Changing the Story of Homelessness and Poverty
Homelessness is endemic in American cities, and here in Albuquerque, we’ve devised a unique approach to the problem. We address homelessness and entrenched multi-generational poverty by helping one family at a time. We call our program Saranam, a word from the Pakistani language meaning “refuge,” and we want to introduce you to our model. Why? Because studies make clear that Saranam’s two-generational program is working! For the families we are able to serve, the cycle of homelessness and poverty is broken.

Here’s how we do it. We have an apartment complex that has been completely outfitted, furnished, painted, repaired, and made ready for the carefully vetted homeless families who are fortunate enough to be chosen for participation. These families are invited to live, rent-free, in our apartments for as long as they remain in school and make progress toward reaching their educational goals and obtaining work at the end of their stay. The children in each family are held to high standards of conduct and attendance at school, and everyone in the family is provided with tutoring, financial management training, and many group and community-building activities. Parents and children have the opportunity to practice what they’ve learned together and to establish the habits of a healthy family.

Staying in school and preparing for the future are defining characteristics of our program. This year Saranam has developed a comprehensive educational curriculum that spans academic, life, and vocational skills for adults as well as
children. In December we celebrated their graduation from Central New Mexico Community College with four women in our program.

Longitudinal outcomes reveal that families who complete our program remain housed and stable, and many continue their education. Others make clear advances in their jobs. Once they reach their goals, our families are no longer subsidized. When lives move from trauma to permanent normalcy, we at Saranam have accomplished our purpose, and we’ve helped change the story.

Friends, if you could spend one hour with a Saranam family, you would see the relief, the renewed hope, and the determination this new start has provided them. If you visit our facility, you will meet some children who have never before had a home, or even a bed. We see the difference Saranam is making in these lives, and we want to help more Albuquerque families.

For that reason, we are working to expand our program. In 2016, three groups of community leaders came together in teams — business and property planning, capacity building, and funding strategies — to create a business plan for expanding, so that eventually we can place families in fifty housing units! As of now, we have twenty. Think how many lives would be changed if we could more than double our capacity! I look forward to upcoming plans for moving forward with our plans for expansion.

In this report, you will read the stories of Veronica and Patty. These are only two stories of recovery and new hope for sustainable and productive futures. Because of the housing, education, and community at Saranam, Veronica was able to focus on her studies, ultimately becoming an employed Registered Nurse. Patty, now two years out of Saranam, has a stable job in a New Mexico school system, and her children are doing well. Saranam changed both of their stories.

Thank you for the support you have given to Saranam this year and into our future! With you, our work will continue to change the story.

Sincerely, Tracy Sharp

2016 NUMBERS

28 families
28 adults
54 children
9 exit
563 volunteers
3,733 volunteer hours
45 families applied
10 new families accepted
39 referring agencies

The NM Coalition to End Homelessness estimates that 17,000 people experience homelessness in New Mexico.
Veronica was raised by loving, faithful parents, but they were poor. With only sixth-grade educations, they had to work two jobs to support their three children. All they could provide were basic needs, and a strong foundation of faith. Veronica loved school and she had childhood aspirations of becoming a nurse and having a strong family of her own. Her dreams were shattered, however, after a failed, tumultuous marriage and a subsequent abusive relationship, from which she and her daughter escaped with nothing more than their lives. Veronica ended up moving back in with her parents. She and her daughter lived in the attic, which was not meant for habitation, and they slept together in a small bed. Veronica remained in school, and she and her daughter began counseling at The Domestic Violence Resource Center, whose counselors eventually referred Veronica to Saranam. Veronica completed the Saranam application process and was selected to join the 2014 cohort. Veronica said, “The interview process made me want [to be accepted into the program] even more — I just thought it was too good to be true. There had to be a catch.”

While she was with Saranam, Veronica was determined to get her education, so she enrolled full time in nursing school at Central New Mexico Community College. She was focused on being a good parent and doing well in school. She worked hard to meet her demanding academic schedule. She also attended life skills classes and community events, and she was supported by case management. Saranam staff and volunteers offered Veronica moral support, guidance, and the encouragement to continue her efforts. Of Saranam Veronica said, “For once in my life I felt I was precious to someone. Someone really cared that I succeeded. It took someone else believing that I am worth something to make me believe that I am.”

Veronica’s hard work paid off. She graduated in August 2016 with an Associate’s Degree in Nursing. Then she passed her nursing boards, became a Registered Nurse, and landed her dream job at a local hospital. The hospital offers tuition reimbursement to employees, so Veronica is excited about the opportunity to further her education, which she plans to do. With her new job, she can now provide for herself and her daughter. Veronica said the following about Saranam: “I didn’t even feel like a person before Saranam. I felt like my daughter and I were just little leaves, just floating along and trying to get by. Now I feel complete and like a worthy individual. I feel I matter and that I have something to contribute to this world.”
Changing the Way I see the World Changes My Story

While Patty was a resident at Saranam, she built relationships quietly, solidly, and steadily. During her time at Saranam she became an unassuming role model. She exemplified the “good life” at Saranam, and when she left she had confidence in the bright future she had created.

Fleeing from a domestic violence background, Patty and her children had found refuge here. Reflecting on that toxic relationship, she writes, “We wanted to make amends for the relationship so that we could move forward, but the fact is, we were never moving forward. I don’t know how many times I tried to change myself to make things work. I was in a never-ending loop, and eventually I lost a sense of my own identity.” At Saranam, Patty’s determination and forbearance defined her. It is not an easy task to heal at the same time you are trying to realize your true purpose. The resources offered at Saranam help to guide and support families through these difficult times.

Patty maintained her equanimity throughout her journey. By her example, she reminded other residents that it is the “inside work” that creates and sustains our community, even during times of tumultuous change. During her stay, she reminded us of this, not through her words, but through her actions. The spiritual sense of love and appreciation of what is good in the here-and-now can transform mindsets and change lives.

It has been two years since Patty left Saranam. While here, she earned an Associate’s Degree in Sociology, and she continues to make decisions using the tools that she learned. Patty is employed by a New Mexico school system, and her children are thriving. “By teaching me practical life skills, Saranam has fundamentally changed the way I communicate and the way I see the world. That is huge,” she says. “I am very proud of my children and our family. Even more importantly, I feel safe now, and I feel secure.”

Like most of our Saranam clients, Patty has discovered renewed courage and true direction. This is Saranam.

Often, members of homeless families have experienced trauma, and these experiences affect how children and adults think, feel, behave, relate, and cope.
2016 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUES  Total $754,304

- CONTRIBUTIONS  $364,615
  - 48.3%
- FUNDRAISING  $19,990
  - 2.7%
- IN-KIND  $47,476
  - 6.3%
- GRANTS & CONTRACTS  $146,409
  - 19.4%
- OTHER  $1,400

EXPENSES  Total $697,569

- PROGRAM  $581,965
  - 83%
- ADMINISTRATION  $33,165
  - 5%
- DEVELOPMENT  $82,439
  - 12%

THE FRANCES THAXTON ASH ENDOWMENT COVERS EXPENSES BEYOND THE COST OF FUNDRAISING AND ADMINISTRATION ALLOWING 100% OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO GO DIRECTLY TO PROGRAMMING.

IN-COMES INCLUDES:
- Rent
- Stocked kitchen/pantry
- Hygiene supplies
- Cash stipend
- Transportation
- Background checks
- Drug tests
- Telephones/utilities

IN-GOVERNMENT INCLUDES:
- Instructors contracts
- Training fees
- Supplies
- Scholarships
- Computers
- Child care
- STAR Children’s programming

Housing Costs  $354,043  51% of total expense

Education Costs  $196,528  28% of total expense

ECONOMIC IMPACT

- $9,600*  Annual increase in earning potential with high school/GED
- $3,000*  Annual increase in earning potential with some college – no degree
- $6,200*  Annual increase in earning potential with Associate’s degree
- $23,800*  Annual increase in earning potential with Bachelor’s degree

2016 OUTCOMES

After 13 years in operation, Saranam has served 102 homeless families in Albuquerque, including 119 adults and 205 children.

Our program has demonstrated a 73% success rate of families exiting the program into permanent, safe, stable living situations. Our success rate indicates that when families exit, they are able to fully support themselves, including paying for housing, supplies, utilities, etc., on their own income. The life skills we provide ensure that our families are able to maintain and sustain these outcomes.

Eight families successfully exited the program in 2016.

Seven families met at least three of Saranam’s Measures of Success, including paying for housing. Of these families, two met all of Saranam’s Measures of Success; four families met all measures except employment, because they had chosen to continue with their education in lieu of employment; and one met all except employment (for the same reason) and parenting. One family met three measures of success including education, life skills, and parenting.

Two families exited the program unsuccessfully because they were unable to fully participate in program requirements.

2016 COST ANALYSIS STUDY BY UNM ANDERSON SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT SMALL BUSINESS INSTITUTE GRADUATE STUDENTS

$42,790**
Estimated annual cost to city of Albuquerque per homeless person
Includes cost of medical, jail and emergency shelters.

$8,507
Annual cost for housing and education for an individual at Saranam

$24,913
Annual cost for housing and education for a family at Saranam

**Albuquerque Point In Time Count 2015
Angelica was an enthusiastic student with a big heart. She earned her GED while at Saranam and in December completed her Associates Degree in Accounting. Angelica volunteered her time doing community education and advocacy about Domestic Violence. She was a fun-loving person who always focused on the positive in her life.

Pearlina was known for her big, wide smile and infectious laugh. She was a hard worker who doggedly pursued her goal of earning her Nursing Certificate, which she accomplished last year. Pearlina was generous with her love and her faith, and made sure that everyone in her classes stayed in close touch, even after leaving Saranam.

Saranam Provides the Opportunity for Long-Term Family Stability

Saranam’s Annual Reunion brings families, past and present, together to enjoy an afternoon of sharing stories and catching up. At the reunion, Saranam asks past families to complete a follow-up survey, which allows us to collect data on families post-exit. This tool will help us track the families’ progress over time.

Amazingly, Saranam has had contact with 64% of families who exited one year or more ago. Of those families, 100% of those who left the program successfully remain stable after a year, and 67% of those who left Saranam with significant progress in fewer than three measures of success were stable after one year of exit! Together, that means that whether families left successfully or not, one year later, of those whom we have been able to contact, 86% are stable! This is incredible!

FOLLOW-UP STORIES

In 2008, an adult woman earned her GED after only six months at Saranam. She had already completed her own goals (she was the first adult to fulfill all six measures of success), and she went on to earn her business degree in 2015. Now she has a good job at a company.

A divorced mother of three from our 2009 cohort began working on a Bachelor’s degree while at Saranam. She exited the program employed, housed, and still in school. In 2014, she graduated from UNM with a major in Middle Eastern and Latin American affairs, and a minor in Arabic. She has moved into a new home, where she recently remodeled the kitchen. She is building a garden, and she has recently applied for a job with the FBI.

An adult from the class of 2013 began working on her degree in sociology while at Saranam, and today she has a good job in a NM school system.

Parents from the class of 2011 recently stopped by to say hello and goodbye. They were on their way to purchase their new home in Arizona.
SARANAM PROGRAM SERVICES

HOUSING
Each family is provided a furnished apartment—a home that provides stability. All families are located in the same apartment complex, which encourages the formation of community. Since 2014, we have been operating at a maximum capacity of twenty families in twenty apartments.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILLS
In the first phase of the program, adults participate in adult basic education and life skills training courses provided by qualified instructors and community speakers. These classes are taught on the Saranam campus. Some topics include GED study, Adult Basic Education, college success, computer skills, parenting, financial management, nutrition, health and hygiene, communication, domestic violence education, drug and alcohol education, and vocational skills training.

CHILDREN’S SUPPORT, TUTORING, AND RESOURCES (S.T.A.R.) CENTER
In our two-generational approach, the Saranam children’s program provides access to on-site therapeutic services, as well as developmentally appropriate life skills classes that mirror some of the adult life skills classes. This gives family members a chance to practice their newly learned skills together. Children may also receive group or one-on-one tutoring, or participate in reading circles (for those in pre-school or who do not have homework). Enrichment activities—such as science, arts, music, theater, and yoga—are brought to the children and families each week.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
Following basic education, adults pursue education from a community college or university. Obtaining a degree or certificate in a trade allows for more employment opportunities and increases earning potential. Saranam provides some scholarship money, as well as assistance in attaining other funds for vocational training.

CASE MANAGEMENT
Through intensive case management, families work to resolve barriers to self-sufficiency in the form of negative behaviors or destructive attitudes. Families develop individualized transition plans, with specific goals, and they work with the case manager to assess their progress. These goals may revolve around career, academics, finances, and personal issues.

TRANSPORTATION
Monthly bus passes, or a gas stipend, is provided to each family during the family’s stay.

COMMUNITY BUILDING
Saranam ensures that relationship- and community-building are integral parts of our program. We use a peer group model, whereby several families enter and move through the program as a cohort, live in the same apartment complex, and immediately create an established community, which helps them gain important social skills such as conflict resolution, mutual reliance, negotiation, and trust.

CHILD CARE
Saranam covers child care expenses as needed, including before- and after-school care. Child care plays an important role in the stability of the children, and the success of the adults who are in school and in the workforce depends on reliable child care.
Saranam provides safe, stable, and fully furnished transitional housing for as long as two years in an intentional community. Our program gives families the capability to concentrate on breaking down all barriers to a more secure future.

During the summer, more than 150 Saranam volunteers work to prepare apartments for incoming families. Furniture, accessories, and household items are collected year-round and stored in a warehouse.

Volunteer decorators select furnishings from the warehouse, including linens, pictures, and dishes. The decorators spend several weeks setting up the bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom and living room in each apartment. They add personal touches that transform the apartments into homes. Many people provide baskets of toiletries, paper goods, first-aid kits, and cleaning supplies for each apartment. The day before the new families move in, another group of volunteers goes shopping to stock the families’ refrigerators and pantrys.

Another team of volunteers shops for basic living supplies, including household supplies, toiletries, and diapers. With their basic living needs thus provided, families are free to focus on education, vocational development, and career goals, while acquiring life skills for independent living.

ALEXANDER VERTIKOFF PHOTOGRAPHY CAPTURES SARANAM NEW HOMES

Alexander Vertikoff spent a day photographing the newly furnished and decorated apartment homes before families moved into them in August. He captured the beauty and love that goes into each home from all of the volunteer decorators.

Nicholas Fierro, Albuquerque Academy Student, Gives to Saranam

Nicholas Fierro had $300 remaining from a grant he received from Albuquerque Academy. He wanted to help Saranam by purchasing three new vacuum cleaners and two new microwave ovens. These are items that are necessary for every apartment and they are not often donated in working order. Thank you, Nicolas!
2016 DEMOGRAPHICS

28 families
54 children
28 adults
39 different referral sources
10 new families in 2016

EDUCATION
Enrolled in Life Skills: 27
Enrolled in Adult Basic Education: 9
Enrolled in Vocational Training: 19

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION AT ENTRANCE
8th: 2  High School Diploma: 2
9th: 1  GED: 5
10th: 1  Some college: 9
11th: 4  Associate Degree: 3
         Bachelor’s Degree: 1

REASONS FAMILIES BECAME HOMELESS
As identified by the families at intake
Domestic Violence: 16
Unable to pay rent/utilities: 16
Unable to find employment: 11
Mental Health: 10
Substance abuse: 5
Discharged from jail/prison: 3
Health/illness: 3
Discharge from foster care: 1

ETHNICITY  As self-identified on application
Caucasian: 15  Adults  Children
African American: 5  2  3
Hispanic: 22  8  14
Native American: 8  4  4
Multi-racial: 30  9  21
Other: 2  1  1

GENDER
Female:  26  30
Male:  2  24

CHILDREN’S AGES  ADULT’S AGES
Under 2  7  18-24  6
2-5  19  25-29  8
6-12  18  30-39  12
13-17  10  40-49  2

“I want and need my children to have stability in their lives. Once I become stable, so will they.”
Saranam emphasizes academic and vocational education as a means for improving employment opportunities, as well as life skills education for equipping families with the tools to remain self-sufficient and healthy.

Research shows that income goes up as educational attainment increases. Annual income nearly doubles for someone with some college over someone who doesn’t have a high school diploma/GED. By emphasizing the value of education and providing students’ opportunities to choose their vocational path, we provide access to improved employment opportunities, stabilization of housing, and a means for the parents in our program to succeed.

Saranam provides a full semester of on-site academic classes, which prepare students for success in the college and vocational courses they will take during the remainder of their time at Saranam. While in the program, adults are prohibited from working, so that they can be full-time students, focusing on furthering their education.

Saranam also provides a year of life skills courses that teach how values, choices, and behaviors affect not only the individual, but also families, employers, and community. These life skills, crucial for success, provide the skills needed to sustain stability.

An important lesson learned in 2016 revolved around a critical challenge. Our partner, which had provided adult basic education classes for more than ten years, raised its fees beyond what we could afford. Saranam staff and instructors applied creative thinking to devise an innovative solution and new approach to education that includes a coordinated, integrated curriculum. It features an overarching weekly theme that is incorporated into multiple program activities—basic adult education, adult life skills, children life skills, children’s activities—for that week. Themes include values, self-determination, effective communication, goal setting and problem solving, time and life management, etc. Life skills classes for both adults and children revolve around these themes, and instructors weave them into adult basic education classes. With its launch in 2016, our new curriculum was well received and appreciated by families.

2016 ADULTS RECEIVING ADULT BASIC EDUCATION 9

Adult Basic Education (ABE) includes a broad assessment of current academic skills, GED preparation classes, and individualized academic instruction for those students who have a GED or high school diploma. These classes are taught on the Saranam campus by qualified contracted instructors, for four half-days during the fall semester. These classes are required for all Saranam adults during their
first semester in our program, unless they are already enrolled in college level academic courses at an accredited institution.

This year we had one student exempted from ABE. She is a full-time CNM student in the Diagnostic Sonography program. She earned a 4.0 her first semester! Six of the ten adults accepted into Saranam in 2016 needed to earn their GED or High School Equivalency. One adult enrolled in a high school diploma program with an anticipated graduation date of Summer 2017.

2016 ADULTS RECEIVING VOCATIONAL TRAINING 19

After completing the first full semester of on-site classes at Saranam (life skills and ABE), students are required to enroll in an off-site post-secondary vocational training program at a school of the student’s choice. As a group students enrolled in 330 credit hours (121 classes); earned 285 credit hours (108 classes); and failed/withdrew from 45 credit hours (15 classes). The pass rate was 86%.

2016 ADULTS RECEIVING LIFE SKILLS 27

Life skills courses include parenting, nutrition, financial management training, domestic violence awareness, safety, health and sex education, drug and alcohol prevention, home maintenance, values and communication, and vocational skills training. These skills, taught by qualified contracted instructors and community speakers, take place in the Saranam classroom. Adult participants attend four half-days during the fall and spring semesters, as well as one morning per week during the summer semester. These courses are required for all Saranam adults during their first year in the program.

Partnering with Methodist Children’s Home, the Circle of Security program is designed to nurture parenting skills for families with infants. Trained Facilitators work with parents to help them to understand their child’s emotional world by learning to read emotional needs and enhance the development of their infant’s self-esteem.

Through life skills training, weekly community speakers gave educational presentations for the Saranam adult students during 2016. Thank you to the speakers who help our students learn about numerous topics.

2016 GRADUATIONS

3 GED or High School Equivalency
2 Certificates from Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) -Certified Nursing Assistant, Home Health Aide
1 Associate of Arts Degree, Nursing – passed her National Boards is now a Registered Nurse, employed full-time at a local hospital

2016 ADULT PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

Three students enrolled in UNM working toward bachelor’s degrees in:
- Sociology (1)
- Biology (1)
- Psychology (1)

14 students enrolled in CNM:
- Eight pursuing associate degrees in:
  - Radiologic Technology (2)
  - Criminal Justice (1)
  - Nursing (1)
  - Computer Information Systems (1)
  - Psychology (2)
  - Culinary Arts (1)

Six pursuing certificates in:
- Child Development (1)
- Nursing Assistant (1)
- Office Technology (2)
- Office Assistant (1)
- Diagnostic Sonography (1)

“My kids can learn how important school is, not only for kids, but also for adults.”
ADULT SPEAKERS AND TOPICS

Albuquerque Behavioral Health
Lucas Myers – Resources for children and teens

Albuquerque Police Department
Crime-free multi-housing complex

Albuquerque Public Schools Title I Homeless Project
Jeff Beg and Patrick Scott – Accessing resources

Alice Hughes
Child safety

Assistance League of New Mexico
Judy Allman – Accessing resources

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of New Mexico
Sebastian Martinez

Cindy Arndell, MD – Health and wellness

CNM Nutrition
Sharon Himmelstein – Basic nutrition

Domestic Violence Resource Center
Kelsi Howell – Legal and counseling resources

Equality New Mexico
Amber Royster

Josh Martinez – Healthy heart

Manzano Mesa Multi-generational Center
Ed Nunez

Methodist Children’s Home
Alicia Carter and Becky James – Parenting Circles of Security

Mimi Smith – Neonatal care and breastfeeding

Mothers Against Drunk Driving
Ashleigh Reyna – talking to school age children about drinking and staying safe

Pearly Whites Dentistry
C.L. Henderson – Dental hygiene

Planned Parenthood
Liza Bley – Sexual health

PNM
Sarah McMahon – First Aid and CPR

Road Runner Food Bank
Saranam students volunteer

Ruth Tribou – Tax information

SAFE House
Kelly Begaye – Domestic violence

TRIO program
Willie Smoker – CNM resources

True North Financial Ministries
Mike Cosgrove – Financial management

UNM
Low Ropes Course

UNM Pharmacy Students
Michel Disco – Vaccinations

Wemagination
Sissy Othick and Qadria Naji
TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM & HOME

In a short time, technology has changed so much in the Saranam classroom. In the past five years, we have gone from bulky desktops to laptops, and from learning typing to making PowerPoint slide shows and doing internet research. Technology and the internet are changing the way education is provided, from grade school homework through college. Saranam is working to keep up with the ever-increasing technical demands that are such an important part of learning!

Thank you to Del Norte Rotary for helping Saranam move to a more efficient and updated computer laptop storage system this year. The extra space and flexibility of a storable laptop for each student assures that our classroom is much more usable.

Thank you to the Computer Ministry of St. Chad's Episcopal Church for providing certified refurbished computers to each household that is in need.

CHILDREN’S EDUCATION AT THE S.T.A.R. CENTER

Saranam's approach to ending poverty and homelessness for families is an innovative “two-generational” strategy, where both parents and children receive services simultaneously and in sync. Our two-generational strategy is supported by a growing body of anti-poverty research that shows the effectiveness of making both parents and children change agents in working to get out of poverty.

Working in partnership with our community, the Children’s S.T.A.R. (Support, Tutoring And Resources) Center provides after-school and some Saturday activities that meet our Saranam families’ specific needs. Our services have a strong focus on effective academic enrichment and physical fitness, as well as nutritional and life skills activities that challenge our children and families while make learning fun. In a safe and engaging environment, we learn how to interact with, perceive, influence, and relate to others in order to enhance our lives, and promote academic success.

During the Monday Adult Life Skills class, parents learn various skills, such as non-violent communication, nutrition, stress management, exercise, conflict management, and emotional intelligence. Later that afternoon the children learn the same concepts at the S.T.A.R. Center, giving the family a chance to practice the skills they have learned throughout the week together. This is one example of how Saranam's two-generational approach works to end the cycle of homelessness and poverty.

Families who have previously lived at Saranam continue to come back to be part of the community, especially at the S.T.A.R. Center, to rekindle friendships and find continuing support.
Community speakers facilitate some of the classes for the S.T.A.R. Center. Thank you to the following people and organizations for teaching and providing resources for our kids!

**Acting Up!**  
Elizabeth Goldfarb – Singing and acting for children

**Albuquerque Academy**  
Dara Johnson – Community and global citizenship  
Albuquerque Academy student volunteers

**Albuquerque Play Conservatory**  
Jonathan Dinsksi

**Albuquerque Police Department**  
Officer Jill Garcia – Community safety

**Magician – Gene Gutierrez**

**Manzano High School Students**  
Lotty Del Barga and Gali Lorem – Science Night project leaders

**Mothers Against Drunk Driving**  
Ashleigh Reyna – talking to school-age children about drinking and staying safe

**Native American Professional Parent Resources NAPPR**  
Sam Hufnagel – Developmental screenings

**Planned Parenthood**  
Liza Bley – Sexual health

**UNM Department of Orthopedics**  
Marybeth Barkocy, PT, DPT, Assistant Professor Division of Physical Therapy – Health, wellness, and nutrition

**Valerie Lopez**  
Yoga for health and wellness

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**Girl Scout Gold at Saranam**

Mahalia Hunt came to Saranam through the Albuquerque Academy Community Builders program. During the two years that she volunteered with us, Mahalia was reliable and dedicated. She planned, organized, and facilitated monthly science project night for our families. Through working with our families, Mahalia achieved the Girl Scouts of America Gold Award. This award represents the highest achievement in Girl Scouting. Open only to girls in high school, this prestigious award challenges a young leader to change the world — or at least her corner of it — and Mahalia did just that at Saranam. Her creativity and patience made hands-on learning a fun and engaging experience for parents and children.

Mahalia is on to bigger goals now that she has graduated from Albuquerque Academy. She’s off to college, but her Science Night curriculum is still at work every month at Saranam. Thank you, Mahalia.
At Saranam, we believe the underlying causes of homelessness go beyond the often cited causes: domestic violence, lack of affordable housing, unemployment, poor economy, mental illness, substance abuse, lack of public assistance. While these are all important factors, the lack of community support systems is an underlying cause of homelessness. Saranam strives to make sure that relationship-building is an integral part of every aspect of the Saranam program. Saranam brings an entire class of families into the program at one time, and, beginning with orientation, helps build a peer group model that moves through the two-year program together. These families live in the same apartment complex as neighbors, classmates, and friends.

Saranam's intentional community is a unique model for serving families who are experiencing homelessness. Families in our program experience new opportunities together in the arts, environment, and other activities, such as visits to museums, the zoo, and holiday parties. Without the generous support of our local community, we could not provide families in our program opportunities for connections to the greater community. Our volunteers exemplify the value of community every day through their generous gifts of time, talent, and energy.

Thank you to all of our generous donors and volunteers!

**ON-SITE THERAPEUTIC SERVICES**

One of the rooms in the S.T.A.R. Center is the place where Saranam partners with several outside groups to provide on-site therapeutic services. This year, Chrysalis Counseling used our space to provide family and child therapy to some residents at Saranam. NAPPR used the space to provide developmental screenings, as well as some follow-up services.

**HELP-PORTRAIT GIVES FAMILY PORTRAITS**

Each December, photographers from around the world find people in need, take their picture, print their pictures and give them away — free of charge. These portraits aren’t for a portfolio, Web site, or sale. This program is about giving people who otherwise couldn’t afford photography a chance to capture a moment and a memory. Saranam hosted Help-Portraits this year and our families got to have their family portraits made, thanks to this annual event.
WAYS VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED IN SARANAM

Event planning and production
Clothing drives
Computer maintenance
Decorating apartments
Donation pick-ups
Holiday parties and goodie bags
Helping with hospitality and office work
Hosting community activities and events
Making promotional materials and videos
Moving furniture into apartments
Life skills and enrichment activities
S.T.A.R. Center tutors
Serving on Saranam Board
Serving on Saranam committees
Serving on Scalability Teams
Setting furniture up in apartments
Shopping for groceries
Warehouse sorting and cleaning

COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

Abundant Grace Free Store
Albuquerque Academy
Albuquerque Public Schools, Child Find
Albuquerque Public Schools, Title I
Assistance League of New Mexico
Central United Methodist Church
Chrysalis Counseling Services
CLN Kids
CYFD
Enlace Comunitario
Frances Thaxton Ash Homes, LLC
Girl Scouts of NM Trails
Jennifer F. Pontzer, LLC
Jewish Community Center
Lieber’s Luggage
Locker 505
Manzano High School
Native-American Professional Parent Resources (NAPPR)
Other Brother Thrift Shop (New Path Ministries)
Play Conservatory
PNM – CPR Training
Reading Works!
True North Financial Ministries
UNM Department of Physical Therapy
U.S. Bank
Wemagination

Partnering for Awareness within the Community

In the fall of 2015, Saranam collaborated with Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Mexico to produce a five-minute video about our work that won a Bronze Telly Award in 2016. This award honors excellence in local, regional and cable TV commercials and non-broadcast videos.

Sunshine, the Methodist Children’s Home magazine, featured a story about Saranam’s partnership to provide Circles of Security Parenting training for our families.

Kristen Lord wanted a way to show the process of getting an apartment ready for a new family. She worked with Sue Campbell for several months, going through many photos and talking about the process in order to capture a story. Kristen and her husband, Ken, created a video to encourage people to donate and decorate an apartment. Many thanks for their hard work.
Churches, businesses, and organizations gave time, talent, and donations to support the Saranam community. Thank you to the following groups who supported Saranam with volunteers, donations, or financial support.

### VOLUNTEER GROUPS
- Albuquerque Attachment Moms
- Albuquerque District United Methodist Women
- Albuquerque Police Department
- Amy Romero and Linda Eitzen Decorating Team
- Ansel Interiors Decorating Team
- APS Title 1 Homelessness Project
- Asbury United Methodist Church and Quilting Ministry
- Beverly Oppedahl Family Decorating Team
- Central United Methodist Church Class of Promise Decorating Team
- Central United Methodist Church Ladies Decorating Team
- Citi Decorating Team
- Covenant United Methodist Church Decorating Team
- Covenant United Methodist Church, Christmas Party
- Covenant United Methodist Church, Easter Baskets
- Del Norte Rotary
- Four Hills Ladies Decorating Team
- G-Force Gymnastic
- Help-Portrait Photography
- La Cueva High School Football Team
- La Cueva High School Key Club
- Mary Burt Decorating Team
- Michelle Holby Family Decorating Team
- Mimi Smith Decorating Team
- New Path Ministries
- Sandia Rotary
- Sissy Othick Decorating Team
- St. Chad’s Episcopal Church Computer Ministry
- St. Chad’s Episcopal Church Decorating Team
- St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women
- United Way Young Leaders Society
- Vera Olson and Kathy Duncan Decorating Team

### WIN (What’s Important Now)
- Women of Vision ABQ

### FUNDERS
- Albuquerque Community Foundation, Richard and Linda Eitzen Fund
- Amazon Smile Foundation
- Ansel’s Interiors
- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- Employee Match
- California Pizza Kitchen
- Central United Methodist Church
- Citi
- Coldwell Banker Legacy
- Commercial Association of Realtors NM
- Congregation B’Nai Israel
- Davita
- Friendly Lunch Bunch, Central United Methodist Church
- Harmony Sunday School Class, Central United Methodist Church
- Healthcare Services Corporation Employee Match
- Legacy Foundation
- Listen to Your Mother Show
- Madrid Accounting and Consulting, LLC
- Midland Area Community Foundation, William and Rosella Bauman Family Fund
- National Christian Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Finley Corkern
- Network for Good Giving Tuesday Match
- PNM Foundation Employee Match
- Providence Sunday School Class, Central United Methodist Church
- Rotary Del Sol Foundation
- Santa Fe Jazz Foundation
- Silk Road Connection, Berdel Boulanger
- St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women

### GRANTS
- Albuquerque Community Foundation – Maggie’s Circle
- Bank of Albuquerque
- Bank of America
- Bank of the West
- BBVA Compass Bank
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of NM
- Clothes Helping Kids
- Combined Federal Campaign
- Employee Community Foundation of Boeing
- Intel Encore Fellowship
- Lockheed Martin
- Presbyterian Healthcare Services
- Rotary Del Norte
- Rotary Del Sol Governor’s Ball
- United Way, Women in Philanthropy
- U.S. Bank Foundation
- Wells Fargo
- William and Florence Thaxton Endowment Fund

### IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS
- “Purse-onalities,” Sara’s Salon, Shelley Hennie, Jane Bickelman
- Albuquerque Attachment Moms
- Alexander Vertikoff Photography
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Articles Clothing
- Assistance League of New Mexico
- Bair Medical Spa
- Betty’s Bath and Day Spa
- Bill Golden
- Canyon Club
- Cooperage, Jim Schumacher
- Covenant United Methodist Church
- D’Ambrosio Designs, Marcus D’Ambrosio
- Dave and Sue Campbell
- Del Norte Rotary Satellite Group
- Denise Kroneman
- Doc and Jane Corkern
Doris Buckman
Friendly Lunch Bunch, Central United Methodist Church
Gail Mandel
General Mills
G-Force Gymnastics
Gordon and Janie Rowe
Harold and Linda Dillenback
Helen Mumford
Help Portrait
Hinkle Family Fun Center
Hope Christian Church
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Linda Weil
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Los Poblanos Inn and Organic Farm
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Randy and Barbara Fuller
Ray Shoemaker
Rep. Jim Dines and Nancy Wood
Rev. Sanford and Mary Ellen Coon
Rex and Barbara Allender
Roger and Jane Cook
Ron and Elaine Solimon
Sam and Erin King
Sam and Sharon Baca
Sandra Graves
Silk Road Connection
St. Chad’s Episcopal Church
Sue Rzendzion
Sue Williams
Terry and Sissy Orthick
Tom and Bettye Hoover
Tom and Joy Hayes
Total Wine and More
True North Financial Ministries
United Way Young Leaders Society
Wayne Frye and Debra Maese
WIN (What’s Important Now)

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Jane Cook by Linley Daly
Janie Rowe by Dr. Roger and Nancy Cronk by Preston and Jennifer Luke
Jeanne Brummell by Linley Daly
Jerry and Linda Kay Livingston by Patricia Renken
John Strong by Patricia Renken
Kristen and Ken Lord by Stuart and Julie McIntosh
Linda Weil by The Santa Fe Jazz Foundation by Katie Byrnes
Lois Harwick by Diana Zavitz
Marcus D’Ambrosio by Rochelle Holt
Marji and Terry Gearhart by Larry and Mimi Smith
Mary Ellen Coon by San and Jan Williams by Kathy Connor
Paul and Linda Pickard by Don and Margaret Lenk
Sue Campbell by Pat Gallaher (Wilson Gallaher Family Trust)
Tom and Diana Weber by Myriam McAdams
Tracy Sharp by Virginia Kingsolver by Janet Basler

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Margaret Anne Doberman by Bill and Glenda Sterling
Marilyn Howdieshell by Victor Howdieshell
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Hal & Christina Wurster
Diana Zavitz

by Preston and Jennifer Luke
by Hal and Christina Wurster
by Rose Warzinski
by Doc and Jane Corkern
by Dave and Sue Campbell
by Bob and Sue Bowersock
by Derek and Hilda Fullerton
by Wilson Gallaher Family Trust
One Creative Way to Continue Giving…

A number of years ago, our family — husband, wife, son and daughter — had a meeting. My husband suggested the idea of tithing our estate, and when he explained the concept to our children, they immediately embraced it. Here’s how we decided to do it.

Upon the death of the second parent, 10% of the total family estate would be tithed to not-for-profit organizations. Each family member was responsible for the distribution of one-quarter of the total, so each of us named the organization to which we wanted to give our part. For my share, of course, I chose Saranam, for my heart is here.

I wanted to tell you about our experience, and perhaps you will consider such a plan for your own family. We have found it a creative and wonderful way to keep on giving.

With gratitude,
Mary Ellen Coon

If you would like information about how you can include Saranam in your estate plan, please contact Sue Rzendzian at (505) 299-6154 x 104.

“Saranam gives families a chance to rebuild their lives without judgment. Saranam is teaching me how the real world works, because I was never taught. I have just been stuck, and scared I would never get my life together without help. Now that I am in Saranam, I see that I am not worthless. For much of my life, I have felt powerless. Now is the time for me to regain control of my destiny.”
Saranam invited three groups of leaders who come together as teams representing various community sectors — business and property planning, capacity building, and funding strategies.

Saranam is poised to scale our program model to serve additional homeless families in our community. Scalability is a challenge for many small- to mid-size programs. Our unique sustainable model for systemic change is highly replicable and adaptable to other communities, and appeals to multiple community sectors, including faith-based groups, government agencies, and private secular organizations. We believe our model can have a positive impact on the way our state and nation approach homelessness. We believe it can change for the better the lives of many families experiencing homelessness. Saranam can increase the number of families we serve, thereby moving into a place of greater community reach and visibility. These teams made recommendations that are incorporated into a clear business plan to strategically double the capacity of Saranam.
You can help us end homelessness in Albuquerque!

Visit our website to make a donation, sign up for our newsletter and learn ways to become involved at Saranam.
Saranamabq.org

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