



June 21, 2010

Happy summer! It's been since January that I last reported to you, so I thought it time to touch base. I feel the biggest point to address in this letter is how this tough economy is affecting us all. Managing our day to day finances and keeping our budgets balanced poses a great challenge. And here at Casa Esperanza is no exception. We see our cancer families struggle to find the financial means to continue treatments as they try to balance family and jobs as well.

I was chatting with Cathy Moore, our Patient Navigator, and she shared some of her observations about our families. She noted that the stress of dealing with cancer is magnified tenfold with the ongoing stress of keeping financially afloat. It is difficult to know where to turn for help and to accept the fact that there are no easy resources available. She added that she sees our families emotionally exhausted; their lives seem to be all about worries - of kids, of jobs, of homes, of parents, and now, cancer.

Our dedicated Casa Esperanza staff works diligently to make sure our cancer patients and their family members have what they need here in the house. We are in constant search of grocery bargains. We shop at Roadrunner Food Bank to make sure we have groceries for our families - but we often find that we simply do not have all the funds we need. We are always resourceful as we write grants for grocery cards. I am pleased to say we just received a grant from Smith's Foods – Neighbor to Neighbor Fund for \$1000 in grocery cards! This enables us to be able to shop for our families. We write grants for lodging. And again I am pleased to say we just received \$2000 in grants from Bank of Albuquerque and Bank of the West. We also received a very nice gift from San Felipe Casino Hollywood for nearly \$4000 for lodging – money raised by the employees! Generous donations such as these enable us to continue to help our families. But even funds like these go quickly. The average treatment cycle for cancer is usually six weeks, so that means it will cost a family \$900 for the six weeks. So you can see that a \$4000 grant will only cover 4 plus families, and we house 28 families at a time.

And now let me brag about the great groups of volunteers we have at Casa. Man do we have volunteers! They come by van-VIM groups from Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas. They come by bus. We had students from South Valley Academy come every Thursday to work in the office and to assist our facility manager, and APS special needs students do general volunteer house projects. They come by car, and they walk over from UNM. We had 100+ volunteers on UNM Spring Storm Day and Make a Difference Day. We have volunteers who come to prepare evening meals for our residents- Civitans Clubs, Desert Springs Church, NM Federal Credit Union, Professional Bookkeeper Association, Payless Shoes and many others. We have individual volunteers who give their time checking inventory in the Patient Navigation office and working at the front desk. Then we have the wonderful volunteers who serve on committees, our Board of Directors and our Board of Advisors. Without them we simply would not exist. But, let me be clear. We need you - your time and your talents.



Some of our committees plan our special events. We have just celebrated our Mike Moore Memorial Golf Classic volunteers with a barbeque at the Sheriff's Posse Hall in Belen. We had 100 guests attend celebrating all the work Fred and Edie Moore (pictured left) and volunteers have put into this event for the past twelve years.

We had another terrific committee plan and carry off our 8th Annual Art for Hope Auction event in March. We auctioned off many wonderful items and had a great time doing it. Howard McCall, our auctioneer with Steve Stucker and Bob Clark worked the crowd and got every item sold to happy art collectors. Our next event is scheduled for March 26, 2011.

We have another great team planning our 3rd Annual Casa Esperanza Patient Navigation Volleyball Tournament on July 31 at Charlie's Sandbox. If you are one who enjoys heart pumping action and great team spirit, come out for the day. You can register through our website at www.casaesperanzanm.org.

We have yet another marvelous team who work with staff every day on our Vehicle Donation Program. We have a live auction on the second Saturday of each month. It is a great way to support Casa Esperanza either by donating a car for auction or purchasing one for your use. You can learn more about our program through our website at www.casaesperanzanm.org or by calling Gina FitsEmons at 277-2066.

September 3 and October 24 are two days to put on your calendar. September 3 is the 5th Annual Keller Williams Golf Tournament held at Santa Ana Golf Club. You can call Annie Jaques to register at 235-9623 or anniejaques@aol.com. October 24 is the huge Day of the Tread event put on by the Embassy Suites. It is a bike, run or walk event held on a great Sunday in October. This year, there will be a Century for bikers and a half marathon for runners! You can go to www.dayofthetread.com to learn more about the event and to register. Casa Esperanza is a beneficiary of both the Keller Williams Golf Tournament and the Day of the Tread Bike Ride, so check them out and join the fun.

There is so much good stuff going on here at Casa. And the bottom line is that it could not happen and continue to happen without your support. Funding these days is tight. The NM State Legislature had to cut funds to make their budget, so we are affected. Funders and grantors had to cut their donations to stay solvent, so we are affected. Donors have tightened their budgets, and we are affected. We have stayed true to our cancer patients and their families by making sure we can provide a clean and welcoming home to anyone who needs us while they are in active cancer treatment. But we continue to need your help. We need your financial donations, your in-kind donations and we need your volunteer time.

If you would like to visit with me about CE and our needs you can reach me through CE at 505-277-9880. If you are interested in volunteering in any way you can contact Stephanie Mora at 505-277-9880 or smora@casaesperanzanm.org. I have enclosed an envelope to assist with any financial donation you can send our way.

Thank you, and have a great summer!

Johnese

Johnese Turri, President & Chair
Casa Esperanza Board of Directors