mexico through the **Southline Community Investment Program**.

The **Southline Transmission Project** is a major transmission infrastructure project that will ultimately connect the electrical transmission systems of the El Paso and Tucson areas. As part of its commitment to the communities along the project corridor, Southline invests in local organizations and initiatives that strengthen the places its project touches.

GCF serves as the local philanthropic partner for Southline's community investment efforts in Southwest New Mexico—helping ensure those resources are distributed responsibly, transparently, and with meaningful local participation.

GCF managed the entire process—from outreach and applicant assistance to local review, award administration, and stewardship of the funds.

SOUTHLINE TRANSMISSION PROJECT

2025 IMPACT

- 120+ requests for support
- 29 organizations funded
- \$214K invested in local communities (Asks over \$1M)
- Serving Hidalgo, Grant, Luna & Doña Ana Co.



These investments supported organizations addressing food insecurity, senior services, emergency response, animal welfare, healthcare, and community well-being.

The partnership demonstrates an important role GCF can play for Southwest New Mexico: connecting major regional investment with local knowledge so resources reach the organizations and communities where they can make a meaningful difference.

WE TURN GENEROSITY INTO ACTION IN A CRISIS

Emergencies do not wait for grant cycles, and neither should generosity.

One of the most important roles of a community foundation is having trusted infrastructure already in place when something unexpected happens. GCF can activate quickly, receive charitable contributions, and coordinate with community to direct resources where they are needed most.

TROUT FIRE EMERGENCY FUND

During the **2025 Trout Fire**, GCF raised **\$45,418** to assist evacuees and impacted families. Support helped meet immediate needs including temporary housing, food, essential household items, and emergency replacement of refrigerators and freezers. For some households, prolonged power outages caused appliances to stop working; for others, food left without refrigeration for extended periods spoiled so severely that refrigerators and freezers could no longer be safely or reasonably used.

Many of the people receiving this assistance were seniors living on fixed incomes, for whom an unexpected expense of several hundred dollars—or more—to replace an essential appliance created a significant financial hardship.

Behind every dollar was a neighbor who wanted to help and GCF gave that generosity somewhere trusted to go.



FOOD EMERGENCY FUND

When rising food insecurity created another urgent challenge, GCF responded again. During 2025, the **Food Emergency Fund** raised **\$14,784**, allowing resources to move quickly to trusted frontline organizations serving individuals and families across the region.

WE BUILD PERMANENT RESOURCES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

GCF provides charitable vehicles that allow donors to respond today, plan for tomorrow, support a favorite organization, launch a community idea, or leave something permanent behind. Each fund may have a different purpose; together, they create a stronger charitable ecosystem for Southwest New Mexico.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

A Gift That Keeps Giving—For Generations. What if your generosity could continue strengthening Southwest New Mexico long after your lifetime? That is the power of an endowment fund.

An endowment creates a lasting legacy for a nonprofit or for a vision or passion you believe in. The fund is invested for the long term, and a portion is made available for charitable purposes according to the fund's terms and GCF's policies. The goal is to preserve and grow the fund so that one act of generosity can continue making an impact year after year.



GCF proudly stewards endowments benefiting:

- **Alex & Martyn Memorial Fund**
- **El Refugio**
- **Gila Valley Library**
- **Henry V. "La Burra" Morales Memorial Fund**
- **The Commons**
- **Mimbres Region Arts Council**

Together, these funds help sustain efforts addressing food security, survivor services, education, arts and culture, and community well-being.

IN APPRECIATION

GCF's impact is made possible by people who choose to offer gifts just as valuable as financial resources: their time, knowledge, experience, and commitment to community. We are grateful to the many community members who help ensure that GCF remains responsive, accountable, and deeply connected to the communities we serve.

2025 GCF Board of Directors

Stephen Lindsey - Chair
Priscilla Lucero - Vice Chair
Katelyn Church - Treasurer
Peggy Hutchinson - Secretary
April Crosby
Hugh Epping
Ike Foster

Vladimir Gnilozubov
Jennifer Klotz
Lloyd Parker
Dana Rosser
Nick Siebel
Pamela Williams

2025 Board Recruitment Task Force

A strong foundation begins with strong leadership. We extend our sincere appreciation to the members of our 2025 Board Recruitment Task Force, who helped identify and recruit community leaders prepared to guide GCF into its next chapter:

Linda Brewer
Mattie Eagle
Priscilla Lucero
Susan Mittelstadt
Mary Newkirk
Laura Phelps
Nancy Stephens

2025 Southline Community Investment Advisory Committee

Community philanthropy is strongest when local voices help guide local investment. The Southline Community Investment Program brought together community representatives who contributed their knowledge, perspective, and understanding of regional needs to help guide grantmaking decisions.

Bruce Ashburn
Cassie Arias-Ward
Whitney Cranmer
Peggy Hutchinson
Priscilla Lucero
Susan Mittelstadt
Amanda Morales
Sharon Offutt
Ben Rasmussen
Jamie Sechrist
Charlene Webb
Terra Winter

2025 Strategic Partners & Funders

We gratefully recognize the organizations and agencies whose financial investment, collaboration, and community support helped make GCF's work possible in 2025:



2025 Donors

Every grant awarded, every organization strengthened, every community leader supported, every fund stewarded, and every partnership built requires something behind it: A strong community foundation. That strength comes from people who believe that investing in GCF is an investment in the entire community. To everyone who made a gift directly to the Gila Community Foundation in 2025, thank you.

The Gila Community Foundation does **NOT deliver meals, mentor children, shelter families in crisis, create works of public art, or preserve our history.**

But we help strengthen the organizations and people who do.

When you invest in GCF, your gift reaches beyond a single program or cause. You are investing in the capacity of an entire region to solve problems, care for neighbors, develop leaders, respond to emergencies, and build its own future.

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

A Donor Advised Fund gives individuals, families, businesses, and groups a flexible way to organize their charitable giving while GCF handles the administration, due diligence, grant processing, and stewardship behind the scenes. Think of it as your own charitable fund—without the burden of creating and operating your own nonprofit or private foundation.

The 30something Fund is a powerful example of the GCF's Donor Advised Funds in action: Members pool their charitable dollars and collectively decide which community projects to support. Through this fund, more than \$500,000 has been invested in strengthening Silver City and Grant County.



GRANTMAKING FUNDS

Not every donor wants to choose a single organization. Sometimes you simply know what you care about. GCF's grantmaking funds allow donors to combine their generosity with that of others and invest collectively in needs and opportunities across our region.

➔ **Celebrate the Southwest Fund** helps sustain the experiences -- the festivals, arts, music, heritage, and community gatherings -- that make Southwest New Mexico unmistakably our own.

➔ **Southwestern Culture Fund** supports efforts to preserve, celebrate, and share the heritage and cultural traditions of Grant, Luna, Hidalgo, and Catron counties.

➔ **Aging in Place Fund** helps turn relatively small improvements - a handrail, ramp, safety modification, or minor repair - into something invaluable: the independence, dignity, and ability to remain at home.

➔ **Community Impact Fund** is designed to keep GCF responsive to emerging community needs, providing consulting services or short-term operating needs for nonprofit organizations.

LEGACY FUNDS

Through estate and planned giving, you can create a Legacy Fund at GCF that reflects what has mattered most to you during your lifetime—and ensures your generosity continues strengthening the community you love. A Legacy Fund can be established through a will or trust, a beneficiary designation, a charitable bequest, or other planned gift.

WE PROVIDE THE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT ALLOWS IDEAS TO GROW

FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

Turning a good idea into charitable work requires more than passion. Accepting tax-deductible contributions, managing charitable funds, maintaining compliance, tracking expenses, pursuing eligible funding opportunities, and providing financial accountability all require infrastructure that a new or grassroots initiative may not yet have. Fiscal sponsorship provides that infrastructure.

The project focuses on its mission, while GCF provides the charitable structure and back-office support that helps make it possible. GCF's role can include receiving and acknowledging charitable contributions, financial administration and reporting, compliance oversight, fund management, and ensuring that charitable dollars are used for their approved purposes.

In 2025, GCF provided fiscal sponsorship for initiatives supporting youth, arts and culture, education, community history, and cultural preservation, including:

CAM Ave Basketball Clinic
Fandango Nuevomexicano
Friends of Noble Park
Friends of the Silver City Museum
Mimbres Region Arts Council

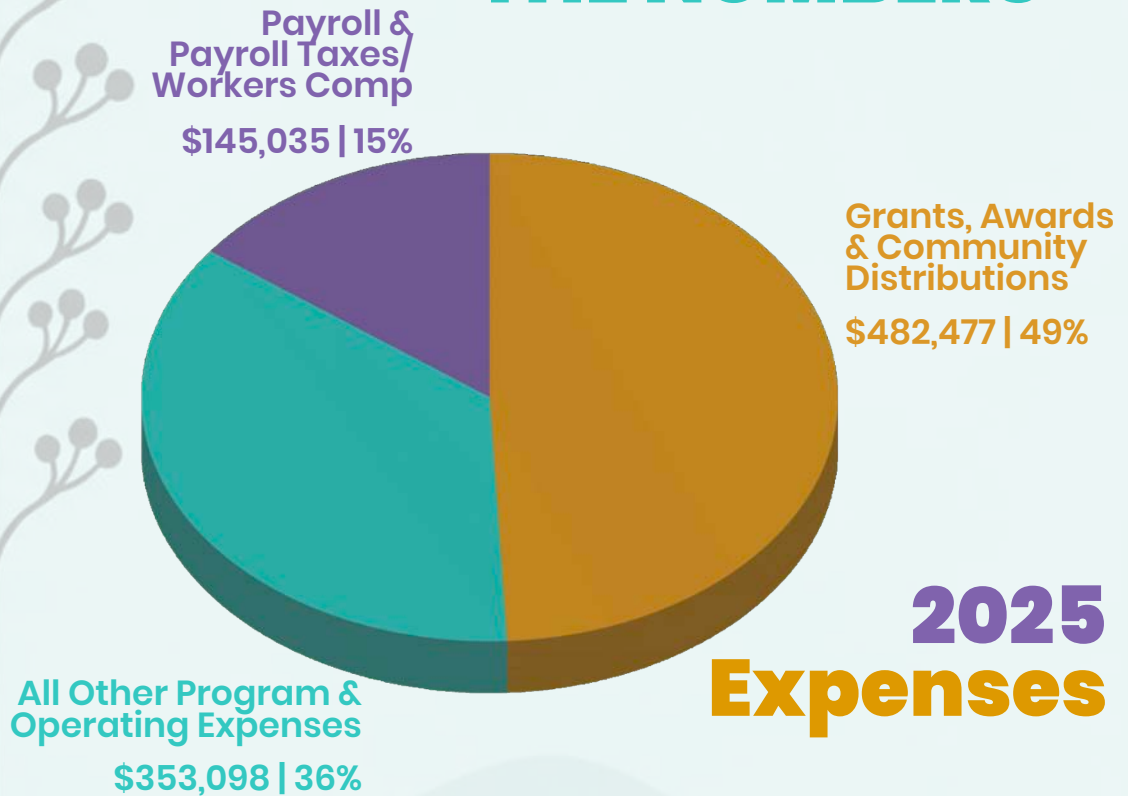
Southwest Print Fiesta
Southwest Textile Database Project
Southwest Word Fiesta
Xantolo
Youth Mural Program



That is the value of fiscal sponsorship: community members with a good idea do not have to build an entire nonprofit organization before they can begin making a difference. GCF helps create the conditions in which those ideas can grow, succeed, and serve our communities.

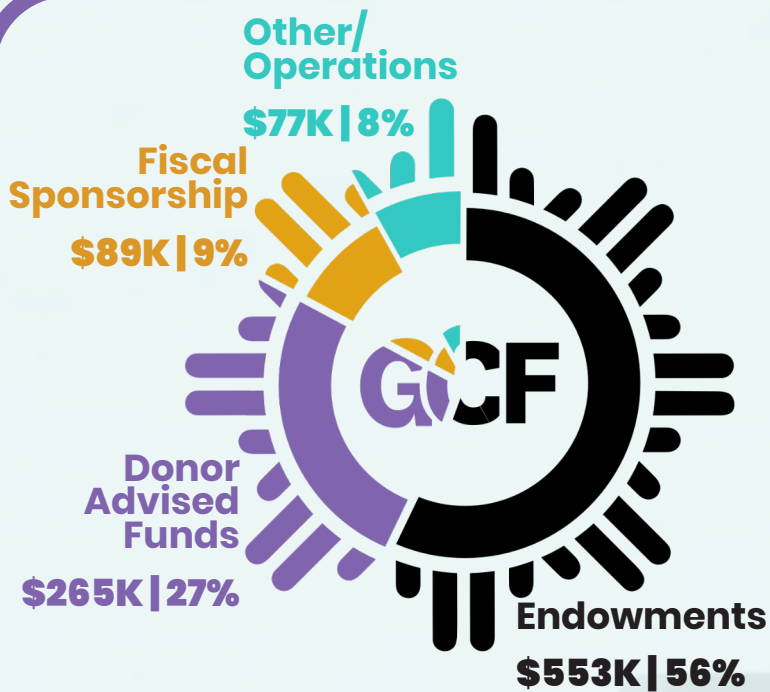
2025

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



2025 Expenses

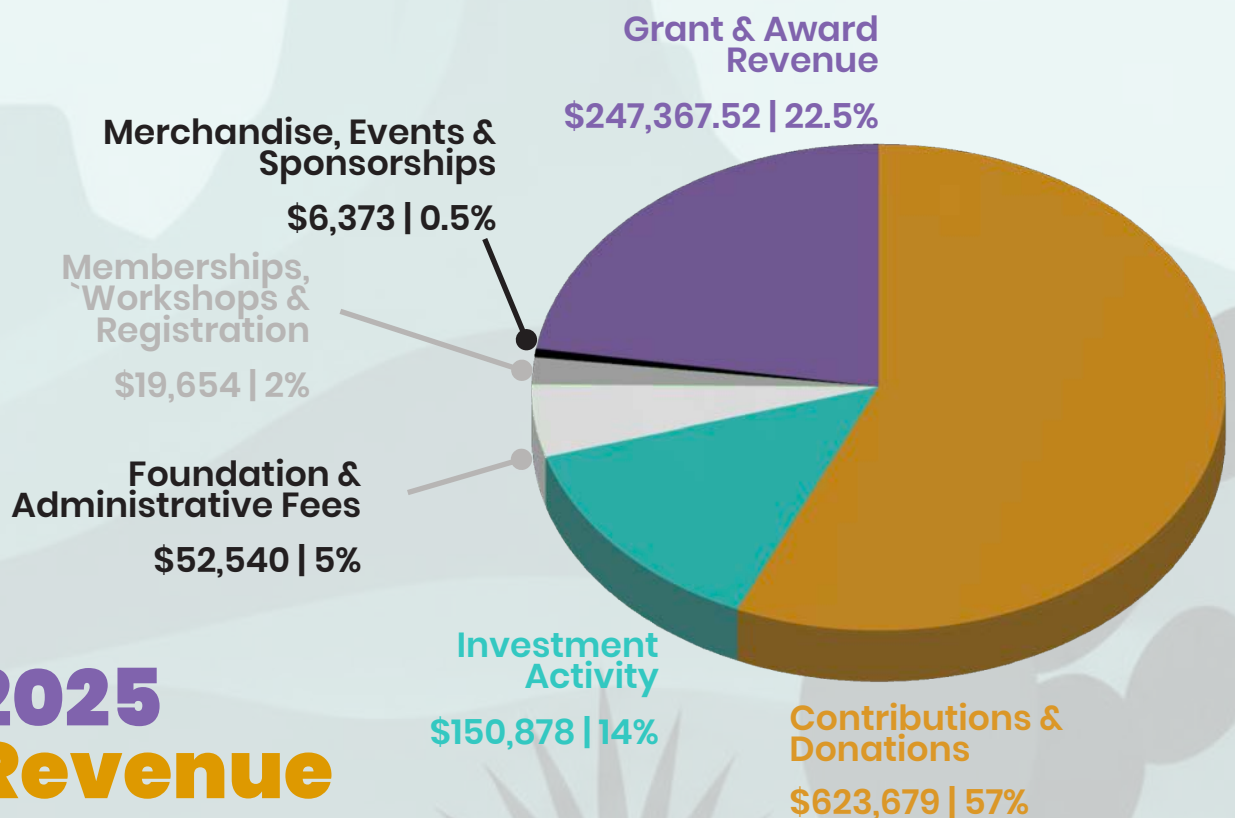
These dollars represent more than assets: they represent **trust**. Trust from donors. Trust from nonprofit partners. Trust from fundholders. And trust from communities that expect GCF to manage charitable resources responsibly, honor donor intent, and ensure those resources remain focused on charitable purposes. That responsibility is central to everything we do.



Financial Stewardship

Nearly \$1 Million Held for Charitable Purposes at Year-End.

On December 31, 2025, GCF held \$983,938.49 across charitable funds.



2025 Revenue

We invite you to be a part of what comes next. To learn more or to invest in the Gila Community Foundation, visit GilaCF.org.

GET INVOLVED

The Gila Community Foundation invites you to join us in building stronger, more vibrant communities across Southwest New Mexico. Whether you are an individual, family, or business, there are many ways to make an impact and support our mission of empowering nonprofits and fostering sustainable growth.



BECOME A KEYSTONE INVESTOR

One of the most meaningful ways to support the work of the Gila Community Foundation is to join its **Keystone Investors**. Keystone Investors is a community of donors whose annual gifts sustain the nonprofit services and operations of the GCF. While the foundation receives modest fees for its services, these fees are not sufficient to support the full costs of the workshops, training materials, and expertise needed by the people and organizations we serve. Our Keystone Investors fill the gap.

Your annual gift to Keystone Investors is a catalyst: \$1 given directly to one nonprofit helps that nonprofit. But \$1 given to Keystone Investors...

- **Trains the leaders of dozens of nonprofits**
- **Strengthens the fundraising capacity of multiple organizations**
- **Provides infrastructure support that lets organizations spend more on mission, not administration**

That is not a donation. That is an investment with a multiplied return — measured in human lives.

In return for their investment, Keystone Investors enjoy the satisfaction of knowing their generosity is wisely shared across the region. They also enjoy benefits including an annual recognition event for all members, acknowledgement in the foundation's annual report, and invitations to private receptions for Keystone Investors.

When you become a GCF Keystone Investor, your gift reaches beyond a single program or cause. You are investing in the capacity of an entire region to solve problems, care for neighbors, develop leaders, respond to emergencies, and build its own future.

GIVE WITH PURPOSE

Consider a gift for the long-term by creating your individual charitable investment – a Donor Advised Fund or a Legacy Fund. Or make a long-term commitment to a specific organization by contributing to its endowment fund. If your passion is more wide-ranging, consider one of the GCF's Grantmaking Funds.

If you share our belief in what Southwest New Mexico can become, consider one of the Gila Community Foundation's charitable investment strategies as a vehicle for your generosity.



SHARE YOUR TIME AND TALENT

Share your time and talents by joining one of our committees. Volunteering is a meaningful way to make a difference and gain valuable experience. Plus, we are committed to the idea that volunteering should be a fun way to share time and talents with like-minded members of our great community.

BE A PART OF WHAT'S POSSIBLE

Southwest New Mexico is home to people who show up – for their neighbors, their communities, and the generations that will follow. The Gila Community Foundation exists to make sure that work has the support it deserves. We provide the infrastructure, the expertise, the charitable vehicles, and the trusted relationships that allow generosity to move efficiently and effectively into the communities that need it most.

When you give to GCF — or through GCF — you are not simply writing a check. You are strengthening the organizations people depend upon. You are connecting resources to real needs. You are building something permanent for the people who come after us.

We invite you to be part of that. Together, we are building the foundation Southwest New Mexico deserves.



2025 Annual Report

www.GilaCF.org

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Serving Grant, Hidalgo,
Luna & Catron Counties

Gila Community Foundation

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Would you like to give to GCF?



Scan the code today!