



Bringing Homeless Families Home

Preparing the Way

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What a year it was. We began to really come back from a devastating pandemic to be in person, remembering just why community and each other are important.

The issues of homelessness and poverty, especially for families, continued to be a hot topic in our community. How to best end homelessness is one thing, but how to end poverty requires a different approach. The mission of Saranam—to empower families to end their homelessness and poverty—is more relevant and urgent than ever.

While the effects of homelessness and poverty amid a pandemic only grew, it also energized you, me, and many in our community to reimagine the systems and demand bold change. So, we at Saranam did what we do best: rolled up our sleeves and got to work, more inspired than ever to advance the opportunities for education, stability and well-being for some of our community's most disadvantaged — families. I'm so proud of what Saranam achieved last year. Your support of our mission has meant the world to our team and the families we serve in our community.

This past year required us all to find ways to adapt to a changing world in how we work and highlighted the importance of our network of committed partners. Families, staff, board, volunteers, donors, grantors and other stakeholders have developed creative ways to adjust to the challenges brought on by the recurring waves of the pandemic. I am awed by what has been accomplished in the past year — and know we still have work to do! These are not our accomplishments alone. We thank everyone who has contributed to our success, especially in the midst of an ever changing landscape. This moment in time has proven that when we work together, we can prepare the way for a better future.

This year's annual report is a testament to our collective community power. Together, we can build the world we want to live in and prepare the way to a better future. Will you join us in our work in 2023?



Tracy Weaver
Executive Director

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Saranam is committed to maintaining a culture that values diversity and inclusion.

We are intentional and empathetic in our approach to hold one another accountable for all aspects of diversity, equity, and belonging.



Tesia's Story

You don't need a lightbulb when Tesia is in the room; she positively glows with excitement.

Tesia is elated to be following dreams that she did not think she would ever have the chance to pursue. For her, Saranam is more than a solution to homelessness, it is a prime opportunity that she is not going to let pass her by.

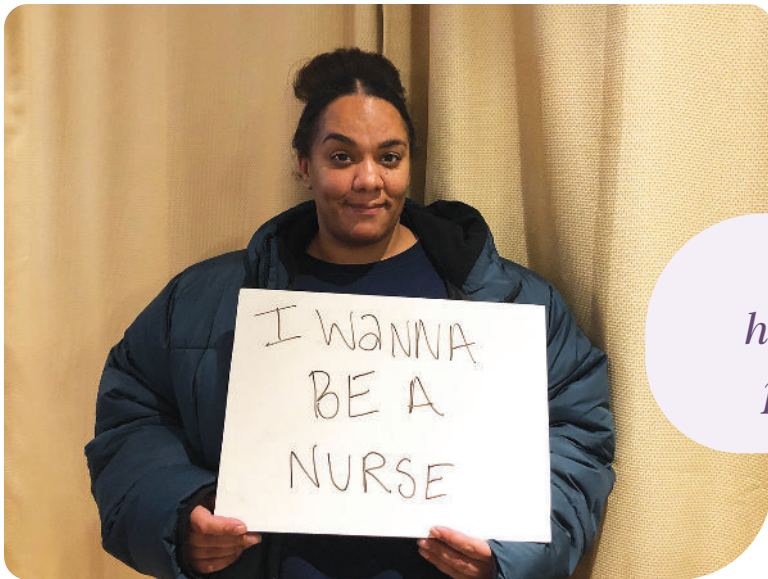
"I'm so grateful. I've never had the time to work to better myself before. I've always had to work. Work, work, work. And now I finally get to finish my education."

Tesia is a small-town girl at heart, growing up in a rural community in New Mexico where she loved watching horses canter down the street, greeting neighbors at the store and exploring the vast land surrounding her. She left high school on the brink of graduation and worked tirelessly to keep her family afloat before moving up to Albuquerque with her three children to live with her mother.

Though they were housed, their circumstances teetered on the edge, and when an illness forced her mother to return to her hometown and the landlord refused to reissue a lease in her name, she was faced with eviction. Frantic, she called Saranam.

The support and calm of the staff instantly soothed her and she was elated when she was accepted into the program.





“Saranam has helped me find a purpose in life.”

“I’ve never been chosen for anything before and you guys chose me. You chose me to let me better my life.”

Still, having always made her own way, she was nervous about letting go of the reins and trusting Saranam to support her family. Her fears were quickly replaced with overwhelming relief when she walked into her apartment, equipped with everything her family needed, right down to the shower curtain that was the exact replica of the one that hangs in her grandmother’s bathroom. It felt like home.

She sensed a weight lifted off her shoulders knowing that her family would have a place to eat dinner together and play the games they loved. Right away she surprised herself with how well her family could get by with what Saranam provided.

“It was scary at first, having to budget, and I didn’t think I could make it. But I CAN!”

With the burden of survival relieved, she is ready to focus on something she’s been waiting a long time for her next step. After a semester of classes at Saranam, she has almost completed her GED requirements and is excited to pursue a career in the hustle and bustle of emergency medicine. She hopes to have her grandparents at her graduation, seeing her achieve the goal they always knew she was capable of.

Tesia knows finishing school will not only set her up for a better job but will also set an example for her kids. It has been an adjustment to go back to school after nearly two decades away, but she is hungry to learn and feels inspired by the direction her life is now heading.

The support that has held her from the first day she called Saranam has continued to reassure and guide her through the hard days. She has never looked back from her first day here.

“It was the best decision I’ve ever made in my life.”

As goals get checked off one by one, her self-confidence blooms. With every passing week at Saranam, she is stepping into her own light.

Saranam demonstrates these

CORE VALUES

in words and action

RESPECT

We accept and honor each other as diverse, unique, and worthy individuals.

TRANSFORMATION

We provide opportunities for comprehensive change, not only in circumstance, but also in personal development and character. Our work together changes our community.

EMPOWERMENT

We educate and support families and individuals to develop their ability to create change in their lives and community.

INTEGRITY

We act responsibly, honestly, respectfully, ethically, equitably, with trust and clear communication.

FAITHFULNESS

We trust and believe in people's potential; we take risks to strengthen our community.

COMPASSION

We interact with our diverse community by listening and acting with sincerity, empathy, and kindness.

SERVICES PROVIDED

HOUSING

furnished apartment
transportation assistance
household supplies
phone/internet service
diapers
case management

EDUCATION

GED prep
vocational training
college
life skills
financial literacy
children's literacy
childcare
laptops

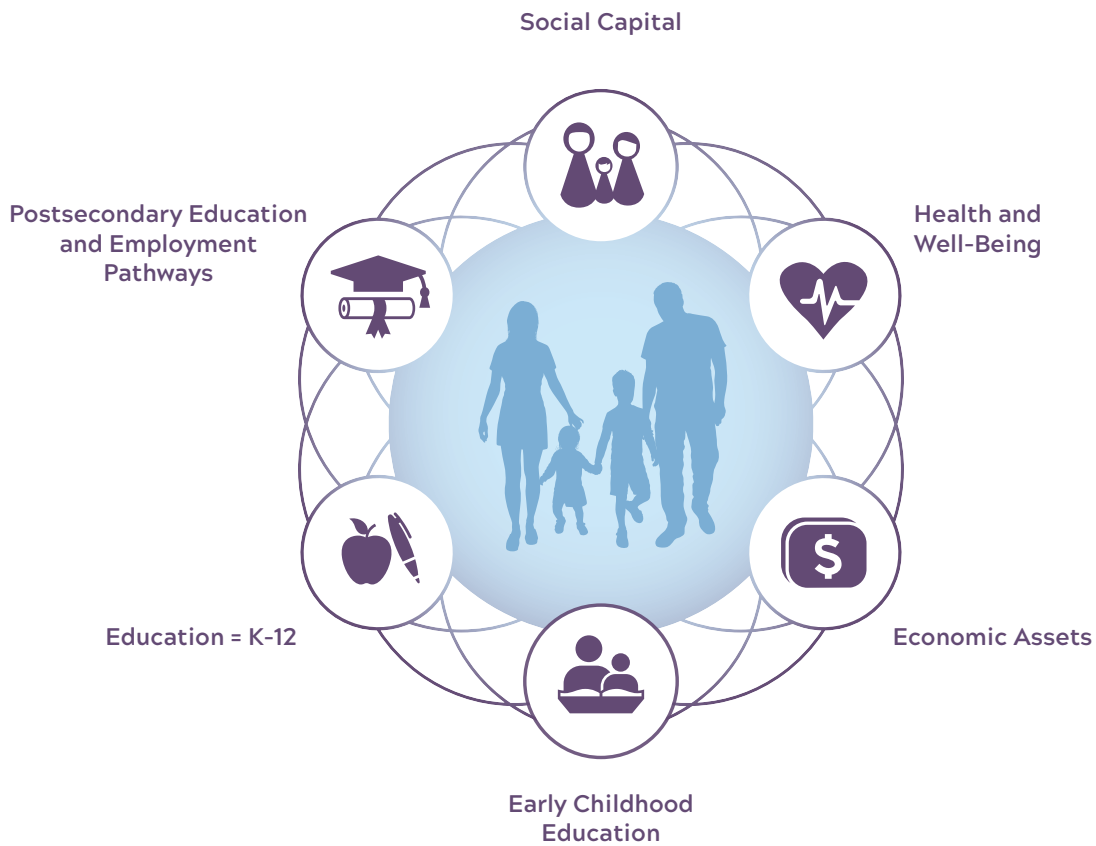
COMMUNITY

cohort model
alumni support
evening activities
volunteering
community accountability
family center
playground
community gardens
resources

Saranam Overview

6 KEY COMPONENTS OF THE TWO-GENERATION APPROACH

From The Aspen Institute



DID YOU KNOW?



For families with an annual income of \$25,000 or less who also have young children, a \$3,000 difference in parents' income when their child is young is associated with a 17 percent increase in the child's future earnings.

Families with low incomes are under enormous pressure from the costs of housing, transportation, food, child-care, and education. An overload of stress can undermine family well-being, while reduced stress helps children get off to a strong start. This is why an increase in the income of families will affect a child's future earnings.

From The Aspen Institute: State of the Field: Two-Generation Approaches to Family Well-Being.



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

COST SAVINGS TO THE COMMUNITY

A cost analysis study conducted in 2022 at UNM's School of Public Administration found:

- ▶ The estimated annual cost of a family experiencing homelessness to the City of Albuquerque and affiliated organizations is \$110,834. **Saranam serves a whole family annually for \$47,190.**
- ▶ Last year Saranam served 26 families, which is a savings to our community of more than \$1.65 million dollars.
- ▶ The estimated annual cost per person experiencing homelessness to the City of Albuquerque and affiliated organizations is \$42,628. **Saranam serves a person annually for \$13,942.**
- ▶ Last year Saranam served 88 people, which is a savings to our community of more than \$2.5 million dollars.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$9,516*

Annual increase in earning potential with High School/GED vs. none

\$4,680*

Annual increase in earning potential with some college/no degree vs. HS/GED

\$8,008*

Annual increase in earning potential with Associate's degree vs. HS/GED

\$27,300*

Annual increase in earning potential with Bachelor's degree vs. HS/GED

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 1.6% for those individuals possessing an associate degree.

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Table 5.1, 2021, Current Population Study. Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.

2022 Financial Summary

WHOLE ORGANIZATION FINANCIALS WITH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN INCOME AND EXPENSES

TOTAL REVENUE
\$2,761,417

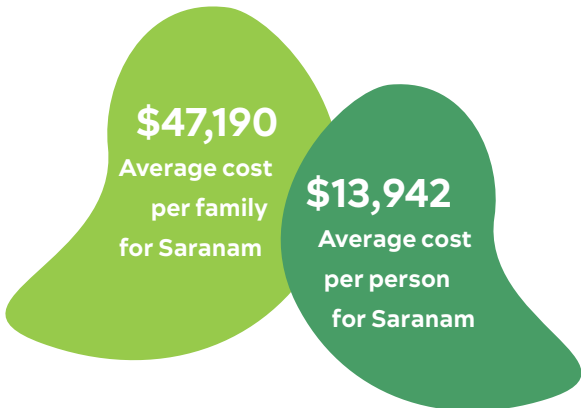


12% In-Kind
5% Endowment



11% Development
6% Admin

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$1,590,894



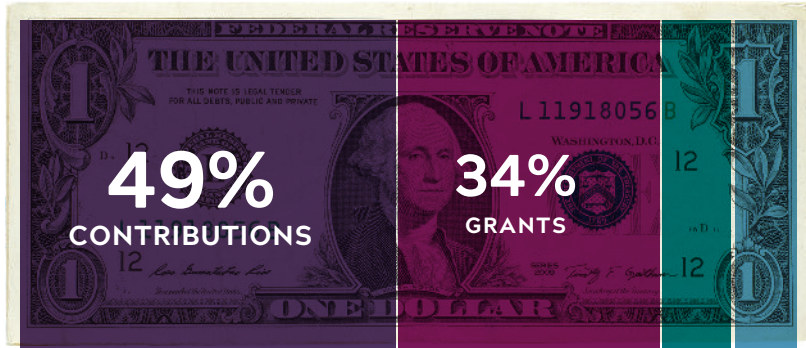
UNM's School of Public Administration
2022 study on costs of homelessness
for the city of Albuquerque
(see page 5 for more details)

\$110,834 Cost per family
\$42,628 Cost per person

OPERATING FINANCIALS

WITHOUT CAPITAL CAMPAIGN INCOME AND EXPENSES

TOTAL REVENUE
1,641,161



9% Endowment
8% In-Kind



11% Development
4% Admin

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$1,276,302

95%
of every
contribution
goes directly
to program!

The Frances Thaxton Ash Endowment covered 11% of this year's operational expenses. All costs for operational fundraising was covered by endowment funding.

YEAR OVER YEAR CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

2021	\$6,507,950
2022	\$7,678,473

Increase is due to our ongoing \$9.6 million capital campaign and build of our second site.

PROGRAM COSTS INCLUDE:

HOUSING COSTS
\$496,528

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
\$314,362

25% 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 assistance
Family & children's programming

ALUMNI COSTS
\$49,353

4% 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.


Data matters to us!

As part of the process for validating our unique model, we have undergone substantial evaluation and updates to our internal systems. This year, with continued support from the Carl C. Anderson Sr. and Mary Jo Anderson Charitable Foundation, Saranam continued work with the UNM Evaluation Lab.

In our third year of four we explored options for assessing long-term outcomes for Saranam families. The gold standard for assessing program outcomes is to conduct a randomized controlled trial (RCT). Before designing an RCT, a program should demonstrate a high rate of program completion and improved outcomes for participants relative to a well-designed control group.

We measured program completion rates, which showed that 88% of families stayed with Saranam for one semester or longer and 67% stayed with Saranam for 2 semesters or longer. We estimated long-term outcomes from Saranam's ongoing alumni survey. This showed families were better off three years after exiting Saranam than the control group (Family Options Study). We also explored APS McKinney-Vento as a source of data for long-term outcomes.

We hope to continue to move toward the RCT in the coming years to validate and replicate the Saranam model.



What are the long-term outcomes for our families?

Looking Back to Move Forward

Baseline data to inform future longterm tracking

Saranam's Mission: Empower families to end their homelessness and poverty through housing, education, and supportive communities.

2023 Evaluation Goal

Explore options for assessing long-term outcomes for Saranam families

Evaluation Approach

The gold standard for assessing program outcomes is to conduct a randomized controlled trial (RCT).

- In an RCT, prospective participants are randomly assigned to a treatment group (that enters the program) or a control group (that receives "usual care")
- A comparison of treatment and control groups establishes the program's effect.

Before designing an RCT, a program should demonstrate:

- a high rate of program completion
- improved outcomes for participants relative to a well-designed comparison group.

We therefore:

- Measured program completion rates
- Estimated long-term outcomes from Saranam's ongoing Alumni Survey
- Explored APS McKinney-Vento as a source of data for long-term outcomes

Recommendations

- Increase the Alumni Survey response rate to 80% by enrolling families in a tracking study at intake
- Work with APS McKinney-Vento to:
 - track homelessness and children's academic progress
 - enroll a comparison group of eligible, but not chosen, families into tracking study

Results

1 Program completion

88%

stayed with Saranam for 1 semester or longer

67%

stayed with Saranam for 2 semesters or longer

2 Estimated range of outcomes ~ 3 years after program start


Category	Worst Case	Best Case
Homeless	21%	38%
Enrolled	27%	42%
New degrees	15%	24%
Social support	44%	74%
Can always meet basic needs	19%	37%


Source: Saranam 2019-2022 Alumni Surveys for 33 families that joined Saranam between 2015 and 2019. 19 families did not respond to the survey. The most favorable estimate is based on survey response, the least favorable estimate assumes all non-respondents had the worse outcome. The true outcome lies between the two values.

3 What Data are Available from McKinney-Vento?

- All Saranam families enroll in the APS McKinney-Vento program
- McKinney-Vento is a federally mandated program to assist students who are homeless or in unstable housing situations
- The APS McKinney Vento Program certifies the housing status of all previously enrolled children as of June 30
- Saranam can track families' housing status into the future, provided parents sign a release form
- Data regarding a student's special education status is also available
- McKinney-Vento families in general are not a good comparison group, because Saranam has requirements that many families cannot meet

Scan for the full 2023 UNM Evaluation Lab report for Saranam.






2020-2022 Evaluations

EVALUATION TEAM

Melissa Binder, Evaluation Lab Team Lead; Tracy Weaver, Executive Director; Marisa Wagner, Evaluation Lab Fellow; Jennifer Mullen, Program Director; Ellen Shepard, Director of Continuous Improvement; Rachel Zepper, Alumni Coordinator



SPECIAL THANKS TO

Cristal Wilson, Director of APS McKinney-Vento and Claudia Diaz Fuentes, Evaluation Lab Director

DID YOU KNOW?



Ellen Shepherd
Director of
Continuous Improvement

We have a position dedicated to data. Data helps us continually evaluate program effectiveness to better serve our families.

Four highlights from our Director of Continuous Improvement (DCI):

1. Customization and oversight of our social service database provides the ability to better analyze our families' data.
2. Our collaboration with UNM's Evaluation Lab - year three of four continues to validate and inform our work. (see previous page)
3. We have significantly increased the depth and breadth of our internal organizational evaluation capacity through 99 hours of formal training for three staff members in the Summer Institute of UNM's Evaluation Lab.
4. We have a team dedicated to addressing continuous improvement in programing, evaluation, data management and insights from program data.

2022 AT A GLANCE

SARANAM'S 6 MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- 1 The family has moved into **STABLE HOUSING**
- 2 Adult members of the family have significantly improved their level of **EDUCATION**
- 3 Adult members of the family are **EMPLOYED**
- 4 Adult members of the family have significantly improved their **ABILITY TO MANAGE LIFE**
- 5 Parents have improved their **PARENTING SKILLS**
- 6 Adult members of the family have **ADDRESSED THE MAJOR BARRIERS** to their family stability

Saranam has served 162 homeless families, including 346 children and 184 adults, during our 19 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.

10 FAMILIES EXITED

7 families achieved 3+ measures of success
6 of these families achieved 5 and 6 measures of success

26 FAMILIES SERVED

11 new families entered

26 Adults

62 Children

28 ages 0-5

17 ages 6-11

17 ages 12-17

77%
Cumulative
Success
Rate

86%
Stability
Rate
1 year post exit



2022



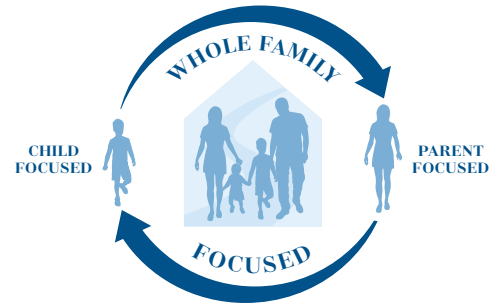
Working with Young Parents of Young Kids has the Multiplier Effect!

Saranam's 2022 cohort has the most young parents with young children we've ever seen!

ALBUQUERQUE POINT-IN-TIME COUNT
Saranam housed 12 of 33 city-wide families experiencing homelessness on January 31, 2022

There are reasons that this group of young people are called "opportunity youth." Research from the Aspen Institute shows that parenthood can be a strong motivating factor for young people. The latest neuroscience reveals that the brains of new parents undergo reconstruction, making them more sensitive to experiences and growth. And of course, young parents have young children — who are developing rapidly, learning about relationships, acquiring language, and creating a million new neural connections each second. With two sensitive periods for growth and learning co-occurring, it makes sense that supports for young parents have a powerful multiplier effect, affecting children and the family in both short and long term.

The Aspen Institute reports that until recently, very few programs addressed this population. Yet again, Saranam has long incorporated aspects of supporting and developing young parents through increased education, educational support, 2Gen approach, and the understanding of a growth-mindset.



DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES EARNED IN 2022

COMPLETED

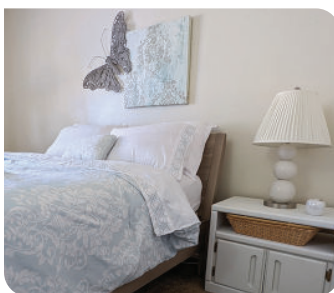
A.A.S., Liberal Arts
Certificate, Unmanned Aircraft Systems

PURSUING

B.A., Liberal Studies
B.A., Sociology
A.A., Integrated Studies
A.A., Radiologic Technology
A.A.S., Business
General Studies
Certificate, Phlebotomy
Cosmetology
GED

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ATTENDED

CNM
UNM
The Avenue Academy
Southern New Hampshire University
Saranam GED workshop



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, 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 have the time and energy to focus on themselves: their health, their education, their futures.

From their 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.

DID YOU KNOW?

- › This summer we engaged 14 decorator teams, consisting of more than 110 Saranam volunteers that worked a total of 1,181 hours preparing apartments for our 11 arriving families.
- › Furniture, household basics and decor were collected throughout the year 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!
- › Apartments are customized for each family based on family size and children's ages. All have at least two beds with bedside tables, two dressers, toys, a couch and coffee table, kitchen table, dishes, small appliances [coffee maker, microwave, etc.] linens, a desk and chair, decorations, and a TV.
- › Volunteer decorator groups spent several weeks setting up the bedrooms, kitchen, bathrooms, and living room in each apartment. They added personal touches that transformed each apartment into a home.
- › Baskets of toiletries, paper goods, infant/toddler items, desk/study supplies, basic tools and cleaning supplies to fully stock each apartment were provided in 2022 by Faith Lutheran, Women with Purpose, Heights First Church of the Nazarene and many individual donors.
- › The day before new families move in, the volunteers shop for groceries to stock refrigerators and pantries.
- › Families take their whole home full of furnishings with them when they leave!



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.

DID YOU KNOW?



Ian Vetter
Director of Education

Our Director of Education, Ian Vetter, began the process of officially packaging our educational curriculum for replication!

COURSES INCLUDE:

Effective Communication: Life skills are something we learn, not something we are born with. This course explores basic communication principles, the dynamics of interpersonal relationships, and conflict management emphasizing communicating conclusions and convictions clearly, effectively, and ethically in a multicultural and technologically complex society.

Community Resources: This class serves as an opportunity for Saranam students to openly discuss current issues within the community and as a platform for speakers from other community organizations.



Adult Academic and Vocational Education

Saranam’s Adult Academic and Vocational Education includes an assessment of current academic skills, GED preparation, and individualized academic instruction for those students who have a GED or high school diploma. In a typical first semester, Saranam offers about 250 hours of academic education. Additionally, Saranam offers 420 hours adult life skills education and 135 hours of family life skills activities. Classes are mandatory for all adults during the first year in our program, unless already enrolled in college level academic courses at an accredited institution.

◆ FALL SEMESTER

Academic and Life Skills 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.

◆ SPRING SEMESTER

Life Skills at Saranam and Vocational/Academic classes 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.

◆ SUMMER SEMESTER

Life Skills at Saranam and Vocational/Academic classes 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 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. In a typical year, Saranam offers 420 hours of adult life skills education.

- Classes include:
- Parenting
 - Effective Communication
 - Organization and Time Management
 - College Success
 - Employability Skills
 - Financial Management
 - Health and Nutrition
 - Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention
 - Reproductive Health
 - Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention
 - Personal and Family Values Identification
 - Stress Management
 - Self Care Strategies
 - Life Management

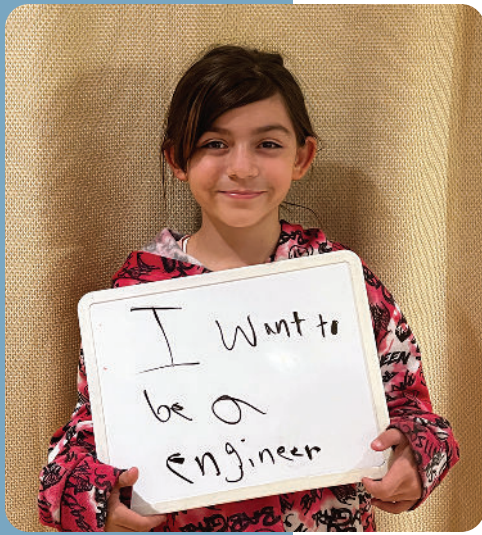
A TYPICAL FIRST YEAR

Adult Academic/Vocational
250 hours

Adult Life Skills
420 hours

Children and Family Life Skills
135 hours

Additional GED Workshop
192 hours



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-Generational 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.

COMMUNITY & EDUCATION PARTNERS

Albuquerque Woodworkers Association
Holiday party

Counseling ABQ
Mental health and mindfulness

CPR2UNM
CPR and First Aid training

DelWebb Mirehaven Ladies
Cooking classes

Enlace Comunitario
Domestic violence prevention

Explora
Science nights

Hippocampo
Sexual health

Ideas for Cooking and Nutrition
Cooking and nutrition

Stephanie Johnston
Cooking class

Mercy Associates
Halloween party and literacy nights

Methodist Children's Home
Parenting

MGM, LLC
Intro to investing

Planned Parenthood
Sexual and reproductive health

Prosperity Works
IDAs and CDAs

Rachel Broglie
Cooking class

Rock 101 NM Music Academy
Music classes

Rio Grande Credit Union
Financial education

Safe House
Domestic violence prevention

Sandia Civitan Group
Holiday party

Sandia National Labs
Science nights

SANE of Albuquerque
Sexual & domestic violence

Tax Help NM
Tax help

Teniors
Voter's registration

EDUCATION = INCREASED INCOME

Education is a core component of the Saranam program because it is important for economic stability.



The U.S. Bureau of Labor

Statistics reports that **individuals with a high school diploma or GED earned, on average, an additional \$9,516 during 2020.** Earnings increased by an additional \$4,680 for those individuals with some college experience, with a further \$8,008 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.



COMMUNITY BUILDS CONNECTIONS

Everybody needs somebody. That's why we bring Saranam families in together once a year. That's why we function in the cohort model. 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. We know that community connections and relationships between children and adults help with healthy brain development, improve social capacity and decrease 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 every aspect of our program.

We bring an entire class of families into the program at one time and beginning with orientation, we build relationships in a peer group model. Participants move through the two-year program together. Families in our program live in the same apartment complex as neighbors, classmates, and friends.

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

We believe that the lack of community support systems is a key underlying cause of homelessness.

Alumni Programing



Saranam Provides the Opportunity for Long-Term Family Stability

Saranam's Alumni Programing 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 or job resources. Saranam holds events for alumni, including educational and community building and continued high-level life skills classes.

By participating in Saranam's alumni programming, our families are continuing the healthy living concepts learned and put into practice while living at Saranam.

- › We have remained in contact with 76% of families who exited one year or more ago – 68 families with 80 individuals – 12 are 2-Gen kids who are now adults and still maintain a relationship with Saranam.
- › This continued contact helps us track post-exit stability and enables us to offer savings accounts (IDAs) for families to help build their financial assets.
- › Of those families, 86%* who left the program successfully remain stable after a year.

We ask families to complete a survey post-exit in order to observe their progress. This allows us to monitor the success of the families after they leave our program, as well as the success of the program itself.

*Cumulative data since 2007

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

As an organization set apart by our focus on community, we recognize that at its core, community is about belonging. That belonging means that the diverse contributions and perspectives of our community are celebrated, that equal and fair treatment is codified in our work, and that we intentionally use our understanding of one another's experiences and viewpoints to create a culture around our shared values.

Our leadership team has dedicated time and energy to building a sustainable diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) strategy in order to find ways to better our organization and the community we serve.



DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Saranam is committed to maintaining a culture that values diversity and inclusion.

We are intentional and empathetic in our approach to hold one another accountable for all aspects of diversity, equity, and belonging.

From our inception, we have embraced every opportunity to grow. Our growth is not just measured in numbers, but in our commitment to continually seek out best practices, to listen and respond to the needs of our community, and to ensure that the strength and wisdom of those around us informs our work.

As we expand our mission to more people, our commitment to these DEI principles ensures that we are growing with our best foot forward.

Saranam is a place of belonging.

As residents, our families know that they hold a valued place and that their voices inform and guide our work. As staff, we recognize that the unique contributions of our lived experiences and areas of expertise elevate our work to its highest effectiveness. And as a community, we believe the diversity of backgrounds and perspectives we represent is what make Saranam the vibrant, welcoming place that it is.

Our belonging makes us stronger.

We always want our work to reflect the strength and wisdom of our community. That is why we teamed up with **Fidelity Investments** and **Common Impact** to codify a sustainable DEI strategy to strengthen our organization and the community we serve.

This effort is part of our continual commitment to grow using best practices. We also know that in modeling this to our families, we are inspiring new sprouts of belonging that will grow throughout our community.



DID YOU KNOW?

Saranam offers two savings programs for our families.

Building assets has a direct correlation to long-term financial stability. Through a partnership with Prosperity Works and Rio Grande Credit Union, Saranam families can establish two types of savings accounts.



IDA Individual Development Accounts

IDAs are matched savings accounts for Saranam alumni interested in saving for a change-making asset like a house, a car, an education, or a business.

Participants save \$1,000 while attending financial literacy classes which include setting their own goals. After the 4:1 match rate, they have \$5,000 to spend toward their goal.

▶ 19 savers
7 met their goal in 2022

GOALS:

42% house
37% car
16% education
5% business

“Saranam has shown me that if I can work hard and plan and budget and set rules in my house and make healthy choices that I can be successful. I wouldn’t have been able to do it without them.”

CSA Child Savings Accounts

Current families are encouraged to enroll each of their minor children in the CSA program. Saranam provides seed money, matches funds (1:1), and incentive funds.

CSAs may be used for any educational expenses (tuition, books, computer, etc.) after high school graduation. Saranam contributes to these accounts for up to five years, giving our families one more reason to keep in touch once they become alumni.

▶ 14 children, representing 5 families participated in 2022



Research shows that if low to mid-income kids have an educational savings account (even just \$500) they are more likely to attend college. Also, kids with CSAs have parents who are two times as likely to expect them to attend collage.



“Our partnership with Saranam grew out of a partnership we have with Prosperity Works for the past ten years. We hope that by partnering with Saranam and interacting with their clients we can provide lasting pathways that lead to securing financial well-being.”

–MIKE ATHENS, CEO, Rio Grande Credit Union



Jessica's Story

When Jessica successfully completed Saranam's program, she left with a promising career in front of her, a stable home for her family and one of her greatest treasures – an unshakeable village of support. That village had been by her side since the day she entered our doors and hasn't budged since.

"I've never really felt alone since I left Saranam."

Offering the same support she found at Saranam has become her calling as a social worker at S.A.F.E House, the largest domestic violence shelter in the state. She gives domestic violence survivors the same help that she received during the hardest times of her life, reminding them that they are not alone and that hope is possible.

She also uses her knowledge and expertise to give back at Saranam, teaching families about domestic violence and the resources that are available, as well as regularly referring new families to Saranam.

"I want to do something to contribute because I loved the program and this brought it full circle."

Her goal is that people in her presentations feel empowered, either to seek help so they can safely and confidently leave a dangerous situation, or to help a loved one access resources that could save their life. It is important to her to not only teach the red flags of abuse, but to increase understanding of the origins of trauma to give a new lens for helping survivors of domestic abuse.

"I want to do something to contribute because I loved the program and this brought it full circle."

“Everybody wants to make a difference and have something good to contribute. I am giving them permission to trust themselves to help others.”

More than anything, she wants her presentations to make advocates of everyone she speaks to. Creating a community of advocates bolsters the support system that survivors can rely on and increases their success in leaving an abusive situation.



That feeling of community is one of her most vivid and precious memories of Saranam and is at the top of her priorities when she refers families to us now. The tight-knit community that Saranam provides can be a relief for the intense isolation many survivors have faced. From her own experience, she knows how transformative it is to have a safety net behind you.

She recalls that everyone in her cohort was determined and independent but struggling under the burden of doing everything on their own. Together, they learned to rely on one another. They kept each other accountable and provided an extra push, or an extra hug, when they met a roadblock; by lending their strength to one another, they came up with new answers and fresh solutions.

The friends she made all those years ago are now like sisters and have continued to hold her through the tired days of having new babies, the nerves of big changes and the stress of a global pandemic.

“I met my best friends at Saranam and we’re still best friends. If I have moments when I am starting to doubt myself they can tell me, ‘I saw what you were capable of when you were at rock bottom, so I know what you’re capable of now’.”

The sense of belonging Jessica found at Saranam has added a richness to her life that is priceless. She hopes others find that same sustaining camaraderie in their groups.

Jessica’s presentations are a favorite among our families. As a successful alumni, a trusted advisor and a knowledgeable presenter, she is a role model for everyone in our program. Her passion is leaving a mark both within our walls and beyond as she grows an army of advocates that will change the landscape of our community.



The Assistance League of Albuquerque

is one of our most valued community partners. Their impressive volunteer power enables them to support Saranam families with clothing vouchers, furniture donations, shared volunteer projects, and even shoes for every child in our program. With busy hands and hearts of gold, they give dignity and caring into our community.



WAYS VOLUNTEERS HELPED

- Teach the ukelele
- Healthy cooking classes for busy families
- Master gardening tips and maintenance
- Presentations from professionals in the field from DV to finance and everything in between
- Create age-appropriate spaces
- Murals and signs to brighten our spaces
- Organize and maintain our library
- Added library time back into program
- Create and lead family night activities
- Teach through fun science activities
- Facilitate life skills and enrichment activities
- Tutor kids and adults
- Computer maintenance
- Donation collection
- Streamline data management
- Decorate apartments
- Material organization
- Guest lectures
- Children book readings
- Community outreach
- Host community activities and events
- Campus beautification activities
- Landscape and gardening
- Create promotional materials and videos
- Shop for monthly supplies
- Move and set up furniture
- Serve on Saranam Board and committees
- Sort and clean warehouse
- Project management

Thank You!

We Couldn't Do It Without You

We are proud to be a hub for volunteering in Albuquerque. Truly, we could not serve our families so abundantly without our volunteers. Whether they are sorting donations or planning our expansion at a Board meeting, their work is essential to us.

2022 saw the resurgence of volunteers at Saranam to pre-pandemic levels. Larger groups helped us maintain safe and inviting gathering spaces and collected thousands of dollars in supplies. Close-knit clubs and businesses prepared apartments and made the holidays sparkle for our kids.

**Unduplicated
Volunteers
647**

**Volunteer Hours
4,760**

**Value to Saranam
\$142,562**

TOM BESSON CHALLENGE WALK



Saranam supporter Tom Besson put his feet where his heart is!

Tom, long-time local walking and running enthusiast, planned a 50-mile challenge walk across Albuquerque to raise funds and awareness for Saranam. His goal was to raise \$10,000 from donors and local business sponsorships.

“Although I am not a wealthy man, I have a desire to do more to help. I believe Saranam’s philosophy to provide a ‘leg up’, not a ‘hand out’ in its assistance to families who are homeless is vitally important to our community, our city, and our citizens.”

He began his challenge in the small hours of the morning and trekked along his carefully planned route through the city. He completed 46 miles when hot weather, compounded with poor air quality, stopped him just short of his goal.

Though he didn’t complete his challenge, an incident occurred that brought his journey full circle: a group of good Samaritans rushed to help when he required medical assistance, and in a serendipitous turn of events, one of them was a former resident of Saranam! She thanked him profusely for his endeavor and told him what a difference Saranam had made in her life. It was a beautiful reminder of the role our work plays in cultivating a caring, compassionate community.

Thank you Tom for using your talents to support our families.

GET INVOLVED!

Contact Sunny Holmes at (505) 377-5086 or sholmes@saranamabq.org to learn more about volunteer opportunities.



Saranam Scalability

Expanding the Work

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 playgrounds, gathering spaces, 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.

Our total project campaign goal is \$9.6 million. Thanks to your incredible support, our capital campaign continues to be successful. We are 65 percent of the way to our goal by year end 2022!





Update

In February 2022 we broke ground on our ADC Family Campus.

Our expansion, like our families' futures, starts with a solid foundation. Much of this work happens below the surface and takes a long time but is important work. We are so excited to see this campus come to life!

What we have accomplished by year end 2022:

1. After a long delay, permits were secured to lay the (literal) groundwork beneath where the new homes will be.
2. Weeds, trees, and other plants with deep root systems were removed and surrounding fencing structures repaired.
3. We have purchased 16 of the required 39 used APS portables. These buildings will be refurbished to become environmentally friendly, LED certified two and four bedroom homes.
4. The concrete footings necessary to support the homes are being poured and cured aligning with the phases of development.

Coming soon:

1. We are working to acquire the remaining portables that will become our homes and program spaces from Albuquerque Public Schools.
2. Renovations to our new Family Center will include the addition of two large classrooms upstairs, a demonstration kitchen, a shower, and laundry facilities.
3. Construction of our new Donation Center will give us the additional space for donations and storage.
4. Once these larger projects are complete we will begin landscaping, paving, decorating and moving.

Our hope is to bring in our first west side cohort of ten families in Spring 2024.

We appreciate your continued support of our expansion. We are confident in our progress and know, that when it is complete, the ADC Family Campus will be a perfect place for families to set down roots, tend to their families and blossom.

Stay tuned for more information on our progress
or reach out to Tracy Weaver at tweaver@saranamabq.org.

THANK YOU to *EVERYONE* who supports SARANAM!

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Ansel's Interiors
Apartment Association of NM Volunteer Day
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Del Webb Mirehaven
Faithful Friends
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