



Lenore Wolfe, 92, has spent her long life working to improve the rights of others, following a path set down by her father in Oklahoma. As a college student in New York City, she was a labor organizer, and since the 1960s in New Mexico, she has been one of the state's foremost advocates for early childhood education.

It was only fitting that she was honored on her 90th birthday with a reception inside the Roundhouse in Santa Fe, where she spent many hours helping to secure funding and establish the standards for public-school kindergarten education. She earned a B.A. and M.A. in elementary education at UNM and subsequently

taught children and adults in a variety of capacities.

She established the Head Start program at Laguna Pueblo and helped develop bilingual early childhood education on the Navajo Reservation and throughout the pueblos, which led her to develop a similar program in Nepal. She served on the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education and continues to help develop laws and policies that benefit young children.

Wolfe also was known for her menagerie of birds and reptiles at her home, often a field trip destination for various elementary schools. In her 50s, after her Nepal experience, she began traveling the world; her most recent trip was to Alaska two years ago. In her 70s, she became a docent at the Rio Grande Zoo and, in her 80s, was a docent at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History.