



BUILDING FOUNDATIONS FOR LIFE

Bringing Families Home

A refuge from homelessness, a journey home.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

 Saranam

FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2021 was another extraordinary year by any measure.

It was a year in which we continued evolving and mitigating the effects of Covid-19 on our families, while also beginning the deep work of fundraising for our expansion. It was a time when we continued discovering who we really are and moved significantly toward what we are becoming. Through the year's unknowns, the strength of our united resolve to end family homelessness allowed us to emerge prepared to fulfill our mission in growing ways, creating a sustainable solution that will continue for years to come.



This year we faced the dual challenge of staying connected virtually while also navigating the transition back to in-person operations.

Community is at the heart of everything we do at Saranam. After collectively experiencing a long separation, we see, more clearly than ever, the importance of building social capital in our lives. Because of your incredible support, we were able to bring in a full class of families again this fall.

Our families rose to the year's challenges and put in the hard work required in ways that nobody has had to do before. Determined to invest in their futures, they found innovative ways to meet their goals that had once been impossible dreams. Our families' perseverance reflects our organizational commitment of embracing every opportunity to innovate, learn and improve. By prioritizing adaptability and safety, our operations and programming remained stable all year long.

I am proud of what Saranam and our teams achieved, collectively and individually. I am grateful to the Saranam family and staff who pulled together and supported each other during a very difficult year; to our leadership team that went an extra mile to design and implement strategies to keep everyone safe and maintain institutional health; to the Board that remained engaged and supportive at a time of great anxiety and uncertainty; and to our funders and partners for their patience, flexibility and understanding that helped us navigate 2021. By leveraging the talents and resources surrounding us, we did what none of us could achieve on our own. We are truly stronger together.

I invite you to learn more about our work, our partners, and our stewardship of charitable funds. Join us in ending family homelessness and poverty forever.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Weaver". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tracy Weaver
Executive Director



Adela's Story

You can't help but smile when you are talking to Adela. With enthusiasm reminiscent of a motivational speaker and an uncanny ability to glean a lesson from every challenge, she is a natural leader and born cheerleader.

Her positivity and persistence have helped her survive the struggles she has faced as a mother of six and grandmother of three, but now they are also allowing her to get the most out of the newest season of her life, where her future is taking center stage.

Adela was born and raised in New Mexico by parents who were both blind and disabled. Her upbringing taught her to have tireless determination, a trait she harnessed after domestic violence split up her home and she had to get a job to support her mother and brother. She graduated in the top tier of her high school class and worked as a student business intern after having her first child at 16, going on to support herself through

college classes as a secretary and maid. She enjoyed a stable life, married and working as an early childhood provider, until domestic violence once again upended her life. Now a single parent, she employed her trademark grit to finish an associate degree in business administration, working overtime to remain self-sufficient and provide her kids with all they needed.

Her security eroded, however, when her struggle with co-dependency and PTSD overwhelmed her.

She entered a toxic relationship with a man who abused alcohol and eventually formed her own dependency. Her PTSD consumed her, and she battled her addiction for years until being arrested for a DWI. Adela knew she needed a different solution to address the depth of trauma she had survived, so she voluntarily entered an intensive outpatient program, where she learned effective coping mechanisms and became sober.

Though her health was back on track, her future was precarious with Covid-19 still ravaging the



state. Unable to find work, her savings dwindled as she and her kids bounced between houses. A friend let her stay in an RV, but it was a tight fit, especially with three kids doing online learning.

Finding Saranam, Adela says, was the miracle she needed.

A person of deep faith, Adela felt her referral to Saranam held a higher purpose. Though she worried it was too good to be true, her faith pushed her to apply. Her prayers were answered when she got her acceptance call.

From the moment they stepped into their new home, Adela knew it was the start of big changes.

“I cried like a big baby when I came into my apartment. I haven’t had a room of my own since I was 16 years old. It’s been so empowering and allowed me some sanctuary and peace.”

The most important change she has made has been to focus on herself. As a caretaker for most of her life, she often sacrificed her own needs, even her sobriety. Setting up a diligent self-care routine has kept her healthy and given her energy for dreams beyond just survival. Prioritizing herself has been an act of trust, but Saranam’s support has helped her do it.



“Saranam has taught me that change isn’t bad when you’re surrounded by people who have your best intentions at heart.”

Improving her mindset has benefitted her kids immensely. Adela now has the bandwidth to meet her kids’ emotional needs and they have reconnected as a family. With a stable home, her kids are calmer and are excelling in school. They love to cook together and experiment with new flavors from their recipe box. Adela’s tenacity has even inspired her adult daughter to return to school to pursue engineering.

“Saranam talks about impacting two generations, but in my family, you’re impacting four... I’m trickling it all down.”

Adela feels braver now and is finally able to follow passions that inspire her. Though she has a business degree, she has always wanted to become a pilot and is taking drone piloting classes with a specialization in geothermal imaging. An entrepreneur at heart, she dreams of someday starting her own women-run aviation company.

“Now I can do what I want. For the first time in my life, I was given a choice. I want to dream big and succeed in ways that I hadn’t been given a chance to do before.”

Always the cheerleader, she is passing this enthusiasm onto her peers. She pushes them to invest in themselves and put their best efforts into their



goals. She is excited to see what they can accomplish with a little help.

“Our group are very, very dynamic survivors. We have so much potential, but it just hasn’t been molded in the right way.”

If you ask Adela what drives her, she is quick to point to her religious devotion. From gathering the courage to apply, to soothing her fears of the future, her journey at Saranam has been one of faith. She now has confidence in the bright path ahead of her family and she tells her children often, “we will always be a statistical anomaly because of God.” Her life, she believes, is part of a bigger plan, and knows that the wisdom she gathers on her journey will allow her to light the way for others in new and beautiful ways.



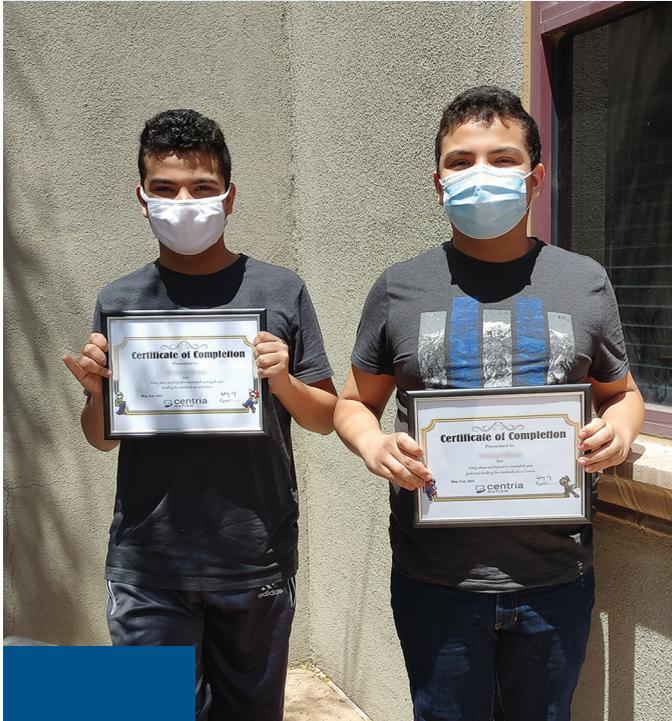
Miriam’s Story

Miriam would tell you that her story is just like anyone else’s, but it so much more. Like many others, domestic violence threw her into homelessness, but in overcoming her struggles, she has learned a strength and wisdom that make her an inspiration.

Miriam has always loved learning. She was a star student at her Oklahoma high school and was accepted into the top universities in the state. Though her immigration status impeded her higher education opportunities, she took every chance to soak up as much information as she could in her job in the nutrition department at a local hospital. She remembers being especially interested in the role of radiologists in the healing process.

Over time she had three sweet, loving boys. Always wanting to give her kids every opportunity in life, she moved her family to Albuquerque, hoping that the new city would give their family more resources to spread their wings. Her company transferred her, and though she left her support network behind, everything looked bright – until the pandemic hit and she was furloughed.

With the entire household in financial trouble and isolated from the little community they had, her marriage quickly became a nightmare. Fueled by alcohol and depression, her husband became physically and emotionally abusive. She was marooned in a new place and desolate without family or friends to turn to.



“I was too embarrassed and ashamed to share what I was going through. I cannot express the hurt, stress, and total helplessness that I went through for so long. What does a single mother of three do to face these life obstacles?”

She did the bravest thing she could: she gathered whatever she could carry and left with empty pockets, finding a bed at a local shelter. A school social worker eventually helped her get a voucher for a local hotel, but it was less than ideal, and certainly didn't give her a way forward.

“It felt like everything was hopeless, watching my oldest children struggling to adapt to the sudden change of routine and surroundings. The increased stress, fear and anxiety that arose from them not having a home was terrifying.”

The moment she found Saranam, her mountain of worries was leveled.

A lifelong lover of education, her days are full of learning now. Miriam restarted school and is following new and bold goals. She is working diligently toward her associates degree in radiologic technology and would like to continue studying at the University of New Mexico. It seems like a dream to have a job that fascinated her so many years ago finally within reach.

She has learned what a difference a supportive community can make. Connecting with parents in similar circumstances has helped her stay on track and allowed her to realize her full potential.

“It takes a village and my family's village is the people from Saranam. I uncovered countless resources in this community of support, like education programs and people who motivate me, teach me about setting goals, and having the right mindset... I'm amazed at what we can accomplish in a supportive environment.”

She is learning how to meet her kids' needs. Since they came to Albuquerque, her three children have been diagnosed with autism and are receiving the services they need. Miriam prides herself in being involved with her kids and helping them reach the potential she knows they have. Her oldest boys recently earned all A's and

B's in middle school and are thrilled to be in regular education classes as they start high school. Her youngest has been able to benefit from early intervention services and is a curious, thriving toddler.

Home itself has become a learning zone. In parenting classes, Miriam practiced effective ways to express anger and how to set kind, firm limits. She is raising her kids to understand the values of perseverance and learning from their mistakes. Most of all, she is leading by example.

“By being a good example on how I face challenges, I feel I am teaching them resilience. I think by being present most of the time, my children will grow up knowing they are unconditionally loved and cared for, and for me in the end, that’s all that matters.”

Together, they are learning the fun things they like to do as a family. They love taking trips to the mountains for a hike, dancing and playing games at community nights, and even writing a recipe book inspired by their gardening successes.

Most importantly, Miriam has learned to be confident, to trust herself, and to not let her past poison her future.

“Most of us have some sort of experience being treated wrongly or unfairly, but we cannot let the mistakes of others be an excuse for us not to live the life we want. Struggles are part of life and that is why I value them. Saranam has taught me how to be resilient in times of chaos. After a while, I had the power to look in the mirror and realize that I own my story and loving myself through the process is the bravest thing that I will ever do.”

The journey has not been easy, but the lessons Miriam learned at Saranam have let her true strength shine and set her family on the path toward a bright, beautiful future.

“After a while, I had the power to look in the mirror and realize that I own my story and loving myself through the process is the bravest thing that I will ever do.”



Saranam's 3 STEPS TO ENDING HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY for Families



STEP ONE
Housing ends
homelessness



STEP TWO
Education brings
employment



STEP THREE
Community builds
connection

For families with an annual income of \$25,000 or less who have young children, a \$3,000 difference in parents' income is associated with a 17% increase in the child's future earnings. —The Aspen Institute

Saranam Overview

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, located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, is an innovative two-generation program that addresses the significant underlying causes of homelessness—lack of support systems, lack of community, and poverty. Saranam provides families with safe housing, intensive case management, a supportive community, and a pathway forward to self-sufficiency through education. With basic living needs provided for up to two years, families can focus their efforts on education, vocational development and acquiring life skills for independent living.

Additionally, Saranam is committed to a new way of looking at generational poverty. A two-generation approach is an anti-poverty initiative that provides services for both children and their parents. This approach helps families get what they need to create a legacy of economic stability and overall well-being that passes from one generation to the next. This approach recognizes that families come in all different shapes and sizes and that families define themselves.

6 KEY COMPONENTS OF THE TWO-GENERATION APPROACH

From The Aspen Institute

Postsecondary Education and Employment Pathways

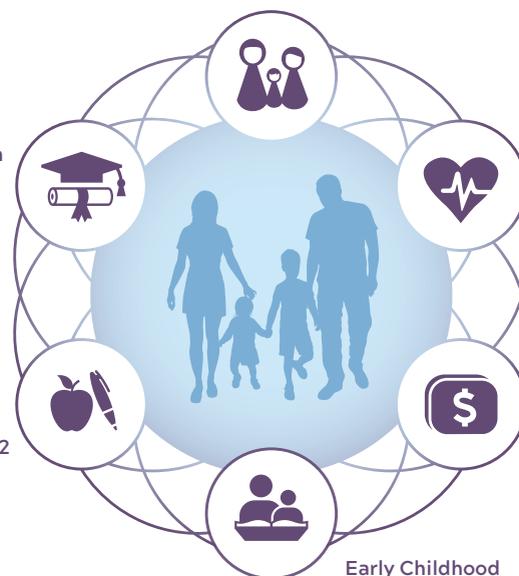
Education = K-12

Social Capital

Health and Well-Being

Economic Assets

Early Childhood Education



BUILDING FOUNDATIONS FOR LIFE

Albuquerque
Business First
2021 Non-Profit
of the Year
Honoree

Albuquerque
The Magazine's
"Best of the Rest"
Best Humanitarian
Group

The importance that a parent's education, economic stability, and overall health has on a child's trajectory is well documented. Likewise, children's education and healthy development inspire and encourage parents to set the entire family on a more secure path.

We work from and towards the needs of both the parent and the child, using research, education, and personal experience to determine what to include, change, or reform in our program. We have a 77% success rate of families exiting the program. The life skills we provide ensure that families can maintain and sustain these outcomes. The 77% of families who exit successfully do so by earning income through employment or scholarship and using it to provide for their housing, utilities, and basic living supplies. Additionally, we provide support, programming and opportunities for increased success and asset building for our alumni.

2015 Cost analysis study
by UNM Anderson School
of Management Small
Business Institute Graduate
Students

➤ **\$42,700**
Estimated annual cost
to city of Albuquerque
per homeless person
– includes cost of
medical, jail and
emergency shelters

➤ **\$11,977**
Annual cost for an
individual at Saranam

➤ **\$39,781**
Annual cost for a family
at Saranam

ECONOMIC IMPACT



*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Study, 2020. Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.

2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

WHOLE ORGANIZATION FINANCIALS WITH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN INCOME AND EXPENSES

TOTAL REVENUES
\$6,243,121



4% In-Kind
3% Other (PPP)
2% Endowment



TOTAL EXPENSES
\$1,287,429

AVERAGE COST
PER FAMILY
\$39,781

AVERAGE COST
PER PERSON
\$11,977

NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Despite the financial challenges of the pandemic, our strong financial stewardship meant we were able to protect and grow the funds used annually for our programming. We were also able to kick off our capital campaign for our new campus on the West Side of Albuquerque. Thanks to your generosity, we have already raised two-thirds of our total capital campaign budget in just over a year!

OPERATING FINANCIALS
WITHOUT CAPITAL CAMPAIGN INCOME AND EXPENSES

TOTAL REVENUES
\$1,531,560



12% Other (PPP)
10% Endowment
4% In-Kind



13% Development
7% Admin

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$1,167,624

The Frances Thaxton Ash Endowment covered 13% of this year's operational expenses. All costs for operational fundraising was covered by endowment funding.

93% of every contribution goes directly to program!

YEAR OVER YEAR
CHANGE IN NET
ASSETS

2021	\$1,552,258
2022	\$6,507,950



HOUSING COSTS
\$455,156

39% of total operational expense

INCLUDES:

- Rent
- Apartment & hygiene supplies
- Stocked kitchen/pantry
- Cash allowance
- Transportation
- Background checks
- Drug tests
- Telephones, internet & utilities



EDUCATION COSTS
\$360,439

31% of total operational expense

INCLUDES:

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



ALUMNI COSTS
\$53,740

5% of total operating expense

INCLUDES:

- Case management
- Referrals
- Asset building opportunities
- Continued trainings
- Community activities

Additional program expenses not categorized include enrichment, occupancy and operating supplies.

“Research aims to prove something. Evaluation aims to improve it.”

—Kate Cartwright, Assistant Professor, UNM School of Public Administration

Data matters to us!

This year, with on-going support from the Carl C. Anderson Sr. and Mary Jo Anderson Charitable Foundation, Saranam continued work with the University of New Mexico Evaluation Lab. In our second year of three we took a deep dive into our data. We analyzed correlations between different characteristics of our families and their participation in our programming to their levels of success at exit.

Some of our findings include:

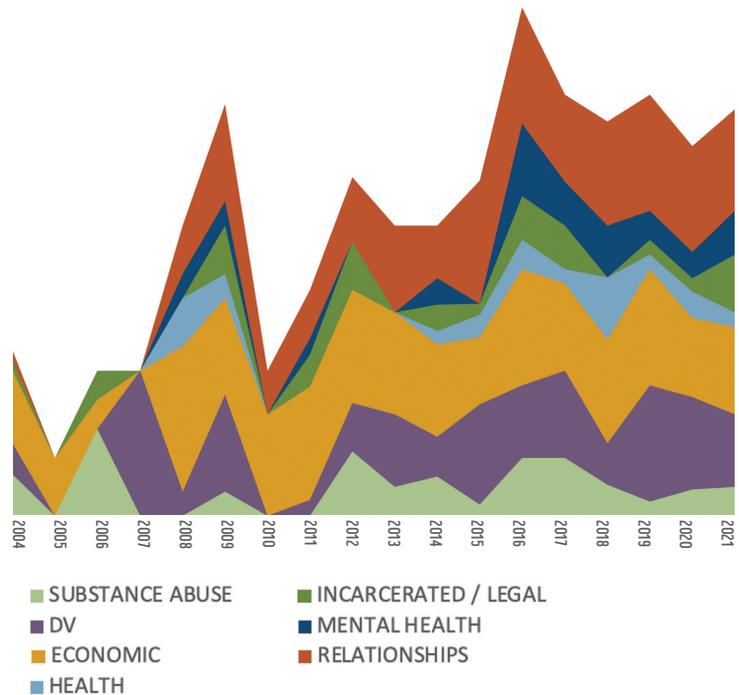
- › Saranam’s families reflect the diversity of Albuquerque, with more representation of Native American and African American family members.
- › No entering characteristics (age, ethnicity, history of homelessness, parental make-up, number or ages of children, incarceration), not even substance abuse, made a family more or less likely to succeed.
- › Grades/participation in Saranam adult classes and length of stay in Saranam did predict better success.
- › Adults who earned attendance and participation grades of 70% or higher in Saranam classes were more likely to achieve success on exit.
- › Families who stayed with Saranam for the full program were more likely to achieve success.

CONCLUSION

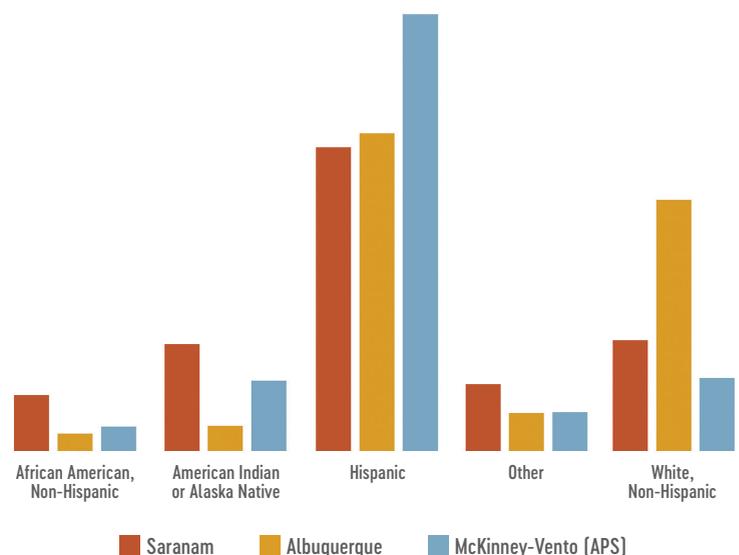
A family’s successful transition into independence is wholly determined by their own level of participation in Saranam.

Thank you to UNM’s Evaluation Lab!

REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS



RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN



2021 AT A GLANCE

Saranam has served 152 homeless families, including 319 children and 174 adults, during our 18 years in operation. Families successfully exit the Saranam program having met three or more of our measures of success, indicating that they are able to be fully self-sufficient. This includes the ability to pay for their housing, utilities, and other living expenses.

Our students enrolled in a total of 83 classes at higher education institutions, for a total of 222 credits

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS:

CNM, PIMA, Grand Canyon University, University of Arizona Global Campus, Albuquerque Adult Learning Center (GED), Liberty University

COMPLETED:

A.A., Dental Hygiene
Certificate, Veterinary Assistant

PURSUING:

M.A., Counseling
B.S., Public Health
B.A., Undecided
A.A., Respiratory Therapist
A.A., Nutrition
A.A., Nursing
A.A., Early Childhood Multicultural Education
A.A., Culinary Arts
A.A., Radiologic Technology
A.A., Business Administration
Certificate, Nursing Assistant
GED

DEMOGRAPHICS

28 families
10 new families entered
29 Adults
64 Children

OUTCOMES

13 families exited in 2020
10 left successfully
Meeting at least 3 measures of success
9 out of 10 families achieved
4, 5, and 6 measures

HOW WE MEASURE SUCCESS

- Family has moved into stable housing
- Adult members of the family have significantly improved their level of education
- Adult members of the family are employed
- Adult members have accomplished their life skills goals
- Parents have improved their parenting skills
- Adult members have addressed the major barriers to family stability

2021
SUCCESS RATE
77%

STEP 1

 HOUSING



“The house looks so beautiful; it really is amazing! I haven’t had a home since I was a kid and now you guys helped give me and my son a new beginning.”

Homelessness Ends with a Home

Every day parents experiencing homelessness must focus on and plan for where their children will sleep that night, how to keep them safe, and how to get them fed. Because they are often on the move and usually lack access to a kitchen, feeding their children means relying on food that does not need to be refrigerated or cooked. The entire family experiences high levels of stress, and often feel unsafe and vulnerable. This is why we start with housing.

Each family is instantly safe. They have control over their immediate environment. They choose who enters their space. They no longer have to worry if their children will be safe while sleeping. They have a stocked refrigerator and working stove — and all the tools they need to cook nutritious meals. They have access to quality schools and childcare, all within walking distance.

Once these basic needs are provided, the adults and children in Saranam can begin to relax. They have the time and energy to focus on themselves: their health, their education, their futures.

Beginning on their very first day, they have a community of families surrounding them. They have other adults to talk to, they watch out for each other’s children, and they rely on each other for support.

"You created a safe and comfortable space for my family to grow and learn in. Thank you truly!"

DID YOU KNOW?



› Even with the lingering pandemic restrictions this summer, we were able to **safely engage 12 decorator teams**, consisting of more than **97 volunteers that worked a total of 727.5 hours** preparing apartments for our 10 newly arriving families.

› **Furniture, household basics and decor were collected throughout the year** according to Covid-safe guidelines and stored in our warehouse for volunteer decorators to “shop” for the items needed for each apartment.

› With the help of **Lobo Movers and the La Cueva High School Football Team**, we were able to move all the furniture from the warehouse to the apartments in one day.



› **Volunteer decorators met remotely via Zoom to plan.** They wore masks and practiced social distancing during the several weeks spent setting up the bedrooms, kitchen, bathrooms, and living room in each apartment. **They added personal touches that transformed each apartment into a home.**

› **Many people and groups provided baskets of toiletries, paper goods, infant/toddler items and cleaning supplies to stock each apartment.**

› The day before the new families moved in, the **volunteers shopped for groceries online and utilized curbside pick-up to stock each family's refrigerator and pantry.**



› **Apartments were customized for each family based on family size and children's ages, with at least two beds and bedside tables, two dressers, toys, a couch and coffee table, kitchen table, dishes, small appliances (coffee maker, crock-pot, etc.), linens, a desk and chair, decorations, and a television.**

› **Saranam families take their whole house of furnishings with them when they leave!**



STEP 2



EDUCATION



Education Brings Employment Opportunities

Equally important to a stable present is a secure future. Through education, parents grow their potential as providers, problem-solvers, and advocates for their children. Education builds assets. Together with employment, families thrive and poverty becomes a part of their past.

Saranam's classes are part of an integrated curriculum designed to prepare our parents to transition into being college students.

We returned to in-person classes in Fall 2021, allowing us to provide more educational hours. We also upgraded our system for better hybrid learning in the classroom when parents have children that must stay home from school.

NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Using the insights and investments that made us so successful in 2020, we continued creative instruction on virtual platforms for our spring education and community-building activities. By the fall, with the approval of vaccines, we moved back to in-person and hybrid work. We welcomed back volunteers, which more fully supports our fundamental understanding that our support networks, our community, are important to our health and success.



SARANAM'S ADULT ACADEMIC AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

An assessment of current academic skills, GED preparation, and individualized academic instruction for those students who have a GED or high school diploma are included. On average, each Saranam student receives more than 250 hours of academic education in their first semester. Classes are mandatory for all Saranam adults during the first year in our program, unless already enrolled in college level academic courses at an accredited institution.

SEMESTER 1: FALL

Academic and Life Skills on site at Saranam

The curriculum guides participants to identify higher educational goals, and prepares them to pursue those ambitions. This provides the foundational understanding of topics they will most likely encounter once they are attending college classes in the Spring semester.

SEMESTER 2: SPRING

Life Skills on site at Saranam and Vocational/Academic classes begin off-site

The curriculum builds upon Fall semester progress by exploring their capacity to express themselves through presentation. Through self-reflective writing assignments and in-class presentations, Spring semester aims to build confidence in articulating ideas and experiences. These classes are held only in the mornings to allow participants to attend afternoon classes at the accredited institution of their choice.

SEMESTER 3: SUMMER

Life Skills on site at Saranam and Vocational/Academic classes continue off-site

The curriculum consists of Employability Skills, offered in the morning once a week. This class provides an overview of important skills needed to attain employment, as well as opportunities to practice those skills. Participants practice resume and portfolio building, job searches, job interviews, and collaborate on team-based research and presentations. As with Spring semester, participants are expected to be enrolled in summer classes at the accredited institution of their choice.

SARANAM'S ADULT LIFE SKILLS CLASSES

Classes are offered throughout the entire first year of the program to help our adults sustain and further develop their roles as parents, community members and potential employees. On average, each Saranam student receives more than 420 hours of Life Skills education in their first year. These classes are mandatory for all Saranam adults during their first year in our program.

Classes include:

- Parenting
- Effective Communication
- Organization and Time Management
- College Success
- Employability Skills
- Financial Management
- Health and Nutrition
- Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention
- General and Sexual Health
- Drug and Alcohol Prevention
- Personal and Family Values Identification
- Mindfulness
- Life Management



COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
PARTNERS

- All Faith's Children's Advocacy Center
- Albuquerque Public Library
- Emily Aikins, Zumbini
- Ruth Tribou, *IRS Enrolled Agent*
- League of Women Voters
- Mary Ann Snow, *Nurse educator*
- Methodist Children's Home, *parenting classes*
- MGM, LLC, *investing basics*
- New Mexico Extension ICAN, *cooking and nutrition*
- Planned Parenthood
- Road Runner Food Bank
- Rio Grande Credit Union

The Essential Question

Saranam classes connect with an essential question to focus students on the theme of each week.

What are my strengths and needed areas of growth?

This theme runs through all the classes. Early in the week for Life Management class, students may spend time reflecting on their respective educational experiences as they prepare for Spring — what do they need to work harder on, what comes easiest?

The next day for Parenting class, students will explore how to identify their strengths as parents as well as how to support the strengths of their children through positive reinforcement. By the end of the week, in Effective Communication class, students will be introduced to problem-solving and critical thinking skills and strategize how they may integrate them into their own learning process in the future.

These weekly opportunities for students to assess and imagine how they grow and provide for their families help establish their short and long-term goals for their time at Saranam and beyond.



EDUCATION = INCREASED INCOME



Because Saranam understands how important education is for economic stability, education is a core component of the program.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that **individuals with a high school diploma or GED earned, on average, an additional \$9,000 during 2020.** Earnings increased by an additional \$4,680 for those individuals with some college experience, with a further \$8,000 increase seen in those who obtained an associate degree.

In addition to the increased earning potential, **individuals with a high school diploma saw a 2% decrease in unemployment rates**, and the unemployment rate decreased an additional 1% for those individuals possessing an associate degree.

Family and Community Education

Just as education is key for adult growth and success, at Saranam we know a robust child education component is also needed. Saranam's unique 2-Generation approach focuses our education on both adult and children. Families get what they need to create a legacy of economic stability and overall well-being that passes from one generation to the next.

The importance that a parent's education, economic stability, and overall health has on a child's trajectory is well documented. Likewise, children's education and healthy development inspire and encourage parents to set the entire family on a more secure path.

We work from and towards the needs of both the parent and the child, using research, education, and personal experience to determine what to include, change, or reform in our program.



The changing landscape of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021 led to a transition from virtual meetings to meeting in person. After a spring and summer of family-night meetings held on Zoom, fall semester in person activities began with much excitement and anticipation.

We began training and bringing volunteers back to work with our families.

Our library opened again weekly for families to check out books and explore reading opportunities. Passes to Explora and the Nuclear Science Museum were donated to Saranam for parents to check out. They were popular with our families who were eager to get out and provide their children with educational and fun experiences.



Community Builds Connections

Everybody needs somebody. That's why we utilize a cohort model and have Saranam families begin the program together every August. Saranam families live, attend classes, socialize, and grow together. We know that community holds us accountable and provides support. Community makes us stronger.

Community is fun and feels good. Research shows us that community connections and relationships between children and adults help with healthy brain development, improved social capacity and decreased parental stress. We believe that the lack of community support systems is a key underlying cause of homelessness. At Saranam we strive to make sure that relationship building and community are an integral part of our program.

This intentional community is a unique model for serving families who are experiencing homelessness. Together, families in our program have new opportunities. They enjoy gardening, cooking, socializing, and learning together at the Weil Family Center, our hub for community and family programming.

After the remote activities due to Covid-19 throughout the first half of the year, we were very excited to be able to return to in-person activities in the fall. We became very aware how much community matters!

ALUMNI PROGRAMMING

Saranam Provides the Opportunity for Long-Term Family Stability

Saranam's alumni programming provides support to families after they have exited the program. Saranam staff and community engage with alumni families to provide emotional support, assistance with navigating through any challenges, and referrals to community and job resources. Saranam holds events for alumni, including educational and community building and continued high-level life skills classes.

Saranam has 134 families with 282 children and 151 adults who have exited our program and are now considered alumni.

By participating in Saranam's alumni programming, our families are continuing the healthy living concepts learned and put in to practice while living at Saranam. Alumni programming allows us into the lives of families no longer living under our roof and ways to provide support to make healthy decisions for their families. Saranam provides families with additional resources and can make referrals to specific community support when needed.

We ask families to complete an alumni follow-up survey to observe the families' progress post-exit. This survey allows us to monitor the success of the families after they leave and monitor the success of the program itself.

We have remained in contact with 74% of families who exited one year or more ago. Of those families, 89% who left the program successfully remain stable after a year.

NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We work hard to offer support and opportunities for change each day for our families. The ways our alumni are living and growing are ultimately the measure of our work in lowering homelessness and poverty for families. Year after year more of our alumni are purchasing vehicles, buying houses, enriching their school, faith, and neighborhood communities, and investing in their children. They are becoming leaders and advocates to make the places they live and work flourish. By mapping our alumni success we are also designing new avenues for families to build assets and create lasting generational change.

DID YOU KNOW?

Data helps us evaluate program effectiveness to better serve our families

- › We incorporate alumni data to follow their long term progress in education and housing.
- › Of the 134 families who have exited successfully, our Alumni Coordinator served 54 of those families in 2021.
- › Using data from our alumni survey, a collaboration with the UNM Evaluation Lab allowed us to begin a deep dive into our data. See page 10 for results.

Saranam began a matched savings program for our families

- › Beginning in 2020, through a partnership with Prosperity Works, alumni families were offered participation in an IDA (Individual Development Account).
- › Saranam "savers" can have savings up to \$1,000 matched 4:1, with up to \$4,000 added. These savings can only be used for a specific goal, such as a down payment on a home or car.
- › 18 Saranam families participated in 2021.
- › Seven families have met their savings goal and now have \$5,000.
- › Three families have purchased a car and four more are looking.



- › Transportation is a common barrier to accessing resources, holding secure employment, getting to classes and school, and managing family life.



We couldn't do it without you.
Together we are stronger!

COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

Volunteers in the United States are 63 million strong and hold up the foundation of civil society. They help their neighbors, serve their communities, and provide expertise.

The national value of volunteer time was **\$29.95 per hour.***

With the availability of Covid vaccinations we returned to in-person activities and welcomed volunteers back. We held several trainings to prepare volunteers to assist with family activities and enjoyed other donation and operation related opportunities.

*independentsector.org

Saranam's Volunteer Training

After temporarily pausing in-person volunteering for Covid, we are so thrilled to welcome volunteers back on campus!

We believe that the relationships families form with volunteers are some of the most impactful experiences they have during their time with us. Whether through tutoring, teaching life skills or simply playing a game, volunteers bring enormous care, talent, and energy to our program.



For volunteers wanting to work directly with our families, we offer a comprehensive training that thoroughly prepares them for their time with us. Our goal is to supply volunteers with the knowledge they need to ensure a safe, enriching environment for everyone.

During our three-hour training we explore the causes of homelessness and the impact that poverty and trauma can have on families. This knowledge informs strategies to connect with families using a trauma-informed approach and how to utilize families' inherent strengths to empower them throughout their journey.



“I witnessed first-hand, how patience, compassion, respect, and understanding from one human being to another can make all the difference in someone’s life.” —Saranam alumni



Some of the ways volunteers were a part of Saranam

- Life skills and enrichment activities via Zoom
- Computer maintenance
- Decorating apartments
- Guest lectures via Zoom
- Family tutorials and children’s book readings both recorded and via Zoom
- Hosting community activities and events via zoom
- Landscape and garden work
- Creating promotional materials and videos
- Making masks, food and toys
- Monthly supply shopping
- Moving and setting up furniture
- Serving on Saranam Board and Committees
- Child and adult tutoring via Zoom
- Warehouse sorting and cleaning

Because connection is so deeply woven into the volunteer experience, we also spend time discussing the importance of boundaries and confidentiality. Volunteers are equipped with the tools needed to respond effectively and consistently to situations they may be faced with, while acting in accordance with the Saranam values.

Additionally, volunteers are trained in Safe Sanctuaries policies, developed by the United Methodist Church to prevent and address abuse in children. Together, these lessons protect our families and create a safe space where healthy relationships can flourish.

We are so happy that our program can provide an avenue for the rich connections that define community and help set our families on a path toward self-sufficiency.

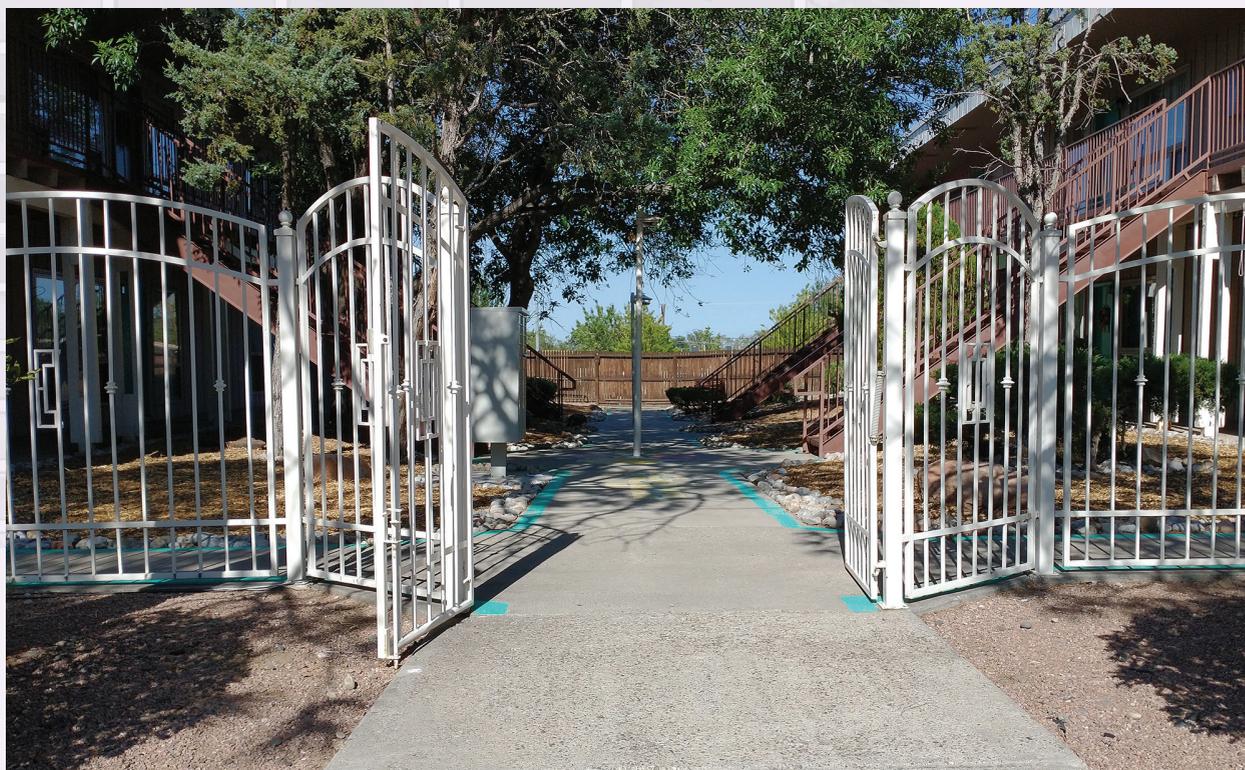


**UNDUPLICATED
VOLUNTEERS
572**

**VOLUNTEER HOURS
3,953**

**VALUE TO SARANAM
\$118,392.35**





A Success Story

One successful Saranam alumni remembers seeing movies featuring happy and independent women, full of confidence about their lives and thinking, “I really want to be like that.” That life seemed so far away when she first came to Saranam, but now she is not only as strong and determined as her heroes, she has become an inspiration herself.

Growing up, she did not have much emotional support. Though she was a good kid, her family only rewarded perfection, and she didn’t learn to value both her triumphs and mistakes. She felt unworthy and developed a reliance on external validation.

Domestic violence plagued her marriage after moving from her home country, and the controlling relationship isolated her and reinforced her misconception that she was incapable of supporting herself. Their marriage eventually dissolved but she was left alone and fearful in a foreign country. “I felt like it was a life-time sentence when I learned that I couldn’t go back

to where I came from until my daughter turned eighteen because of the time-sharing. I didn’t know where to go or which way to go with my life in New Mexico.”

She self-petitioned for a visa under the Violence Against Women Act so she could stay with her kids, but while it was considered, she lacked a work permit. She faced the nerve-wracking challenge of needing to support her two children but being unable to work until her petition was approved.

Saranam kept their family together.

She heard about Saranam from the domestic violence shelter she stayed at when she left her abusive marriage, and hesitantly applied. She worried about the child custody implications of focusing on schooling and not working while in the program as she completed her divorce proceedings. To her delight, she was able to both join the program and raise her children.

Moving into a new apartment at Saranam was a new chapter for her. Going from having only a mattress to a fully furnished space renewed her energy and hope. “It made me want to use



“I needed to get rid of the idea that life has to go a certain way to be worthy.”

all the kitchen appliances that were set in the kitchen. It made me actually motivated to cook at home again.”

She especially loved her financial education class, which made it possible to start saving money little by little. She learned how much she would need for her laundry, food, and toiletries for her household every month.

Living at Saranam was the first time she had experienced a true, supportive community and it aided her transition to a more independent lifestyle. The connections she formed helped her to feel safe and kept her engaged in something productive.

The most beneficial thing about the program, she says, is discovering the resilience and perseverance that she had in her. “I needed someone with me all the time. I didn’t know who I was. Being in the program made me get to know myself better...”. She found several role models that inspired her, began to intentionally plan her days, and importantly, learned to move past setbacks.

“I needed to get rid of the idea that life has to go in a certain way to be worthy.”

Gaining confidence helped her reach her full professional potential as well. She completed an

associate degree and received her nursing assistant and patient care technician certificates while in the program. After she left Saranam, she completed her bachelor’s degree in Psychology with a concentration in Counseling, enrolled in a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counseling program, and is preparing for a masters program. Now as a case manager with an agency serving survivors of domestic violence, she guides people who are experiencing situations similar to what she faced.

“I really want to return what I received.”

She is not only an inspiration in her job, but she has cultivated a healthy, nurturing environment for her kids to grow up in as well. Seeing her work hard at Saranam had a substantial impact on her son, who graduated high school with an associate degree and is now attending a prestigious college. Her young daughter has learned from her mother’s example and is very secure and confident.



The movie character that she once aspired to be is now reflected in the mirror. Thanks to Saranam, she regained her footing and discovered the strong, ambitious person that was always living inside of her.

Just like
families at
Saranam,
our journey
started with
a dream.



Frances's Dream

Upon her passing 20 years ago, Frances Thaxton Ash left her estate with a vision to help families experiencing homelessness in Albuquerque.



Frances's dream sparked a program that has been proven to change the lives of the people in it.

Her selfless donation was inspired by a lifetime of service to others through her church, Central United Methodist Church, and was the culmination of a lifetime spent prudently saving and wisely investing in the community she called home.

After careful planning, the Council on Homeless Ministries brought her dream to life with the founding of Saranam. They envisioned a place where families could not only find a home, but a future. It was a bold new undertaking for the community, but one whose success would change the face of poverty in the state.

Soon after Saranam welcomed our first families, the Frances Thaxton Ash Endowment purchased an apartment complex to house the program participants under one roof. The site allowed us to foster the same type of tight-knit community which Frances had cultivated through her life.

After 18 years in operation, Saranam has a 77 percent success rate of families exiting self-sufficiently and into safe, stable living situations. The program continues to grow as we change the stories of generations of New Mexicans.

YOU CAN MAKE A LEGACY GIFT that will provide support to families who seek hope and a new future of security and financial stability. By doing so you will be actively benefitting yourself, your loved ones, and your community.

If you would like more information about how you can include Saranam in your estate plan, please contact us at 505-299-6154, ext. 103.

2001

FRANCES'S GIFT SETS IN MOTION A PLAN TO CHANGE FAMILIES' LIVES

2004

**Saranam founded
First 4 families welcomed**

2005

Apartment building purchased, giving the program a forever home

2012

Visioning process for expansion begun

2014

Operating at 100% capacity

2015

Child education program added

2016

100th family welcomed

2018

Weil Family Center purchased, becoming the site for all family activities

2021

Closed on West Side property for expansion

2022

Construction begins on West Side expansion

2023

Welcome families to new site doubling capacity

2021 Donors, Partners, Friends, and Volunteers

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United Way of Central New Mexico
UPS Employees
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GIVING THROUGH END OF 2021**

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Sunny 505

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Saranam Scalability

Expanding the Work

Saranam is committed to being a sustainable solution to family homelessness.

We have operated at our current 24-unit campus on the East Side of Albuquerque since 2005. Every year we are only able to meet a fraction of the demand for our program.

We are building a new 3.5-acre campus on Albuquerque's West Side. This second location will provide 25 additional homes for families, more than doubling our capacity. The site will include new classrooms and office space along with a playground, a gathering space, a renovated family center, community gardens, and parking.

The safety, access to essential services, and convenience of transportation to higher education facilities make it an ideal place for families to set down roots.

Saranam's programming is ongoing. Every August Saranam currently welcomes a new cohort of 10 families for up to two years at our North-east Albuquerque campus. Spring 2023 is an important milestone date for us. That is when we take a first step in transitioning to serve more families. We plan to enroll 10 families at our newly constructed Westside campus at that time. The remaining 10-15 families will be added each subsequent spring, with the new campus fully completed by fall 2023.

Our total project campaign goal is \$9.3 million. That means that when we are done, we will own the new property with no debt! By the end of 2021 we have raised nearly two-thirds of our \$9.3 million total project goal. We have some very generous supporters and you, too, can help us grow. We will continue our full capital campaign in 2022.

We look forward to making this vision a reality in the coming years.



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NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We have spent several years building our capacity so that we can double the number of families we serve. We are poised for growth thanks to rigorous strategic planning. We used the hurdles that Covid-19 posed as opportunities to undertake further creative investments that will aid in our transition to managing two sites including new technology, meticulous documentation of our operating procedures, flexible work environments, and creating opportunities for leadership development.

You can help end homelessness for families in Albuquerque!

Go to our website to donate, to sign up for our newsletter,
and to become involved with Saranam.

Saranamabq.org

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

 facebook.com/SaranamLLC

 [Saranam_abq](https://www.instagram.com/Saranam_abq)

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