

NEWS

from



Summer 2008

Volume 15 Number 1

Celebrating Volunteers

by Angelica Medina, Guest Services and Community Relations Director

Casa Esperanza recently acquired a wonderful and caring couple as regular weekly volunteers. Spencer Thomas and his wife Emily moved from Washington State to Albuquerque two years ago where Spencer established himself as a mortgage consultant. As Spencer has stated, "owning my own business allows me extra time in my days and gives me the flexibility I need in order to volunteer my extra time." He mentioned that he had been looking for some type of volunteer work, and after searching online, saw that there was an opening for a chef at Casa Esperanza. He decided to call and volunteer for the position and mentioned that he has always enjoyed cooking which drew him to the position.



Spencer Thomas and his wife Emily preparing a wonderful dinner for the residents of Casa.

For the past two months, Spencer and Emily have faithfully committed to be at Casa every Tuesday evening as soon as they leave their offices. They have

prepared delicious meals like pork tenderloin with steamed vegetables, hamburgers and brats, barbequed chicken and many other wonderful dishes. Our families are thrilled and truly appreciate Spencer and Emily's time and efforts to care for and feed each and every person here. The staff also appreciates the wonderful resulting aromas that waft throughout the house. It is our sincere hope that they will continue this thoughtful and gracious gift for our Casa families.



VIM members Ed Ririe and Gary Holland from Oak Park UMC, Bartlesville Oklahoma gave the gift of strong knees while tiling the inner courtyard.

We are fortunate to have other folks prepare meals on a regular basis, and I especially wish to thank the many volunteers from Desert Springs Church, Rio Grande and Sierra Vista Civitan Clubs and the Networking Team. You have no idea how much our families look forward to these meals, all prepared and served with such love.

There are groups who come to Casa Esperanza from other states, like the Volunteers in Mission with the United Methodist

Church. These folks actually stay in the house for a week or so, doubling up in the rooms and working on major projects such as replacing all bathroom linoleum with tile and landscaping. We have hosted VIM from Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arizona, Louisiana and Colorado! One great bonus is the "regional" dinners the VIM groups prepare – everything from barbequed pulled pork to crawfish *etouffe*.

Volunteers do so much here, we couldn't run this 18,000 sq. ft. facility without their help. In 2007 alone we recorded 1538 volunteer hours provided by 470 volunteers, plus an additional 342 board volunteer hours for a grand total of 1,880 hours!

Nearly every week of the year we have volunteers in the house and this newsletter is about just a few of them. I hope that you or your group will be interested in volunteering and will contact me at 505-277-9880 or amedina@casaesperanzanm.org.



Volunteers from The Simpson Property Group & CitiCards came out in force on Make A Difference Day.

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A Cautionary Tale *by Eileen Cook, Casa Esperanza CEO*

Every Summer I devote this space to celebrations, and this Summer is no different. Except this Summer I will not sing the well-earned praises of our armies of volunteers, our caring donors, our exceptional programs nor our exciting expansion plans. No, this time I am celebrating the incredible advances in medical science and the thousands of lives spared each year as a result.

This Summer, I am celebrating the fact that due to early screening and intervention, two members of our immediate Casa family have dodged a major bullet – that of an advanced cancer diagnosis.

Wow. *Screening and Early Intervention!* How often do we hear those words? Probably so often that they have lost their impact. But listen to this cautionary tale and hear these words loud and clear!

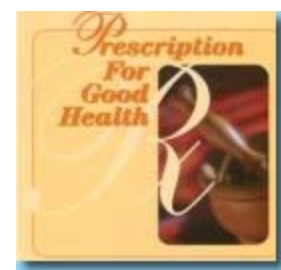
Though experiencing no major symptoms, a conscientious young woman thought that it was perhaps a good time to schedule a colonoscopy. So she did and was thoroughly surprised and somewhat chagrined to learn that she would be spending the Fourth of July holiday recuperating in the hospital from surgery to remove part of her colon. However, because the cancer had been detected at a very early stage, I am happy to report that prognosis for a complete recovery is excellent.

Then, there's the case of another woman, this one older, old enough to have experienced many, many mammograms. This time, she expected the

usual results – nothing particular to worry about, no real symptoms. This time though, she was called back for both a sonogram and a biopsy. Still, she felt no real panic as she had been down this road before and cancer was never found.

This time, fearing that cancer might eventually develop, her medical team recommended a lumpectomy, and, as you probably have already guessed, the pathology indicated the presence of cancer cells. However, because of early detection and intervention, radiation or chemotherapy was not indicated for the present time, although she will continue to be closely monitored.

So, this Summer I am celebrating medical science and the fact that we have such amazing diagnostic tools at our disposal. I am also celebrating the fact that these two stories have such hopeful endings. But even the best diagnostic and intervention tools will not help those of us who put off making appointments for our regular screenings. Science goes only so far. We must initiate and actively participate in our own care! So get up, go to the phone, and call! Today. I will be delighted to never have the opportunity to host you at Casa Esperanza! Not now. Not this time.



Patient Navigation Program - Embraces the Old and Welcomes the New

by Stacie Soto, Patient Navigation Program Director



Stacie Soto

As we enter into spring and summer seasons that are known for bringing about new beauty and hope after the winter season, the Patient Navigation and Survivor Services Program likewise enters a new season of change. In March, Casa Esperanza said goodbye to

Lorna Marchand, former Director of the Patient Navigation Program and the program's developer. Lorna established a solid foundation for this amazing program at Casa Esperanza which will continue to thrive in her absence because of her dedication to the program and her compassion for cancer patients and their families. Lorna will continue to support the Patient Navigation Program as a volunteer member of the Program Services Committee at Casa Esperanza, just as she will continue to work in the cancer field through her new position at the UNM Cancer Center Tumor Registry. We will deeply miss her presence at Casa Esperanza but wish her all the best on her new journey.

In Lorna's absence, I was promoted from the Assistant Director to the Director position and subsequently hired Cathy Moore, my former coworker from UNM Children's Hospital, to serve as the new Assistant Director of Patient Navigation. Cathy began her work at Casa Esperanza in March and will lead direct patient navigation efforts with Casa Esperanza residents. We eagerly look forward to building upon the program's foundation together to enable it to serve a greater number of patients and families affected by cancer.

Cathy holds a Bachelor of Sciences Degree in Human Development from the University of California at Davis. Prior to her employment at Casa Esperanza, Cathy gained experience in the mental health and social services fields both in San Jose

and Albuquerque while she worked in a transitional housing program for teen parents and in a behavioral and mental health treatment center. Later, she was employed for eight years as a Child Life Specialist and Team Leader in the UNM Children's Hospital Child Life Program. There, she provided psychosocial support to hospitalized children and their families by facilitating interventions focused on promoting normal growth and development, grief and bereavement, coping and pain management, therapeutic play, health education, and sibling support. Most recently, Cathy was an Early Intervention Service Coordinator for Presbyterian Home Health for over a year.

In addition to being bilingual in Spanish and English, Cathy possesses strong clinical skills, an open-minded and positive attitude, leadership experience, as well as an in-depth knowledge of cancer, cancer treatment, and

health-related system issues. Her immediate goal for the program is to "increase collaborative relations with all 33 counties in New Mexico to promote access to services and a higher quality of survivorship for cancer patients and their families." Cathy is wonderful addition to the Casa Esperanza family, and we welcome her along with the exciting new changes to our program.



Cathy Moore





TOTAL RAISED \$26,000

Special thanks to everyone who made this event a success!

Hope Chest Artists-Duane Bargar, Rachael Brandt, Wanda Burch, Sara Chambers, Simone Debbas, Roger G. DiCamillo, Suzanne Donazetti, Cherrymae Golston, O.K. Harris, Bob & Kathleen Hellman, Ron Martinez Looking Elk, Pete & Theresa Lovato, Loree Belin Marin, Victoria Mauldin, George Mendoza, Eizo Nishiura, Nellie Pacheco, Bob Phillips, Jody Prell, Virginia Maria Romero, Dee Sanchez, Celeste Simon, Gayle Fulwyler Smith, David Lloyd Stewart, Adam, Calvin and Shane Suina, Jordan Torres, Chris Turri, Ross Van Dusen and Darryl Willison; Silent Auction Artists & Donors-Doreman Burns, Michael Copeland, Lily Curtis, John Saunders, Casino Hollywood, Ronaldo Patrizio-Steiner, El Pinto, NM Symphony Orchestra, Dr. Byron Wall, Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Glenn Magelssen, Silver Owl, Inc., Carrie & Mike Thibodeau, Maree Isaacson, Bob & Laura Gustin, Cory Herz, Lisa Breeden Garcia, Hinkle Family Fun Center, Renaissance Hair Salon, Christel Reynolds, Tierra Encantada Winery, Casa Rondena Winery, Southern Wine & Spirits of Albuquerque and Vivace Restaurant; Auctioneer Hosts: Steve Stucker, KOB-TV 4; Bob Clark 770 KKOB; Special thanks to our sponsors: Platinum-KOB-TV 4, 770 KKOB & Citadel Broadcasting Corporation, Lamar Outdoor Advertising; Gold-Unpainted Furniture, Alphagraphics on Osuna, Turri Productions, Turri Consulting Media Consulting & Public Relations, ABQ Uptown, LandAmerica/Albuquerque Title, Cardinal Health, Enterprise Builders Corp.; Silver-Albuquerque Monument, Rio Grande Arts & Crafts Festival, Triple L Ink Graphic Design, Kirtland Federal Credit Union, People for Pete, Sun-Cal, Doyle Miller & Blake Ridgeway-Intelligent Energy, NM Tech Foundation, TVC, Bohannon-Huston, Ginny Longbotham, Associate Broker, CNE-Keller Williams Realty, Gerry Taylor, UNM Office of Institutional Advancement, HUB International Southwest, D. W. Turner, Inc., Macy's Towing, Marcus Rael & Pete Domenici, Jr., Altela, Inc., Cabot Superior Micropowders, ICX/Mesosystems, Keller Williams Realty, Wells Fargo Bank and Compass Bank; In-kind and Non-Attending Donations-AmeriPride Linen & Apparel, Wachovia-Sandia Investments, Trudy Jones-City Counselor, Bill & Susan Littlefield, T. Zane Reeves, Bob & Tracy Sedberry, Brian & Barbara Witt, Alexis & Carolyn Parrish, Debra Sade, Zuna Corporation; Thanks to our spotters- Dave Seely, Randy Gleason, Jean Block, Thelma Domenici, Art Ortega, Matt Woodcock, Jon Drury, Jan & Chris Turri; Special Assistants-Dick Loyd-photographer, Del Norte High School AFJROTC, Highland High School Key Club, Casa Esperanza Staff, and Steve Pace-Adobe Productions for Audio Visual; Committee members-Lily Curtis-Chair, Ann Allsbury, Dara Ambriz, Glenna Armenta, Maryle Barber, Lisa Breeden, Eileen Cook, Ginny Longbotham, Jan Turri, Johnese Turri, Molly O'Rourke Wall, Tracy Sedberry, and Beth Brodie.



Steve Stucker interviewing returning artists and Casa Esperanza residents Kathleen and the now late Bob Hellman



Matt Woodcock from Citadel Broadcasting Corporation teaches the finer points of spotting to two Del Norte High School AFJROTC members



Artists Cherrymae Golston & Duane Bargar show off their beautiful collaboration.



Michelle “Mike” Moore Memorial Golf Classic June 7, 2008

Congratulations Jerry Lisk, our Hole in One Winner!

Heroes

Western Refining

Kachina (Media)

Valencia County News Bulletin

Kokopelli

Wal-Mart Distribution Center #

6084 – Los Lunas

Koshare

Albuquerque Lighting, Etched Glass Designs, Wal-Mart Super Store #1414 - Belen, French Mortuary, HUB International Southwest, Planning & Transportation Enterprises, Eye Associates of NM, Michael & Johnese Turri -Hole-in-One Sponsor

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Mana Course

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Non Attending Sponsors

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Turney’s Inc.-Keith Wallace, Richardson Trading Co-Frances Richardson, T & R Trading-Gallup, Sandy Breeding, Bullseye Golf, Sunshine Flowers & Gifts, Tanny Cano, ABQ Uptown-Beth Brodie, Angel Fire Resort-Linda

Howell, Casa de Abo, Stacie Soto, Michael Gallegos, Mary Jane Schuler, Midge Cron, Nancy Davis, NM Travertine, Zane Hensley, Kerri & Lance Allgood, Rocky Mtn. Gold & Silver Exchange-Tess Branch, Los Altos Golf Course-Chris Moya, Mike Moore Golf Committee, Fred & Edie Moore, Tiger Montano, Colleen Redfearn, Lily Curtis

Mike Moore Memorial Golf Classic Committee

Fred Moore, Chair, Kerri Allgood, Midge Cron, Stephen Dudoich, Rita Garcia, Karen Karnes, Cathy Malone, Leo Moya, Edie Redfearn Moore, Ginny Romero, Eileen Cook, and Maryle J. Barber.

Special thanks to Tiger Montano, General Manager and John Gallegos along with the staff of Tierra Del Sol Golf Club for providing the facilities and excellent service that make this event such a success.

Special Thanks to all the extra volunteers for their energy and care that goes such a long way in making this event a success.



Color (think yellow & black!) and Fun is the theme for the day for this threesome. Bob, Andrew & Francis Algermisson



Pictured with Fred Moore, far right, are 1st Place Jack & Jill Team Members: Kerri Allgood, Edie Moore, Lance Allgood & Randy Slaughter

TOTAL RAISED: \$23,000

Lucille Walters Becomes Part of CE's Extended Family

by Crystal Bojorquez, Guest Services

Lucille Walters lives in Roswell, New Mexico and has been coming to Casa Esperanza since July 2007. When Lucille was 47, she was diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer, a diagnosis that deeply shocked both her and her mother. Lucille's family has supported her since day one, especially her mother, Perfecta. Lucille said, "If my mom wasn't here to support me, I wouldn't be here." Lucille has four beloved siblings: a brother in South Dakota, another brother in Seattle, Washington, and one more brother, a Captain in the US Army stationed in Thailand. She also has a sister who lives in Alaska. She misses them all tremendously.

While Lucille was in college, she was involved in a teaching program at Pecos Elementary school and taught 5th grade students. She proved to be so gifted in her work with children that the program directors encouraged her to return to her home town in Roswell to work with children who struggle with anger management issues. Lucille loved having barbeques for the children in her neighborhood and talking to them. Many of these children had very difficult lives, many with drug-addicted or alcoholic parents, and they needed someone to talk to, someone they could look up to

and count on. She loved the idea of knowing that she was available to the children when they needed her, and she still loves to be around children.

One of the things Lucille misses most from "pre-diagnosis days" is her long thick light curly brown hair. She also misses planting outdoors because she loves being under the sun. Lucille says, "My life was really exciting before cancer, I was able to travel to many parts of the United States, such as Alaska, Florida, California among other places." While Lucille can no longer do many of these things because of her chemo, she will never forget these fun times, she says.

Lucille has been under treatment for ten months now and says it's really hard to go home after chemo because of the long drive. She asked me to send a big thank you to the Patient Navigation Program for assisting with counseling, which she said has helped her family a lot. "They also help us in many ways every time we come to Casa. Stacie (Soto) always comes by to see how we are and to make sure that everything is okay."

Casa Esperanza is happy to offer a cozy place where patients and their families can stay. Casa Esperanza tries



Lucille Walters and her mother Perfecta Walters, enjoy being members of the CE extended Family

to help families who don't have enough funding to stay elsewhere. "Many people don't even have a place to stay, but now we all do," she says. "Casa is our home away from home." Lucille is glad to have found friendship with other families at Casa Esperanza, as well as with the staff. They've also been very supportive. She is very thankful. Perfecta says, "Faith has gotten us through these tough times."

The guest service team wishes Lucille a speedy recovery and hopes that one day she will continue on her traveling journeys. Best wishes for you and your family. It is very much our pleasure to have the Walters family become part of our very large extended family.

St Chad's Episcopal Church's gift of freshness



Angelica Medina accepts the \$2,000 grant check from Father Brian Winter and Nancy Hoing of St Chad's Episcopal Church to purchase a new refrigerator at a reduced price from McComas Restaurant Supply.



Crystal Bojorquez fills the new CE refrigerator with healthy food for our families

VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM BY MACY FITSEMONS

Well, we finally did it! We have our own vehicle donation and sales lot, located at 8401 Zuni SE. It has been a long dusty trail starting behind a truck terminal in a dirt lot with no water or electricity. What progress! I can remember well, trying to get the cars in running shape, only to be beat back by mud, sand storms and the ever constant coating of dust. I would try to clean them with pails of water that I hauled in my pickup and vacuum them out by generating electricity with my welder to run the vacuum. At the end of the day I would sit in one of the cars that had heat or air conditioning and complete the day's paperwork.

How things have changed! We now have a full office with a computer, printer, desks, bathroom and yes- electricity and running water. We also have Fernie, Fernando Medina that is. He is our new lot attendant. He gets our cars up and running and keeps up the office and lot. I see all that he does and how much he cares and I just don't know how I used to do all of this alone. Thanks Fernie. Also on board with us is a new Administrative Assistant, Monica Bojorquez. She works with Sandy Breeding, our ever helpful Vehicle Donation Director. Sandy and Monica are the friendly, helpful voices on the phone that you first hear when calling to donate or just get more information about our program.

They are truly dedicated and a Godsend to Casa Esperanza. Thank you Ladies. Also, thanks to Eileen Cook our CEO, and the Board of Directors for putting their trust and faith in me at the very beginning to make this program successful. We really have come a long way.

We are always brainstorming new ideas and we are working on a few right now. One to watch for is coming soon. Donate your car July & August and receive 2 free passes to the Hollywood Hills Speedway. Just a special thank you for our donors.

If you are interested in donating please call Sandy at 505-277-2066 or go to our website at www.casaesperanza.org.



Fernie Medina and Monica Bojorquez stand ready to accept your vehicle donations



Steve Murtha, head of Keller Williams Annual Golf Tournament benefitting Casa Esperanza, with CEO Eileen Cook, celebrates brick honoring Keller Williams.

2008 Annual Bricklaying



Janet Harrison (c) widow of Mel Harrison and former resident of Casa Esperanza is pictured above with family members at the Annual Bricklaying and placing of a brick honoring Mel.



Kate and Richard Prasek place a brick at the Annual Bricklaying in memory of Kate's father who died in December of 2007.

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Our Mission

Casa Esperanza provides an affordable home away from home for families facing cancer.

“NEWS from Casa Esperanza” is published two times a year by Casa Esperanza, Inc. in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Casa Esperanza (Tax ID #: 85-0356946) is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. All contributions are tax deductible. Casa Esperanza does not telemarket, participate in door-to-door solicitation, or campaign via chain letters or e-mail appeals. Casa Esperanza receives a portion of its funding from a contract with the New Mexico Department of Health. Casa Esperanza is a participant in the NM Department of Health Comprehensive Cancer Plan and the NM Cancer Council.

Member: National Association of Hospital Hospitality Houses, a professional organization that promotes and assists not-for-profit programs that provide lodging and supportive services in a caring environment for families accompanying ill loved ones away from home. To learn more about NAHHH and other special places such as Casa Esperanza, visit www.nahhh.org.

Member: Albuquerque Cancer Coalition, an alliance of cancer support agencies, hospital treatment centers and governmental agencies to inform, to educate and to advocate on behalf of NM cancer patients and their families. Website is www.nmcca.org/acc.

Member: Chambers of Commerce in Albuquerque, Belen, Clovis, Alamogordo, Los Lunas Albuquerque Hispano and the American Indian Chamber.

Member: Albuquerque Better Business Bureau.

~If you receive more than one newsletter, please share it with someone who will find it interesting and useful.~

Casa Esperanza has a terrific website maintained by Shelly Liebeman. Be sure to check it out for the most current and up to date pictures and information on past and upcoming events, how to donate online (secure site) and how to become involved at CE. Our website is: www.casaesperanzanm.org

Casa Esperanza Staff

Eileen Cook	CEO
Maryle J. Barber	Development Director
Crystal Bojorquez	Guest Services Team
Monica Bojorquez	VDP Adm. Assistant
Natalie Bojorquez	Guest Services Team
Sandy Breeding	Vehicle Donation Pr. Dir.
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Anita Harrison	Administrative Assistant
Mary Loyd	Finance Director
Angelica Medina	Gst Serv & Comm Rel Dir
Fernie Medina	VDP Lot Manager
Cathy Moore	PNP Asst. Director
Stacie Soto	Patient Navigation Dir.
Sarah Trujillo	Guest Services Team
Patricia Virgen	Guest Services Team Mgr

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