



# Changing the Story of Homelessness and Poverty

HOUSING  
EDUCATION  
COMMUNITY

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



### VISION

*To transform  
the lives of  
homeless families.*

### MISSION

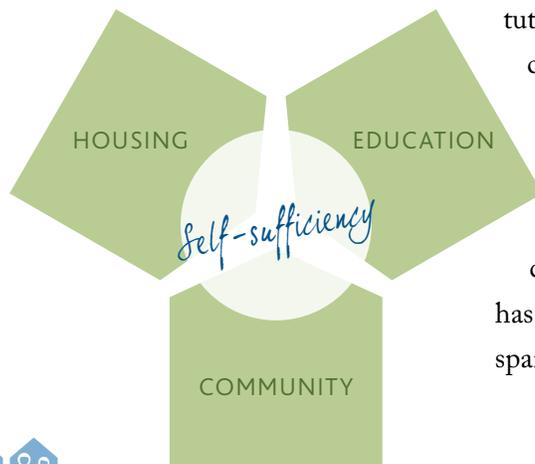
*To empower families to  
end their homelessness  
and poverty through  
housing, education and  
supportive communities.*

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

### SARANAM PROGRAM MODEL



*The NM Coalition to End Homelessness estimates that 17,000 people experience homelessness in New Mexico.*

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

## *I Have Something to Contribute to This World*



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.

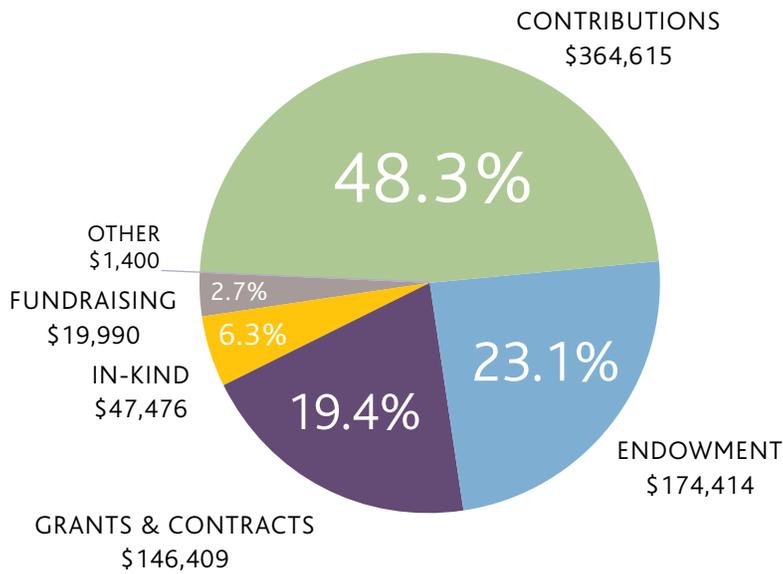
It has been two years since Patty left Saranam. While here, she earned an Associate’s Degree in Sociology, and she continues to make decisions using the tools that she learned. Patty is employed by a New Mexico school system, and her children are thriving. “By teaching me practical life skills, Saranam 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.

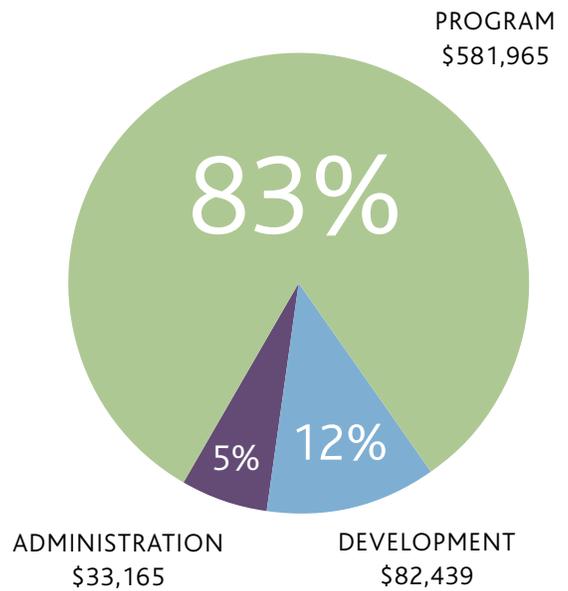
*Often, members of homeless families have experienced trauma, and these experiences affect how children and adults think, feel, behave, relate, and cope.*

# 2016 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## REVENUES Total \$754,304

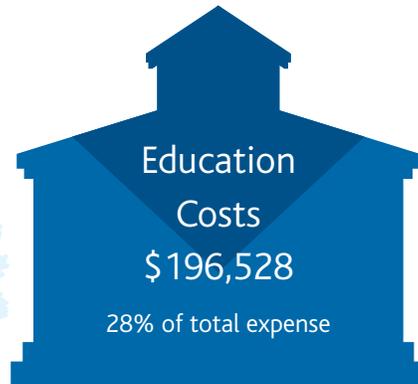


## EXPENSES Total \$697,569



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

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



- INCLUDES:
- Instructors contracts
  - Training fees
  - Supplies
  - Scholarships
  - Computers
  - Child care
  - STAR Children's programing

## 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

*Families with children comprise the fastest growing segment of the homeless population.*

## 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.



## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Has the family moved into  
**STABLE HOUSING?**

Have the family members significantly  
improved their level of **EDUCATION?**

Are the adult members  
of the family **EMPLOYED?**

Has the family significantly improved its  
**ABILITY TO MANAGE LIFE?**

Have the parents improved their  
**PARENTING SKILLS**, and/or are  
children progressing appropriately,  
receiving needed support services,  
and engaging in typical  
age-appropriate activities?

Has the family  
**ADDRESSED THE MAJOR BARRIERS**  
to their family stability?

### 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

## 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.



### *In Memoriam*



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 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.

# HOUSING



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 pantries.

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.

## SIX STEPS TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

1 Intake/Orientation

2 Educational/Personal Development

3 Vocational Development

4 Job Placement/Employee Support

5 Independent Living

6 Independence



## ALEXANDER VERTIKOFF PHOTOGRAPHY CAPTURES SARANAM NEW HOMES

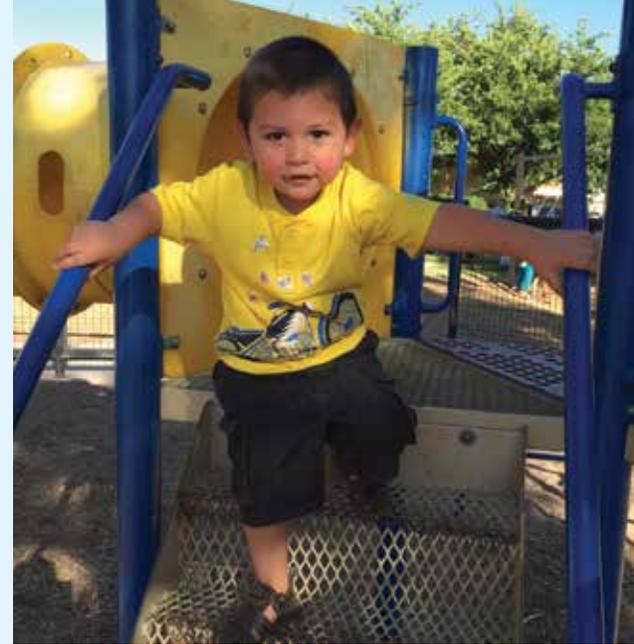
Alexander Vertikoff spent a day photographing the newly furnished and decorated apartment homes before families moved into them in August. He captured the beauty and love that goes into each home from all of the volunteer decorators.



## 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!

*"I want and need my children to have stability in their lives. Once I become stable, so will they."*



## 2016 DEMOGRAPHICS

28 families

54 children

28 adults

39 different referral sources

10 new families in 2016

	Adults	Children
<b>ETHNICITY</b> <i>As self-identified on application</i>		
Caucasian: 15	4	11
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

Under 2	7
2-5	19
6-12	18
13-17	10

### ADULT'S AGES

18-24	6
25-29	8
30-39	12
40-49	2

### 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

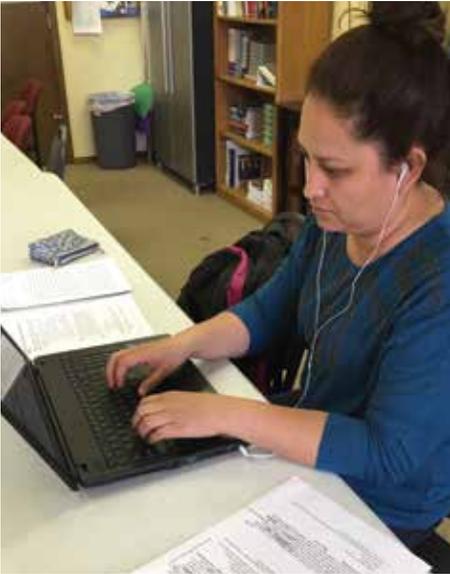
Substance abuse: 5

Discharged from jail/prison: 3

Health/illness: 3

Discharge from foster care: 1

# EDUCATION



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

*“My kids can learn how important school is,  
not only for kids, but also for adults.”*



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:

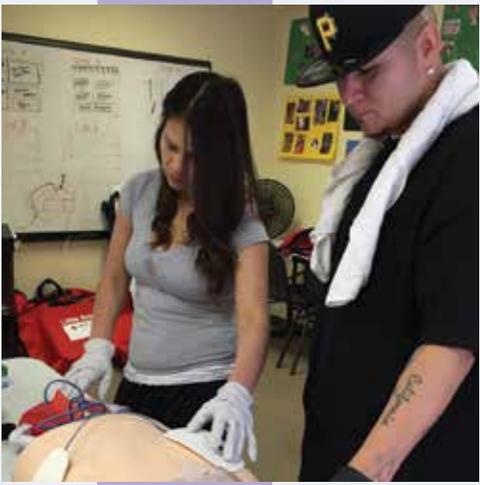
- Sociology (1)
- Biology (1)
- Psychology (1)

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)



## 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.





## 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.

S.T.A.R. CENTER

*"I have often made choices in a survival mode. Now I am making long-term goals."*



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 Dinski

### 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

# COMMUNITY

SARANAM VALUES COMMUNITY

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.



Assistance Leagues of New Mexico contribute shoes and more to Saranam families





UNDUPLICATED  
VOLUNTEERS

563

VOLUNTEER HOURS

3,733



## 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.



## 2016 VOLUNTEERS, DONATIONS & FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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 Weil 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 Holtby 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  
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 Match  
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 Listen to Your Mother Show  
 Madrid Accounting and Consulting, LLC  
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 Network for Good Giving Tuesday Match  
 PNM Foundation Employee Match  
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 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

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Albuquerque Community Foundation-  
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 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

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS CONT

Doris Buckman  
 Friendly Lunch Bunch, Central United  
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 Gail Mandel  
 General Mills  
 G-Force Gymnastics  
 Gordon and Janie Rowe  
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 Sam and Sharon Baca  
 Sandra Graves  
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 Tom and Bettye Hoover  
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 True North Financial Ministries  
 United Way Young Leaders Society  
 Wayne Frye and Debra Maese  
 WIN (What's Important Now)

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

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Diana Zavitz

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Anne and John Leher by Patricia Renken  
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Jane Cook by Linley Daly  
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Linda Weil by The Santa Fe Jazz Foundation  
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Sue Campbell by Pat Gallaher (Wilson Gallaher Family Trust)  
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by Todd Kjeldgaard  
by Howard Mock  
by Robert and Phyllis Boverie  
by Sam and Sharon Baca  
by Naomi Elizabeth Montoya  
Wim Kramer by Margaret, Kerrin and Quentin Kramer  
by Dave and Dru Kuntz  
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



Gifts made to the  
**SEAN HOPKINS MEMORIAL  
ACTIVITY FUND**

Dr. Paul and LaDonna Hopkins

Howard and Judy Mock

Judy Zanotti

Naomi Elizabeth Montoya

Richard and Cheryl Montoya

Robert and Phyllis Boverie

Sam and Sharon Baca

Sheila Ward

## Legacy Giving to Support Saranam *Tithing Unto Death*

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 Scalability

## EXPANDING THE WORK

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.



### VOLUNTEER TEAM MEMBERS

Nancy Wood *Facilitation*  
Mary Ellen Coon *Board Chair*

### BUSINESS PLANNING TEAM

Paul Chavez *The Q Realty*  
Rep. Jim Dines  
Julie Bowdich  
Kathleen Avila *Avila Retail*  
Seth Ingersoll *Premier Wealth Management*  
Sonya Priestly *Gardenswartz Group*  
Rob Lasater *Retired, Rodey Law*  
Jerry Landgraf *Nob Hill Development Corp.*

### FUNDING STRATEGIES TEAM

Elaine Solimon *ARCA*  
Vicki Macaulay  
Linda Weil  
Melissa Rosen Frankel

### CAPACITY BUILDING TEAM

Linley Daly *President/CEO Daly Consulting,*  
*President AFP-New Mexico*  
LaDonna Hopkins *H&H Consulting*  
Wayne Frye, *PNM Resources*  
Teala Kail *NM Gas Company*  
Patricia Parkinson  
Agnes Noonan *WESST*

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Pat Renken *Retired, APS*

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Sue Rzendzian *Director of Development*

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Debra Maese *Director of Education*

Sue Campbell *Volunteer & Community*  
*Outreach Coordinator*

Olga Shapovalova *ENCORE Fellow*

Julie Green *Bookkeeper*

Saranam is a registered 501(c)(3)  
non-profit organization.  
All contributions are tax-deductible.

## 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](http://Saranamabq.org)

Like us on Facebook

[facebook.com/SaranamLLC](https://facebook.com/SaranamLLC)



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