



# Paving a Pathway Home



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Over the past few years, it has been my  
as we envision ways to serve even more



Though the economic environment for nonprofit organizations remains a very challenging one, I have seen our community come together with resilience, determination, and a shared sense of purpose. We have spoken as a unified voice for changing the lives of homeless families. While the obstacles have been many—from a persistently tough fundraising climate to a total restructuring of our human resources and payroll systems—what has shone through is Saranam’s steadfast commitment to helping Albuquerque’s poorest and most vulnerable families thrive as they take charge of their lives.

Yes, Saranam faced our share of challenges in 2017, but I’m pleased to report that, thanks to the hard work and dedication of Saranam’s team and of our extended community, we saw many notable successes during the year. Chief among them was the challenge stemming from growing pains as we laid the organizational foundation and structure for doubling our capacity so that we can serve more families in the future. As a strategy to solidify our cash flow for a successful capital campaign in preparation for expansion, Saranam’s Board of Directors made the decision to reduce our 2017 budget and the number of families accepted into the fall 2017 cohort. Saranam staff and volunteers worked hard to increase our local visibility as well as our income, and our funding strategies have been successful. Fundraising events raised twice the amount they have in the past, and we saw a significant increase in grant funding. Because of these efforts, by summer 2017, we won Board approval to accept families to full capacity in our 2017 cohort after all.

The year also saw an increase in levels of success for participating families! We integrated our adult and children’s programming

Paving a  
Pathway  
Home

## privilege to lead Saranam families in Albuquerque.

into a two-generational curriculum taught by exceptional contracted instructors as well as highly-trained volunteers. By providing comprehensive and parallel life skills programs to both parents and children, at developmentally appropriate levels, we are better able to address the underlying issues of poverty as we help our families move into permanent stability. In 2017, our on-site academics prepared families for college success: we celebrated as our students received four Associate's Degrees, six vocational certificates, one high school diploma, and one GED!

As part of the process for validating our unique model, we have undergone substantial evaluation. This year, we established effective methods to longitudinally track our measures of success. This will enable us to tell the story of the incredible impact we have on families over time, including stories of past families who purchase homes, move into new employment, or bring their kids back just to check in with us. It is so gratifying to see the progress our families are making toward wholeness.

As we move forward, I remain buoyed by what Saranam accomplished in 2017, and I am excited about our future. Our community is strong and vibrant. Saranam continues to weave together education, housing, and supportive communities in an attempt to eliminate homelessness and poverty in the families we serve. We move forward into our expansion campaign with our Board's one focused goal: to occupy a new campus by 2020.

Please join with me to help spread the word that Saranam is a genuine answer to the question of how the lives of homeless families can be transformed!

Tracy Sharp  
*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.

### SARANAM PROGRAM MODEL



# Molly's



Molly grew up in a loving family in Tennessee. She moved to Albuquerque as a teen and graduated from Hope Christian School. After high school, she started making some bad choices, and eventually met her husband.

Molly and her husband moved around and soon her husband started drinking. Molly would call the police every time he came home drunk, but he would apologize and promise to make a change. Eventually she asked him to leave and he became extremely abusive. Molly and her children were able to get away from the traumatic situation, but could not return to the apartment. They no longer felt safe.

Thankfully, through all the difficulties, Molly's son was receiving therapeutic services from NAPPR (Native American Professional Parent Resources) and his music therapist suggested that Molly apply to Saranam.

From the beginning, Molly had a sense of peace about the Saranam neighborhood. When she got the call to say she was accepted she started crying. "My son started crying, and even the baby followed. But these were definitely tears of joy."

When her family moved into their new apartment, they experienced a sense of renewal. Her baby had a bed for the first time and the first thing her little boy said was, "We are safe." From the moment she arrived, she thought, Saranam is not a normal complex—there's a sense of peace, safety, calm and light here. The community is so wonderful. We watch out for each other, and this creates a safety net for all of us.

Even so, Molly's first year at Saranam was a roller coaster. There were times when parents in her class could be super angry at someone, but Molly says, "You knew that if they needed your help, you would be there for them." In class during the day, students' strengths and weaknesses were exposed. Their group was able to enhance their strengths by finding the talents of each individual in various life areas. For example, one mom became the master chef, one had a huge vocabulary, one became an expert

# Story

From the moment she arrived, Molly thought, Saranam is not a normal complex—there's a sense of peace, safety, calm and light here.

proofreader, and another gave wisdom and helped the class work through conflict by adding common sense. Molly became a math tutor. Having a strong aptitude in science and math, she found she enjoyed helping others to succeed academically.

During her second year at Saranam, Molly coordinated her "mommy group" project, providing backpacks filled with school supplies, socks, and underwear for twenty Saranam children. Adults at Saranam were also given backpacks with supplies for their Saranam and college classes. This is a project Molly has continued, even after she successfully left the Saranam program.

In May 2017, Molly earned an Associate's Degree in General Studies focused on Health, Safety, and Nutrition, and she also completed the Certificate for the 45-hour child care Foundations in the Seven Basic Competencies. Molly successfully exited the Saranam program in June 2017. She is currently employed as a full-time Educational Assistant in a Montessori school. This is her first job ever that pays above minimum wage! It also offers a wide range of benefits. Molly credits her having gotten this job to the education and job prep classes she received through Saranam. In fact, Molly is continuing school as she pursues a teaching degree, with an emphasis in Montessori learning.

As a child and teen Molly had been a strong student, but the experiences of her last several years had left her insecure and directionless. Re-discovering her academic abilities at Saranam, she says, "reminded me what I am capable of. It re-centered me and helped me believe I could succeed again."

Through the Saranam life skills classes, and with the help and support of her new community, Molly learned how to be an effective and capable single parent. At Saranam, she learned how to take care of a house, and how to establish effective cleaning, shopping, and cooking routines. She learned how to structure time with her children so that everyone was fed and bathed, and the family had playing and reading time together. "At first I didn't know how long I would be able to do it. But just having the

structure gave us a routine, and gradually it all became habitual."

Another huge change is that Molly is no longer "freaked out" by the possibility (or actuality) of conflict. "I don't flee in the face of conflict anymore," she says. "It's easier for me. It's not always good, but it's easier." This skill has helped her to set appropriate boundaries for herself and her children, which makes them all feel safe and secure. She has also become an effective advocate for her two special needs children, as she often needs to be a calm voice of reason in sometimes difficult service meetings.

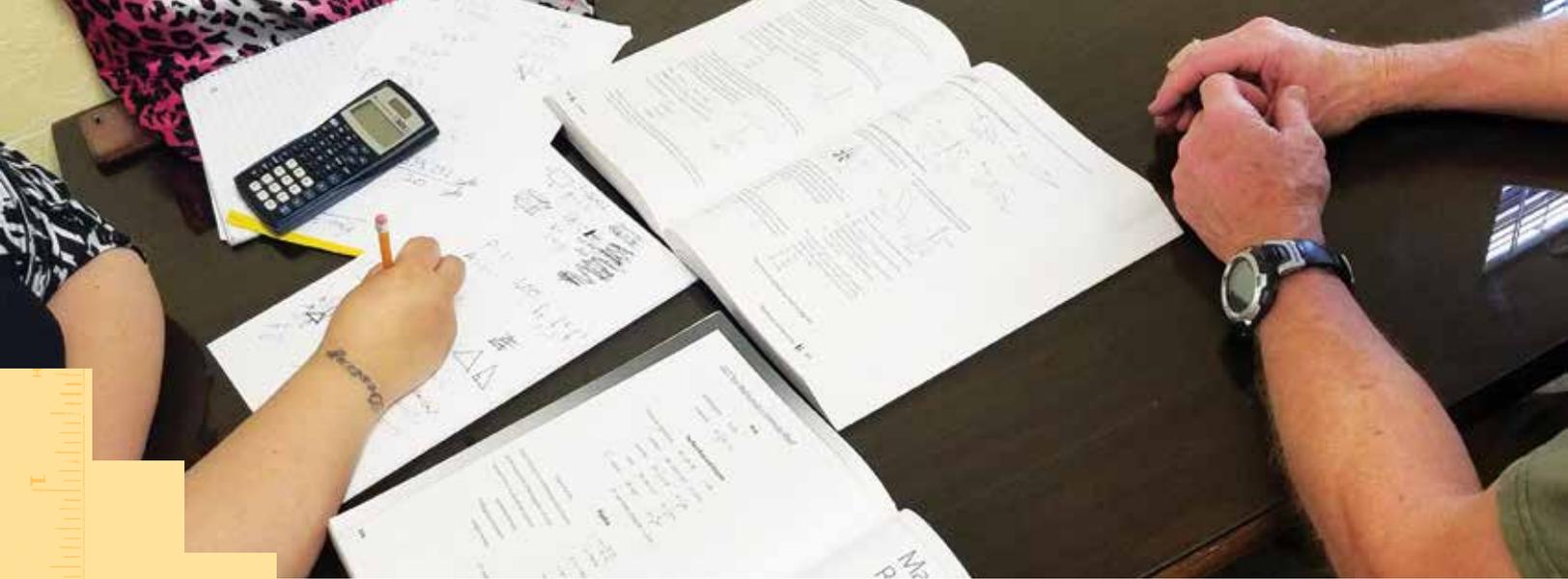


And finally, Molly says that the greater Saranam community has been instrumental in helping her children overcome their trauma and anxiety. The children have learned how to trust adults, and how to build friendships. She is especially grateful for one of our volunteers, Mr. Wayne. Wayne Frye has been a regular and reliable volunteer in Saranam's children's program (The STAR Center) and he has been a positive, strong male role model for Molly's children. The stability and reliability

of Saranam's STAR Center has been remarkably healing. Molly remains involved in the STAR Center, volunteering as a co-leader in the toddler group, and continuing to participate in family events. "If my kids are having a bad day, they want to come to the STAR Center and see Miss Debra or Mr. Wayne. It's a place where they know they are loved and welcomed."

"Saranam is like boot camp to get your life back on track. If you do it right, if you work the program, you WILL get on track and you'll stay on track. You won't fall apart the minute you leave the program. You'll succeed. Saranam changed my life, and not just my own, but also that of our family. It changed the course, the path, that we were on. Now my children are on a good path that's going to last the rest of their lives."

"There are no words to express my gratitude to those of you who have supported us. You've given my children and me a second chance. Our family life would be nowhere near where it is now if it weren't for this refuge as we have taken our journey from homelessness to success!"



# Short Stay Big Success

## SIX STEPS TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

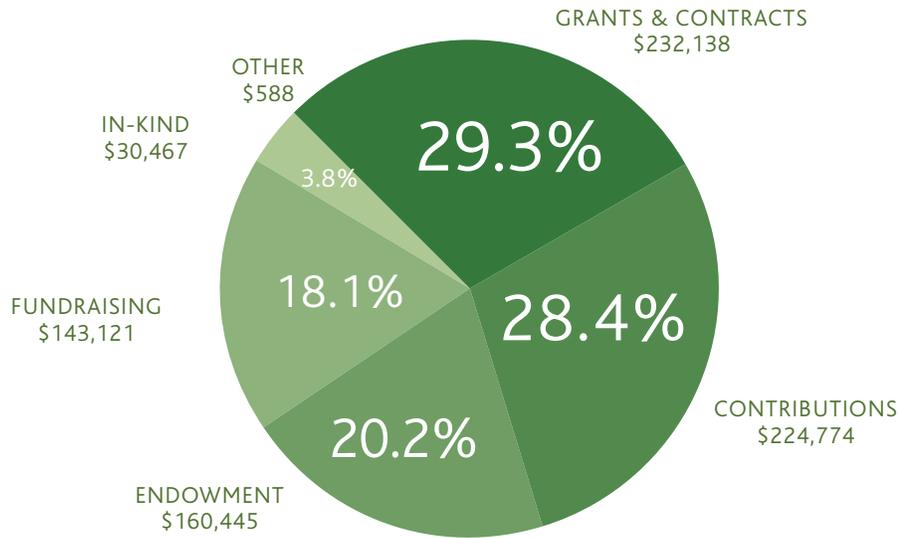
- 1 Intake/Orientation
- 2 Educational/  
Personal Development
- 3 Vocational Development
- 4 Job Placement/  
Employee Support
- 5 Independent Living
- 6 Independence

A question frequently asked concerns those people who leave Saranam early—before the full two years. Often such families leave on very good terms, having accomplished their primary goals. It is common for these hard-working families to meet criteria on Saranam's Measures of Success, and thus exit our program successfully.

Anna, a single mom who aged out of the foster care system, had been couch surfing with her infant daughter while trying to finish her GED when she applied for Saranam. As she moved into her new apartment at Saranam, it was the first time she had ever lived on her own. Anna was very clear about her goals when she came in—she wanted to earn her GED so that she could get a high-paying job. She did not want to be financially insecure anymore, and she knew education was the way out.

In her eight months at Saranam, Anna was able to accomplish so much! She completed her GED and improved her life skills management and parenting through our on-site classes. She focused on overcoming her financial barriers and worked diligently to do so. She made sure her car was in good repair, her bills were paid, and her baby had everything she needed. Anna continued in two classes at CNM and she worked part time when she moved from Saranam into her own apartment. Now, a year later, we remain in touch with Anna. She continues in stable housing and she is now employed full time. Both she and her daughter are doing very well.

# 2017 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

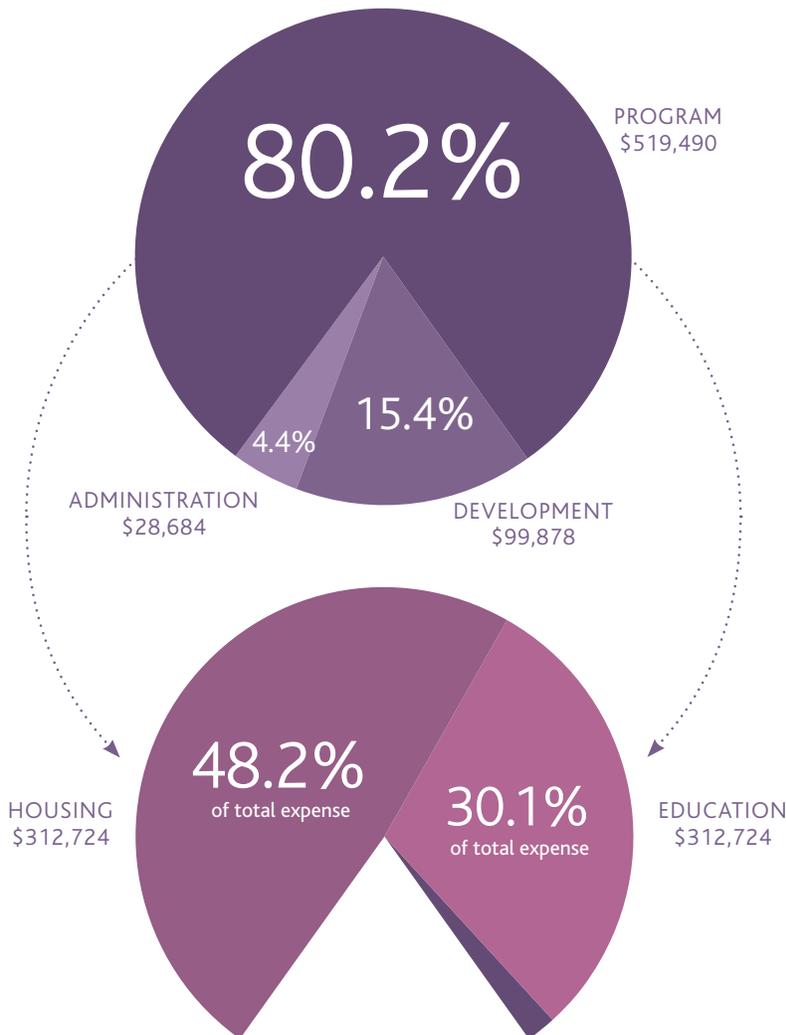


**REVENUES** Total \$791,533

**EXPENSES** Total \$648,052

AVERAGE COST  
PER FAMILY  
\$24,019

AVERAGE COST  
PER PERSON  
\$7,903



**HOUSING COSTS INCLUDE**

- Rent
- Apartment supplies
- Stocked kitchen/pantry
- Personal hygiene supplies
- Cash stipend
- Transportation
- Background checks
- Drug tests
- Telephones and utilities
- Internet

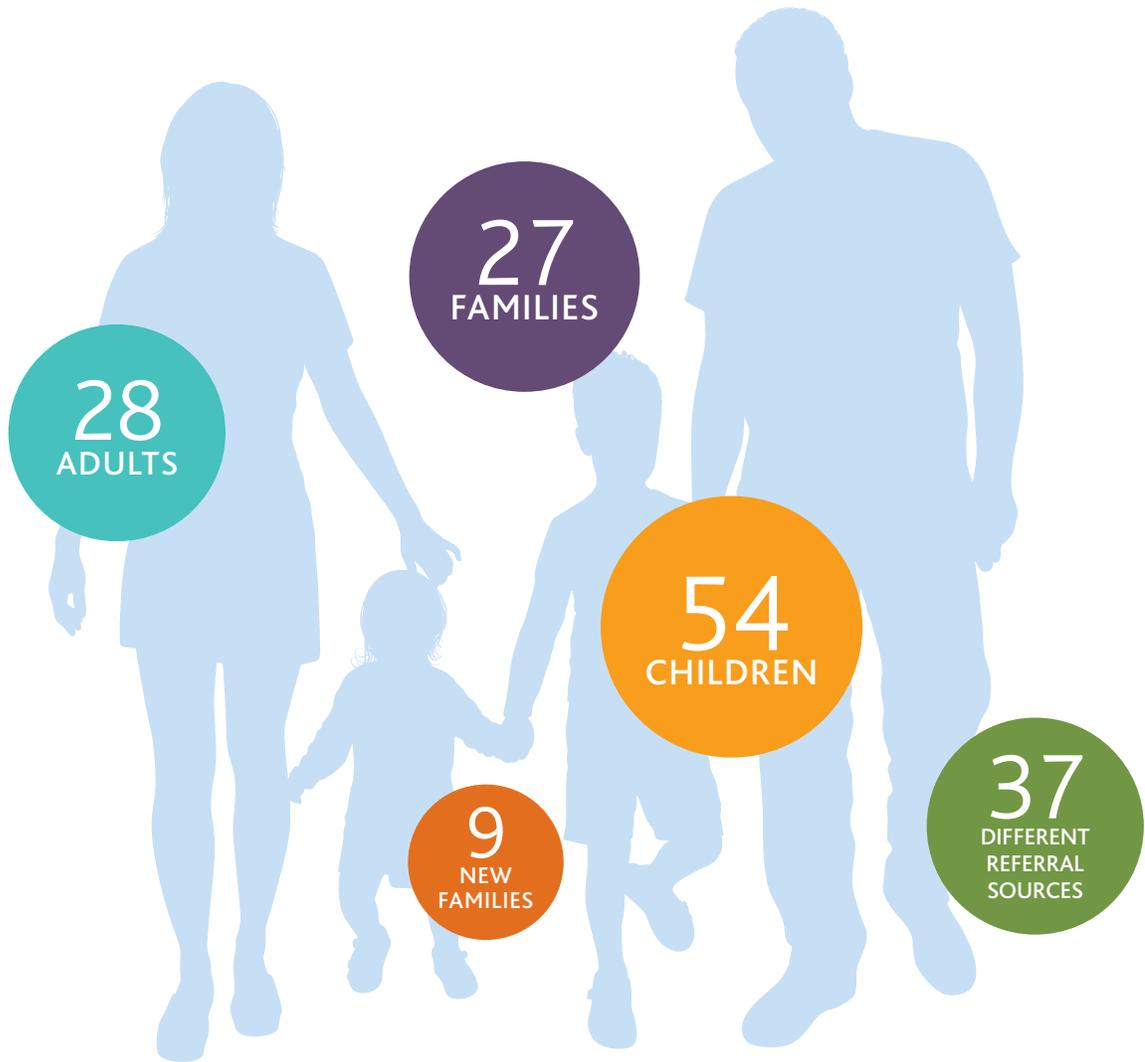
**EDUCATION COSTS INCLUDE**

- Contracts for instructors
- Training fees and supplies for on-site classes
- Scholarships for tuition, fees, textbooks, supplies
- Computers
- Child care
- STAR children's programming

Program expenses not categorized include enrichment, classroom, office, and operating supplies.

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

# 2017 DEMOGRAPHICS



## ETHNICITY

*As self-identified on application*

- Caucasian 14
- African American 8
- Hispanic 16
- Native American 5
- Multi-racial 35
- Other 4

## GENDER

	ADULTS	CHILDREN
All	28	54
Female	27	31
Male	1	23

## CHILDREN'S AGES

Under 2	3
2-5	18
6-12	21
13 -18	12

## ADULT'S AGES

18-24	5
25-29	6
30-39	14
40-49	3

## ADULT EDUCATION

- Enrolled in life skills: 28
- Enrolled in adult basic education: 8
- Enrolled in vocational training: 17
- Enrolled in high school: 2

## HIGHEST LEVEL OF ADULT EDUCATION AT ENTRANCE

- 8th: 1
- 9th: 3
- 10th: 1
- 11th: 5
- High school diploma: 2
- GED: 3
- Some college: 11
- Associate's degree: 2
- Bachelor's degree: 1

## REASONS FAMILIES BECAME HOMELESS

*As identified by the families at intake*

- Relationship/family problems: 21
- Inability to find employment: 15
- Inability to pay rent: 15
- Domestic violence: 17
- Eviction from housing: 6
- Substance abuse: 7
- Inability to pay utilities: 4
- Bad credit: 3
- Discharge from jail/prison: 5
- Health/illness: 4
- Mental health: 7
- Problems with benefits: 3
- Relocation to find work: 3
- Legal issues: 4
- Discharge from foster care: 1
- Other: 8



# Impact & Results

## EDUCATION = INCREASED INCOME

As a core component of the program, Saranam knows educational attainment positively influences earning potential. In fact, it **increases earning potential by \$7,000 annually for a person who has earned a high school diploma or GED, with an additional \$5,000 or more for people with an associate's degree or some college.** A total of 16 degrees have been earned by Saranam participants over the past five years, and many more are in progress!

## SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Saranam's 75% success rate of families exiting the program into permanent, safe, stable living situations tells the story. Our families generate income, pay taxes, pay rent, utilities, and bills. In doing so, they become stable, productive members of the larger community.

## COST SAVINGS

The annual cost for housing and education at Saranam is \$7,903 per person and \$24,000 for a family. By contrast, the city of Albuquerque's estimated annual cost per homeless person is \$42,790, including medical, jail, and emergency shelters. This amounts to an annual savings of \$32,590 per individual.

## After 14 years

in operation, Saranam has served **111 homeless families** in Albuquerque, including **129 adults and 221 children.**

Our program has demonstrated a **75% success rate of families who exit the program** having met three or more of our measures of success.

Our 75% success rate indicates that when families exit, **they are able to fully support themselves**, including paying for housing, supplies, utilities, etc.

The life skills we provide ensure that our families are able to maintain and sustain these outcomes.

### 2017 BY THE NUMBERS

27	FAMILIES
28	ADULTS
54	CHILDREN
14	EXITS
673	VOLUNTEERS
4,331	VOLUNTEER HOURS
58	FAMILIES APPLIED
9	NEW FAMILIES ACCEPTED
37	REFERRING AGENCIES
\$7,903	COST PER PERSON
\$24,019	COST PER FAMILY

# 2017 OUTCOMES

Eleven families successfully exited the Saranam program in 2017.

Of those 11 families, three met all six measures of success. Six families were successful on five measures, and the remaining two families were successful on four measures.

Every family made significant and impactful progress in their education, and every family worked diligently to meet their Life Skills goals. These accomplishments helped them to leave Saranam as independent and productive individuals.

Three families exited Saranam unsuccessfully because they were unable to fully participate in program requirements.

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Has the family moved into STABLE HOUSING?

Have the adults significantly improved their level of EDUCATION?

Are the adult members of the family EMPLOYED?

Has the parent significantly improved its ABILITY TO MANAGE LIFE?

Have the parents improved their PARENTING SKILLS?

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



Saranam has had contact with **74%** of families who exited one year or more ago

## FOLLOW-UP DATA

Saranam's Annual Reunion brings families, past and present, together to enjoy an afternoon sharing stories and catching up with one another. 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 helps us track the families' progress over time.

Amazingly, Saranam has had contact with 74% of families who exited one year or more ago. Of those families, 94% who left the program successfully remain stable after a year, and 88% 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 one year later, whether families left successfully or not, 85% of those whom we have been able to contact are stable.

JESSICA exited Saranam in 2015 and she was continuing her Associate's Degree at Carington College. In December 2017, she finished her academic work for medical billing and coding, and she's



now ready to do her externship to finish that certificate and graduate in May 2018. Jessica, now on maternity leave, is currently engaged to the father of her children. The family has stable housing and they are feeling very happy, very successful—and their three children are doing really well.



When CYNTHIA left Saranam in the summer of 2016, she was continuing in school, and she was housed, employed and stable. Cynthia talks about maintaining boundaries and about knowing where she is going—which is most important to her. She has earned two Associate's Degrees from CNM, (Psychology and Liberal Arts), and she'll have a third degree in Human Services by the end of Summer 2018. She plans to transfer to NM Highlands University School of Social Work in the fall. For the past year, Cynthia has been employed as a certified tutor in English at CNM. She just loves “watching the lightbulb go on for people.” Cynthia's two children are happy and doing well. Harley, her first grader, is beginning to read. “I'm going to read it, Mom,” she says as she takes a book out of her mother's hand!

## Saranam Memorials

We are proud of these women and will miss them greatly.



CECILIA had a great passion for cooking and was thrilled when she joined the Culinary Arts program at CNM. She was proud of her cooking skills and often shared meal creations with her Saranam staff and friends. During her time at Saranam, Cecilia worked hard to learn how to be self-reliant. When she left Saranam, Cecilia had secured full-time employment working with developmentally disabled adults. This position was a perfect fit for Cecilia, because she had a generous heart and loved being able to care for others. Cecilia will be missed.



ANGELICA was an enthusiastic student with a big heart. She earned her GED while at Saranam, and in December she completed her Associate's 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 at Saranam for her big, wide smile and infectious laugh. She was a hard worker who doggedly pursued her goal of earning her Nursing Certificate, and she accomplished this last year! Pearlina was generous with her love and her faith, and she made sure that everyone in her Saranam classes stayed in close touch, even after leaving Saranam.



# Saranam Offers

## CHILDREN'S SUPPORT, TUTORING, AND RESOURCES (STAR) CENTER

In our two-generational approach, the Saranam children's program provides access to on-site activities and developmentally appropriate life skills classes that mirror the adult classes. Children may also receive group tutoring for teens, group homework help, or private tutoring for elementary age children. They can also participate in reading circles. A wide variety of enrichment activities—such as science, arts, music, theater, Junior Achievement (entrepreneurship and financial management), cooking classes, anti-bullying, internet safety and yoga—are brought to the children, teens, and families each week.

## CASE MANAGEMENT

Saranam provides families with guidance on career, academic, and financial goals and assistance with referrals, counseling, crisis management, childcare, transportation and enriching community activities. Families develop individualized transition plans, with specific goals, and they work with a case manager to assess their progress. These goals may revolve around career, academics, finances, or personal issues

## TRANSPORTATION

Saranam provides monthly bus passes, or a gas stipend, to each family during their stay at Saranam.

## COMMUNITY BUILDING

Saranam ensures that relationship- and community-building are integral parts of the program. Saranam uses a peer group model, whereby families enter and move through the program as a cohort. Living in the same housing complex, they immediately begin to establish community, which aids them as they 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. Quality child care plays an important role in the stability of the children, because the success of the adults who are in school and in the workforce depends on reliable child care.

## HOUSING

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

## ADULT BASIC EDUCATION/ACADEMIC & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

In the first semester, adults receive basic education on Saranam's campus from qualified instructors in order to develop academic skills in preparation for further vocational study (GED, college prep). Adults receive vocational assessment around individual interests and abilities, set vocational goals, and, after the first semester until exit, attend off-site training in a vocational school or in an academic program at a local community college or university. Obtaining a degree or certificate in a trade allows for more employment opportunities and increases earning potential.

## ADULT LIFE SKILLS

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 lessons, crucial for success, provide the skills needed to maintain participants' stability.



# HOUSING



Saranam provides safe, stable, and fully furnished transitional housing in an intentional community for a maximum of two years. Our program gives families the capability to concentrate on breaking down all barriers to a more secure future. Families who leave successfully take all the furniture and household items with them when they exit Saranam.

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## Safety

Families in the program feel as if they are no longer in their former "neighborhood," where stress, trauma, addiction, and more are right outside the door. Staff and volunteers feel safe when working on the site, day and evening.

## Access to Services

Many Saranam families use the bus system for transportation, providing easy access to CNM main campus, UNM, quality childcare options, public schools, laundry facilities, parks, urgent care, medical services, and grocery stores.



Over the summer, more than 320 Saranam volunteers worked to prepare apartments for incoming families. Furniture, accessories, and household items are collected year-round and stored in a warehouse for this purpose.

Volunteer decorators "shop" in the very organized warehouse for furnishings, linens, pictures, and dishes. The decorator groups 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 and groups provide baskets of toiletries, paper goods, first-aid and infant and toddler kits, and cleaning supplies for each apartment. The day before the new families move in, volunteers go shopping to stock the families' refrigerators and pantries.

Each month, another team of volunteers shops for basic living goods, including household supplies, toiletries, and diapers.





# ADULT EDUCATION



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

—Saranam Resident

“I believe that school is a key part of being able to make a better life for myself.”

—Saranam Resident

Saranam emphasizes academic and vocational education as a means for improving employment opportunities, while also providing life skills education that equip families with tools which allow them to remain self-sufficient and healthy.

Research shows that income goes up as educational attainment increases. Annual income nearly doubles for someone who has some college over someone who doesn't have a high school diploma/GED. By emphasizing the value of education and allowing students the 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 and work their way out of poverty.

Saranam provides a full semester of on-site academic classes that 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, focused on furthering their education.

For the first full year in the program, adults are required to participate in a variety of life skills classes on the Saranam campus. Classes include two parenting certificate classes, college and job success skills, effective communication skills, time management, financial literacy, personal and community safety, home care, addiction prevention, and many others.

We have worked diligently to develop an innovative approach to education, one that includes a coordinated, integrated curriculum. It features an overarching weekly theme called the week's “essential question,” which is incorporated into multiple program activities—basic adult education, adult life skills, children life skills and children's activities. Themes include prosocial skills and family values such as self-determination, effective communication, goal setting, problem solving, anti-bullying, and time and life management. Life skills classes for both adults and children revolve around these themes, and instructors weave them into adult education classes.

## **2017 Adults receiving Adult Basic Education = 8**

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 two students exempted from ABE. One remained in high school at New Futures and the other was a full-time CNM student in Psychology and Liberal Arts. She graduated with two degrees in December, having earned a 4.0 with HIGHEST HONORS!

## 2017 Adults Receiving Vocational Training = 17

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 or academic program at a school of the student's choice. As a group, students enrolled in 74 classes (201 credit hours) and passed 63 of those classes (for 169 credit hours). The pass rate was 85%.

### 2017 graduations:

- 1 adult high school graduation
- 6 certificates from CNM in Health & Wellness & Public Safety; Health, Safety & Nutrition; Customer Service Representative; Phlebotomy; 7 Basic Competencies in Childcare (2)
- 1 Medical Interpreter certificate from Valley Community Interpreters
- 4 Associate's of Arts degrees from CNM in Integrated Science, General Studies, Psychology, Liberal Arts

### Programs enrolled in during the 2016-2017 school year:

- CNM-Associate's of Arts degrees in Criminal Justice, Human Services/ Substance Abuse Counselor, Psychology, Radiologic Technology, Diagnostic Sonography, Criminal Justice
- CNM-Certificates of Completion in Early Childhood Multicultural Education, General Studies, Phlebotomy, Office Technology, Health, Wellness & Public Safety, Health, Safety & Nutrition
- Valley Community Interpreter: Medical Interpreter
- New Futures High School (2 students)

## 2017 Adults receiving Life Skills = 28

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 and employability 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.

Through life skills training, weekly community speakers gave educational presentations for the Saranam adult students during 2017. Thank you to the speakers who helped our students learn about numerous topics. The adult speakers and topics included:

- Albuquerque Police Department – Intro to Safety at Home *Jill Garcia*
- Altura Preparatory School – Connecting with Community Needs *Meaghan Stern*
- APS Title One Homeless Project – Public School Resources *Jeff Beg*
- Property Maintenance *Brad Gibbs*
- Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) – Child Abuse Prevention
- CNM Trio Program – Student Resources *Jimi Sanchez*



## My Life As a Garden

### Educating Through Community Gardening

Catherine Bergen, our Master Gardener, Language Arts/English Composition, and Computer instructor, incorporates gardening into all of her classes. She has developed a curriculum like no other. It is one of the most nurturing, vivid classes we have at Saranam. This class has myriad learning opportunities that accommodate various learning styles. Gardening involves some math, community planning and organization, and some earth science concepts. Other days include reading, keeping a journal, poetry, essay writing, videos, audio files and discussions, with the underlying theme being "My Life as a Garden." In the spring, our parents focus on the concept of Courageous Hope, as they learn to tell their story with pride and dignity.

Gardening offers hands-on, experiential learning opportunities in a wide array of disciplines, including the natural and social sciences, math, language arts (e.g., through garden journaling), visual arts (e.g., through garden design and decoration), and nutrition. Recent concern over relatively weak English, science, and math skills among Americans makes the need for an interdisciplinary approach apparent.

Through active learning and student engagement, our families learn:

- Environmental stewardship and connection with nature
- Lifestyle and nutrition
- Relationship to the authentic self, self-discipline, and proactive nurturing
- A connection to history and the community
- Pride in our community



- Domestic Violence Resource Center *Amy Whitfield*
- Equality New Mexico *Jenn Jevertson*
- Health Inequity *Dr. Cindy Arndell*
- KOACH Financial Strategies – Financial Management *Chad Clark*
- League of Women Voters
- Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center *Ed Nunoz*
- Methodist Children’s Home – Circle of Security Parenting *Kelly Van Cleave, Alicia Carter and Becky James*
- Open Skies Behavioral Health *Lucas Myers*
- Parenting Class Volunteer *Salley Schwartz*
- Planned Parenthood — Reproductive Health *Liza Bley*
- Road Runner Food Bank – Giving Back to Our Community
- The Tax Lady *Ruth Tribou*
- Up With People
- Wemagination – Learning to Play *Sissy Othick, Margie Collins and Cinthia Ramirez*

### Partnership with the UNM Department of Physical Therapy



Our collaborative partnership with the UNM Department of Physical Therapy continued this year with a Health, Wellness, and Fitness Community Project that included a series of games, lectures, and exercises for our families. Doctoral candidates Maggie McConville and Ashley Bunting developed a program that gets parents and kids to interact and be active together during exercise. These exercises and recipes for healthy eating will be easy to continue. Saranam staff enjoyed hearing the UNM doctoral candidates’ final presentation detailing their project at Saranam. Thank you, Maggie McConville, Ashley Bunting, and Assistant Professor Marybeth Barkocy, PT, DPT, PCS, for the powerful, positive impact you make at Saranam!



### Technology in the Classroom & Homes

Technology is everywhere. It affects how we live, work, play, and, most importantly, learn. With technology becoming an increasing requirement across every industry today, it only makes sense that our education also effectively deploys technology in our classroom. Students NEED technology in the classroom to prepare for their future careers. It is through technology that students enhance their connections with other students and instructors, learn how to use technology not only correctly, but responsibly, access information more quickly than ever before, and access a whole new array of opportunities. Technology transforms the learning experience, and Saranam works to incorporate this important aspect into our classroom.

**THANK YOU** to the Computer Ministry of St. Chad’s Episcopal Church for providing certified refurbished computers to each household that is in need of one.

**THIS YEAR** we updated to new servers and added a new projector and media hardware to our classroom. **THANK YOU** to Dave Campbell for working so hard to make sure Saranam and students have the technology in place to do our important work.



# CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

## AT THE STAR CENTER



Saranam's approach to ending poverty and homelessness for families is an innovative two-generational strategy, wherein 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 overcome poverty.

Working in partnership with our community, the Children's STAR (Support, Tutoring And Resources) Center provides after-school and some Saturday activities that meet our 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 and 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 STAR Center, giving the family a chance to practice the skills they have learned together throughout the week. These classes focus on an overarching weekly theme called the week's "essential question," which is incorporated into multiple program activities for the week. Themes include prosocial skills and family values such as self-determination, effective communication, goal setting and problem solving, critical thinking, anti-bullying, and time and life management. This is one example of how Saranam's two-generational approach works to end the cycle of homelessness and poverty.

The STAR Center children's library provides easy access to books (by age and reading level) and academic and prosocial learning games. Through the generosity of our advocates and donors, the library provides children and teens much needed resources for academic and life success.

A valuable learning benefit at Saranam is our Volunteer Tutoring Team that consists of retired elementary, high school, college and special needs educators and reading specialists. According to Care.com, "Individuals generally charge according to their level of education and experience. Expect to pay \$30 to \$40 per hour for a high school student, and up to \$85 per hour for a certified teacher with top-notch experience. A teacher trained and qualified to work with children with special needs will likely charge more."

Our cadre of eight tutors, led by retired New Futures teacher Jeannie Jurgensen, is available for STAR Homework Help and Teen Tutoring sessions as well as private tutoring appointments for adults and children. This offering is free of charge to our families.

In 2017

we provided

**463 hours**

of life skills classes

and tutoring to

**54 children**





We witness and engage the passion for the safety of our children every day. Since we can't always be with our kids, it's important to teach them how to find help and keep themselves safe. During Family Life Skills, we weighed and measured our children and distributed a Child Safe document to record important identifiers for each child. We also ordered free fingerprinting kits and finished the "Be Safe" conversation by showing age appropriate videos on street and Internet safety, and by conducting a fingerprinting and photographing session.

Families who have previously lived at Saranam continue to return to be part of the community, especially at the STAR Center. Here, they rekindle friendships and find continuing support.

## COMMUNITY SPEAKERS FACILITATE CLASSES FOR THE STAR CENTER

Thank you to the following people and organizations for teaching and providing resources for our kids!

Acting Up! – Singing and Acting for Children *Elizabeth Goldfarb*

Albuquerque Academy – Community and Global Citizenship *Dara Johnson*

Albuquerque Academy – Student Volunteers

Albuquerque Police Department – Community Safety *Officer Jill Garcia*

Bowers and Oki Family Dentistry – Dental Hygiene *Cecilia Baca RDH*

UNMH – Infant and Child Care Management *Bernadette Garcia MSN, RNCM*

Junior Achievement – Entrepreneurship & Financial Management *Todd Bisio*

Native American Professional Parent Resources – Developmental Screenings *Sam Hufnagel*

Planned Parenthood – Sexual Health *Liza Bley*

Science Night Leaders *UNM students Lotty Del Barga and Galiana Loorem*

Special Education Teacher and Children's Mentor *Chris Briggs*

Teen Life Skills Coach and Mentor *Wayne Frye and Mike Seib*

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

Yoga and Mindfulness for Health and Wellness *Valerie Lopez and Stacie Ivey*

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church Youth Group – Puppet Show on Leadership and Friendship *Anna Bellum*



## Girl Scouts Make Stuffed Animals for Their Bronze Award

Junior Girl Scouts from Troop 11164, working toward their Bronze award, hand-sewed hundreds of stuffed animals for children in need around Albuquerque. All of the children in Saranam got to choose one that spoke to them. "Thank you so much for your love, care, and hard work on the amazing hand-made pillow animals you gave to all the children at Saranam! We love them!" shared a Saranam parent.



## ALBUQUERQUE ACADEMY STUDENTS SUPPORT SARANAM

◀ Khushi Singh coordinated a benefit concert raising \$1,500 to support the STAR Center!

Kiki Gonglewski and her mother Wen-Lin have played a very active role in coordinating and leading our Family Night arts and crafts and science activities, participating as tutors in teen and elementary homework sessions and helping to sort and level books in our STAR library.



# COMMUNITY

## SARANAM VALUES COMMUNITY



At Saranam, we believe the underlying causes of homelessness go beyond the often cited causes of 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 participants 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. Together, families in our program experience new opportunities in the arts, environment, and other activities such as visits to museums, the zoo, and holiday parties. With the generous support of our local community, we provide families in our program the opportunity 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!

#### Jewish Community Center offers camp scholarships for Saranam children

The JCC welcomed twelve teens and children from Saranam to their incredible summer camp through a partnership for camp scholarships. This high quality summer camp experience is an investment in our children that will last a lifetime — creating memories, forging friendships, teaching life skills, building self-confidence, and providing weeks of pure fun for kids. JCC's outstanding facilities, terrific activities, and supportive counselors created a perfect setting for our children to flourish. JCC Camp Director, Matt Westerlund, is always welcoming to our kids as he greets them getting on the bus to and from camp. Our partnership with the JCC provides an incredible opportunity for our kids to play, learn, laugh, and grow!

#### On-Site Therapeutic Services

One of the rooms in the STAR Center is the place where Saranam partners with outside groups to provide on-site therapeutic services. Native American Professional Parent Resources used the space to provide developmental screenings as well as some follow-up services.

#### Assistance from the Assistance League of Albuquerque

Assistance League of Albuquerque contributed shoes, clothing vouchers and more to Saranam families.

# 673

Unduplicated  
Volunteers

# 4,331

Volunteer Hours



## Help-Portrait Captures Memories

Each December, photographers from around the world find people in need, take their picture, print their pictures, and give them away without 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 families participated in Help-Portraits this year thanks to this annual event.



## G-Force Gymnastics Christmas Party

G-Force Gymnastics holds a Christmas Party at their gym complete with gymnasts who help the children on all the equipment. They provide cookies and cocoa, a reading from Santa, stuffed animals, and clothing give-aways. Thank you for helping give our families a night of fun!

## Partnering for Awareness within the Community

Several instructors at the Albuquerque Academy help promote community engagement at Saranam. Dara Johnson supports us throughout the year by incorporating Saranam into the school's Community and Global Citizenship class. Peter Glidden includes Saranam in the Community Builders Program, an in-depth look at the non-profit sector. Without Academy students who come in as a group and do small and large tasks around the STAR and then later become weekly volunteers, the STAR Center would not be as successful as it is today.



## WAYS VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED IN SARANAM

- Tutors for our parents and children
- Event planning and production
- Clothing drives
- Computer maintenance
- Decorating apartments
- Donation pick-ups
- Holiday parties and goodie bags
- Hospitality and office work
- Hosting community activities and events
- Working in the STAR Library
- Making promotional materials and videos
- Moving furniture into apartments
- STAR Center life skills and enrichment activities
- STAR 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
- Monthly supply shopping



## COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

- Abundant Grace Free Store
- Albuquerque Academy
- Albuquerque Public Schools, Child Find
- Albuquerque Public Schools, Title I
- Assistance League of Albuquerque
- Central United Methodist Church
- CLN Kids (formerly Cuidando Los Niños)
- Covenant United Methodist Church
- CYFD (Children Youth and Families Department of New Mexico)
- Enlace Comunitario
- Frances Thaxton Ash Homes, LLC
- G-Force Gymnastics
- Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails
- Jennifer F. Pontzer, LLC
- Jewish Community Center
- Junior Achievement
- AKKA Karate
- Lieber's Luggage
- Locker 505
- Native-American Professional Parent Resources (NAPPR)
- Koach Financial
- UNM Department of Physical Therapy
- Wemagination

What does belonging mean to you?



## Belonging Project

*"You don't think you have a place of belonging, but when you really look at your feelings you can find them, and you can go to those places to center yourself. Then, moving forward, you can find yourself." —SARANAM RESIDENT.*

Christine Wong Yap is a project-based visual artist originally from Northern California and currently based in Queens, New York. She is the creator/artist of the Belonging project.

Over a five-week residency, the project consisted of story collection, hand-painted wooden place markers, DIY activity sheets, and the *Belonging* 'zine (self-published magazine). The 'zine launched at Sanitary Tortilla Factory in July, with place markers installed at participating locations around Albuquerque. Christine created a Belonging sign for Saranam based on statements that our families shared with her.

Christine had the following reflections about her visit to Saranam.

*"I was humbled and honored that participants at Saranam were so open and generous with their experiences.... This is a remarkably intentional, safe, emotionally honest space."*

Her insights reflect the nurturing, respectful, caring and safe community that is Saranam.



# THANK YOU

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 in 2017.

## VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Albuquerque Academy Decorating Team  
 Albuquerque Attachment Moms  
 Albuquerque District United Methodist Women  
 Albuquerque Police Department  
 Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Broomfield, CO  
 Ansel's Interiors Decorating Team  
 APS Title 1 Homelessness Project  
 Asbury United Methodist Church  
 Assistance League of Albuquerque Decorating Team  
 Central United Methodist Church Decorating Teams  
 Cibola High School Senate  
 Citi Decorating Team  
 Committee on Women in the Legal Profession –  
 "Lady Lawyers"  
 Covenant United Methodist Church  
 Decorating Team  
 Covenant United Methodist Church Christmas Party  
 Covenant United Methodist Church Easter Baskets  
 Del Norte Rotary  
 G-Force Gymnastic  
 HB Construction  
 Help-Portrait Photography  
 Johnson Controls  
 La Cueva High School Football Team  
 Mary Burt Decorating Team  
 Michelle Holtby Family Decorating Team  
 Old Navy  
 Paulette Seib and Friends Decorating Team  
 Personalities Plus  
 Pure Radiance Spa  
 Sandia Rotary  
 St. Chad's Episcopal Church Computer Ministry  
 St. Chad's Episcopal Church Decorating Team  
 St. Luke's United Methodist Church Highlands  
 Ranch, CO Youth Group  
 United Way Young Leaders Society  
 WIN (What's Important Now)  
 Women of ARO Decorating Team

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 Richard and Linda Eitzen Fund  
 Amazon Smile Foundation  
 Ansel's Interiors  
 Bair Medical Spa  
 Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
 Employee Match  
 Bright Funds Foundation, in honor of Chris Anderson  
 Central United Methodist Church Harmony Class  
 Central United Methodist Church Partnership Class  
 Central United Methodist Church  
 Providence Sunday School Class  
 Coldwell Banker Legacy  
 Commercial Association of Realtors NM  
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 PNM Foundation Employee Match  
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 Santa Fe Jazz Foundation *in honor of Linda Weil*  
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 Healthy Families  
 BNSF Railroad Foundation  
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 Rotary Del Norte  
 Sandia National Laboratories  
 Texas Methodist Foundation  
 United Way  
 U.S. Bank Foundation  
 Wells-Fargo

## IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

ABQ Skin Care & Acne Clinic, Kimberly Lovato  
Achievement Gallery  
Albuquerque Attachment Moms  
Albuquerque Tourism and Sightseeing Factory  
Barbara and Rex Allender  
Articles Clothing  
Assistance League of Albuquerque  
Sharon and Sam Baca  
Bair Medical Spa  
BBVA Compass Bank  
Gay and David Bernitsky  
Betty's Bath and Day Spa  
Cynthia Bonafair  
Linda Buffett  
Mary Burt  
Janie Burton  
Sue and Dave Campbell  
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Central United Methodist Church  
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Chick-Fil-A  
Cibola High School Senate  
Lori and Randy Clark  
Coldwell Banker Legacy, Cyndi and Mike Carter  
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Total Wine and More  
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United Way Young Leaders Society  
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Mary Ann West  
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WIN (What's Important Now)  
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 Brad Yablonsky  
 Barbara Young  
 Diana Zavitz  
 Judy Zanotti and David Davis  
 Vicki and Fred Zutavern

# THANK YOU



## GIFTS GIVEN IN HONORARIUM

Cathy Anderson by Sacramento Camp & Conference  
Adam and Jennifer Bly  
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by Alline Healy  
by Guinevere Kothari  
by Anne Momsen  
by Diana and James Peveler  
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Bill and Penny Cazier by Patricia Renken  
Antionette Sylvia Chavira by Joanne Keane  
Clients, Friends and Subcontractors by Ansel's Interiors  
Darlene and J.J. Evers by Julie and Stuart McIntosh  
Pam Gilchrist and Ken Mayers by Thomas Baker  
Shayla Gornstein by Katherine and Robert Waldman  
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Joanne Keane by Penny Holland  
Murphy Keane by Joanne Keane  
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by Susan and Mike Bateson  
by Dr. and Mrs. Roger Cronk  
by Joe Jenkins  
Ansel Roney by Carolyn Fudge  
Claudia and David Ryan by Nancy and Rev. Frederick Thessing  
Elaine Solimon by Elise and Patrick Orell  
Vivia Sparkler  
by Marie Hansen  
by Jane Larson  
Jim Stephens by Mary DeWitt  
Emily Streams by Margaret and Dale Streams  
Linda Weil  
by Robert and BJ Weil  
by Elizabeth Weil  
Robert and BJ Weil by Elizabeth Weil

## GIFTS GIVEN IN MEMORIAM

Robert Albright by Patricia Renken  
Betty Borg by Lorraine Gordon  
Helen Brezna by Paul Brezna  
Paula Farkas by Jeanne Jurgensen  
Harriet Glazer by Iris and Dick Brackett  
Wyatt Heard by LaDonna and Dr. Paul Hopkins  
Sean Hopkins  
by Nancy Dowd  
by Mary Reeves  
by Linda Mertz  
by David Matteucci  
by Karen and Lonn Andrews  
by Tracy and Rev. Dr. Scott Sharp  
by Susan Smith  
by best friends of Sigma Chi at Texas Christian University  
Whit Carlen  
Corby Davidson  
Bowen Freeman  
Jeff Hughes  
Jeff Keffer  
Rich Ledbetter  
David Rogers  
Cheryl Tanberg-Grimaldi  
John Teas  
Wim Kramer by Margaret Kramer  
Angelica Reyes by Tracy and Rev. Dr. Scott Sharp  
Ruth Margaret (Peggy) Ryder by Connie and Bob Pinkham  
Oscar and Jessie Whitworth by Lois Lorentzen  
Mary Earle Williams  
by Tracy and Rev. Scott Sharp  
by Susan Smith  
Pearlina Yazzi  
by Patricia Rodriguez  
by Tracy and Rev. Dr. Scott Sharp

## GIFTS GIVEN TO THE SEAN HOPKINS MEMORIAL ACTIVITY FUND

Laura and Stephen Bass  
Peggy Clews and David Beutler  
Rachel Gupton  
LaDonna and Dr. Paul Hopkins *in honor of Naomi Elizabeth Montoya*  
Cheryl and Richard Montoya  
Patty and Damian Montoya  
Agnes Noonan  
Bettye Pressley  
Cynthia Hernandez and Dr. Byron Wall  
Clint Wells



## Legacy Giving to Support Saranam

Thanks to the generosity of Frances Thaxton Ash and her determination to end homelessness in families, Saranam has provided resources and support since 2004 to permanently break the cycles of poverty and homelessness for hundreds of families. Our generous community partners have continued this legacy through planned gifts to create a strong future for more families who have experienced a lifetime of homelessness and generational poverty.

You, too, can make a legacy gift that benefits you and your loved ones, as well as families who seek hope and a new future of security and financial stability.

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

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

## Saranam Scalability – Expanding the Work

For more than a decade, Saranam has provided families with safe housing, practical life-skills instruction, a supportive community, and a pathway to self-sufficiency through education. With 75% of families successfully exiting the program into permanent, safe and stable living situations, Saranam is a sustainable solution to family homelessness.

Saranam is developing plans to expand these vital services as we embark on our most important endeavor to date: **the expansion and development of a community designed to double our capacity to bring more families into self-sufficiency.**

Saranam's Board of Directors, staff, and other key stakeholders have determined that a major fundraising campaign should be launched to undertake this necessary expansion. We are working diligently toward that goal.





"Sometimes I felt like it was too hard for me, but Saranam's staff always made me feel that I was worth it, that I was worthy and capable of fulfilling my dream. It is a weird thing, but it took someone else believing that I am worth something to make me believe that I am."

—Saranam Resident

## Staff

Tracy Sharp  
*Executive Director*

Sue Rzendzian  
*Director of Development*

Jennifer Mullen  
*Case Manager*

Debra Maese  
*Director of Education*

Sue Campbell  
*Family Services Coordinator*

Olga Shapovalova  
*Administrative Coordinator*

Julie Green  
*Bookkeeper*

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# You can help 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)

Saranam is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.  
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