



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

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Governor Richardson and First Lady Barbara Richardson Turn Governor's Mansion Back Into "People's House"

Santa Fe: The governor's mansion is once again the "People's House." According to the annual report released today by the governor's office, 2003 was truly an historic year in New Mexico. Over 170 events, over 7,000 guests, from heads of state to captains of industry attended various ceremonies at the governor's mansion.

The annual report listed total expenditures for the year at \$99,468.00 used for mansion entertainment and mansion events. As was earlier reported, governor Richardson reimbursed the fund \$905.94 for miscellaneous expenses incurred other than for mansion events. The fund balance at the end of 2003 was \$12,983.68.

Just nine days after taking office, world attention turned to Santa Fe, when the Governor hosted three days of diplomatic talks with the North Korean delegation. Over 180 news outlets from around the world including CNN, and all four major United States TV networks, five national Japanese Networks, and correspondents from Australia, France, Germany and Britain descended on the governor's mansion and broadcasted live for 72 hours. Santa Fe sunsets and sunrises were broadcast throughout the world.

"The mansion was meant to be a place to showcase New Mexico, a place to promote our state and our people. I am proud to have hosted at the mansion, for the first time in New Mexico's history, a sitting Mexico President, President Fox and a staunch ally and great friend to America, the President of Spain, Jose Maria Aznar," Governor Bill Richardson said.

The Governor and the First Lady hosted members of the British Royal Family, Prince Andrew and Prince Bandar of Saudi Arabia. Ambassadors from Mexico, Venezuela, China, India, Spain and Japan came to New Mexico and joined in the hospitality of the

first family. National and international leaders in business, the arts and politics from former First Lady Roslyn Carter to Members of Congress to artists from across New Mexico attended events at the mansion..

Hundreds of Native American leaders attended a reception for the National Congress of American Indians. Newly elected Navajo President Joe Shirley and his wife attended a dinner to discuss greater state tribal coordination of DWI information.

Film industry executives including Ron Howard, producer of “The Missing,” shot in New Mexico, and movie legends Gene Hackman and Edward James Olmos, came to the mansion. These types of events resulted in a 1,000% increase in film revenue for the state.

The governor successfully entertained several captains of industry who have since brought jobs to New Mexico.

But, perhaps the most important change last year was making the mansion available for community groups and local events including weekly tours. From hosting the victorious UNM Lady Lobos to celebrate their run to the NCAA sweet sixteen, to members of the Celebration of Life children, a group who assists children with cancer, from the Girl Scout Reception for Distinguished Women to the League of Women Voters Annual Luncheon, the mansion was open to thousands of New Mexicans for the first time. Legislators from both parties frequented the mansion and many commented on the fact that they had never received an invitation before Governor Richardson opened the doors once again.

“This was a great year for all of us and Barbara and I want to thank the people of New Mexico for the privilege to serve as your governor,” Richardson said.

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