



March 15, 2017

Preserving architectural heritage and community traditions in
New Mexico and the Southwest since 1986.

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Van Ness Feldman, LLP

1050 Thomas Jefferson St. N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Ms. Pavia,

Cornerstones Community Partnerships intends to create a Memorial fund honoring Robert Nordhaus for his tremendous contribution to our non-profit and his affection for the state of New Mexico. In July of 2014 Bob wrote me:

"I am in New Mexico a good deal of time and also have been a long-time supporter of Cornerstones, which I think is doing a great job. I would be interested in talking to you about the possibility of joining the organization's board."

He soon joined and a relationship began that has had a major impact on me and on our small New Mexico non-profit. It was a perfect fit. Cornerstones is a unique organization in a unique place and it was appealing to Bob for a number of reasons.

His roots in the state go back well over 100 years. His ancestors were German Jews who came to New Mexico in the mid-1800's. Some of them started as peddlers but ended up with successful mercantile stores all over the state. The first city they reached, however, was Las Vegas, NM. The Nordhaus family still owns a ranch outside Las Vegas which Bob, Jean and their family visited every year. In addition, Bob grew up in Albuquerque where his father was instrumental in creating the Sandia Ski Basin.

Because of his background, Bob loved the state's rich cultural history, especially the small Hispanic and Native communities. The mission of Cornerstones is to preserve the cultural heritage in this region of our country. We work in partnership with communities to restore historic structures, encourage traditional building practices and affirm cultural values. Everything at Cornerstones is accomplished through volunteerism and local participation. Youth training is a focus. We respond to requests from communities with technical and financial support. Last year was our 30th anniversary. Our formula of combining our expertise with local skills and energy has saved hundreds of buildings, mostly adobe, throughout the area.

Advisory Committee

Jennifer Kimball

Richard Moe

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Nancy Wirth

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Bob was a wonderful friend and colleague. I turned to him again and again when needing information about running the non-profit. He shared his wealth of knowledge and experience generously. I still listen for his words of wisdom when I am contemplating any action and often feel I know how he would have counseled me.

The Memorial to Bob will be extremely valuable. We have a busy season ahead. Funds raised will go toward a number of important efforts which include re-plastering (mudding) several churches and helping to restore a 19th century grist mill in Mora County, plus work on the historic Plaza Del Cerro in Chimayo, one of the oldest intact plazas in New Mexico. Whenever possible, these projects utilize local youth, both for economic development in a very impoverished part of the country and to increase respect for local traditions and building skills.

We'd love to hear from you. And hope you will consider contributing to Bob's Memorial.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jake Barrow", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jake Barrow
Director