



*Ending Homelessness,
Changing Lives*



Saranam received the 2023 New Mexico Ethics in Business Award for a non-profit. The award honors those who demonstrate ethical practices in operations, management, personal philosophy, and responses to challenges.

DID YOU KNOW

Frances Thaxton Ash was born February 2, 1906. Her family moved to Albuquerque from Virginia when she was two.

Upon her death in 2001, Frances bequeathed \$3.8 million to Central United Methodist Church. Her gift was the seed for Saranam.

She was a member of CUMC for 93 years.

Her father, William Clark Thaxton, was on the board that built CUMC. He advanced and commissioned the stained glass windows in the church and donated the land where the CUMC parking lot now sits. He was a respected businessman and a shrewd investor. Frances learned her financial prowess from him.

Frances Thaxton Ash's legacy lives on through Saranam.

Her contributions have permanently changed the lives of families experiencing homelessness, and her commitment to helping those in need inspires and motivates Saranam's staff, volunteers and partners.



20 years
**Ending Homelessness,
Changing Lives**

I remember when Frances Thaxton Ash gave her life-changing gift designated to transform lives of families who are homeless. Do you? This gift initiated conversations that turned into Saranam 20 years ago!

Here are some things I remember from those early days:

- Excitement and challenge for something innovative and important to grow from Frances's gift and intention
- Deep conversations about how to form a radically unique approach to ending family homelessness and poverty
- Passion brewing as we named this new organization for families seeking refuge and for a chance to transform lives
- Funding to invest in people who others see as risks
- Volunteers jumping at the chance to engage in meaningful ways
- Our first four families' disbelief and gratitude at the incredible gift of two years focused on improving education, employment, and parenting
- Hope for how Saranam would transform the face of homelessness in Albuquerque

Today, we continue to talk a lot about hope at Saranam. Twenty years later, our work together has created many stories of hope, and we have witnessed the power hope has to change generations of lives.

Hope increases resilience and lowers levels of depression and anxiety. Hope empowers people to believe in their own abilities to facilitate

“The Frances Thaxton Ash Endowment is established from a trust donated to the Central UMC for the purpose of providing care for poor and needy homeless men, women, and children. The Ash Endowment assets can be used in or near Albuquerque to facilitate the ability of low-income families to obtain housing or shelter so the families may stay together.”

—The Estate of Frances Thaxton Ash

change. Hope is the belief that the future can be better than the present and can help one meet goals to lead a fuller, healthy life. Hope moves us forward toward our dreams.

Today’s hopes are for:

- Our families’ lives to become not only stable but fulfilling
- Our new campus to be completed and thrive
- Our staff, volunteers, and stakeholders to grow support, doubling the number of families we serve
- Our expanded vision to find creative ways to replicate Saranam in other communities

In order for hope to dwell, activate, and be established, we must do the work. When we do the work we realize that we are not alone, too. Community is an integral part of the work we do. When we move forward with others, we realize changing the world is possible! With the right people, hope inspires transformation.

Today, I am grateful for all the ways Saranam brings hope into the world. I am inspired everyday. You, too, can catch this inspiration.

We’ve been doing it for 20 years. Join us in the next 20 years of bringing hope, making joy, and changing our world.

Come with us,



Tracy Weaver
Executive Director



OUR VISION

Transform the lives of families experiencing homelessness.

OUR MISSION

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

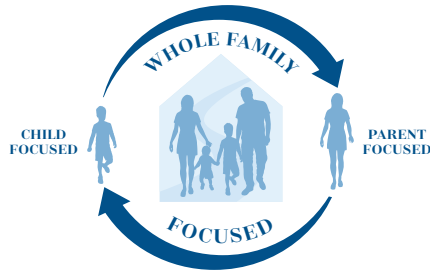
DID YOU KNOW

Saranam is a Sanskrit word that means “refuge.”
The name came from a hymn that says “God is my refuge that is higher than I, Saranam, Saranam, Saranam.”



Saranam Overview

Saranam is an innovative, two-generational program located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, that addresses the significant underlying causes of homelessness—lack of support systems and community, poverty, despair, and isolation.



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-generational approach is an antipoverty initiative that provides services for both children and their parents. Our 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.

The importance of a parent’s education, economic stability, and overall health on a child’s trajectory is well documented. Likewise, children’s education and healthy development inspire and encourage parents to set their 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, maintain, or change, in our program. We have a 76% success rate of families exiting the program into permanent, safe, stable living situations where they can support themselves. The life skills we provide ensure that families can sustain these outcomes.

The 76% of families who exit successfully do so by earning income through employment or scholarship and using it to provide for housing, utilities, and basic living supplies. Additionally, we provide support, programming, and opportunities for increased success and build assets for our alumni, who after leaving, have an 86% stability rate one year post exit.

Saranam’s Three Steps to ending Homelessness and Poverty for Families



STEP ONE
Housing ends homelessness



STEP TWO
Education brings employment



STEP THREE
Community builds connection

SERVICES PROVIDED

Housing

furnished apartment
transportation assistance
household supplies
toiletries
internet service
diapers
case management

Education

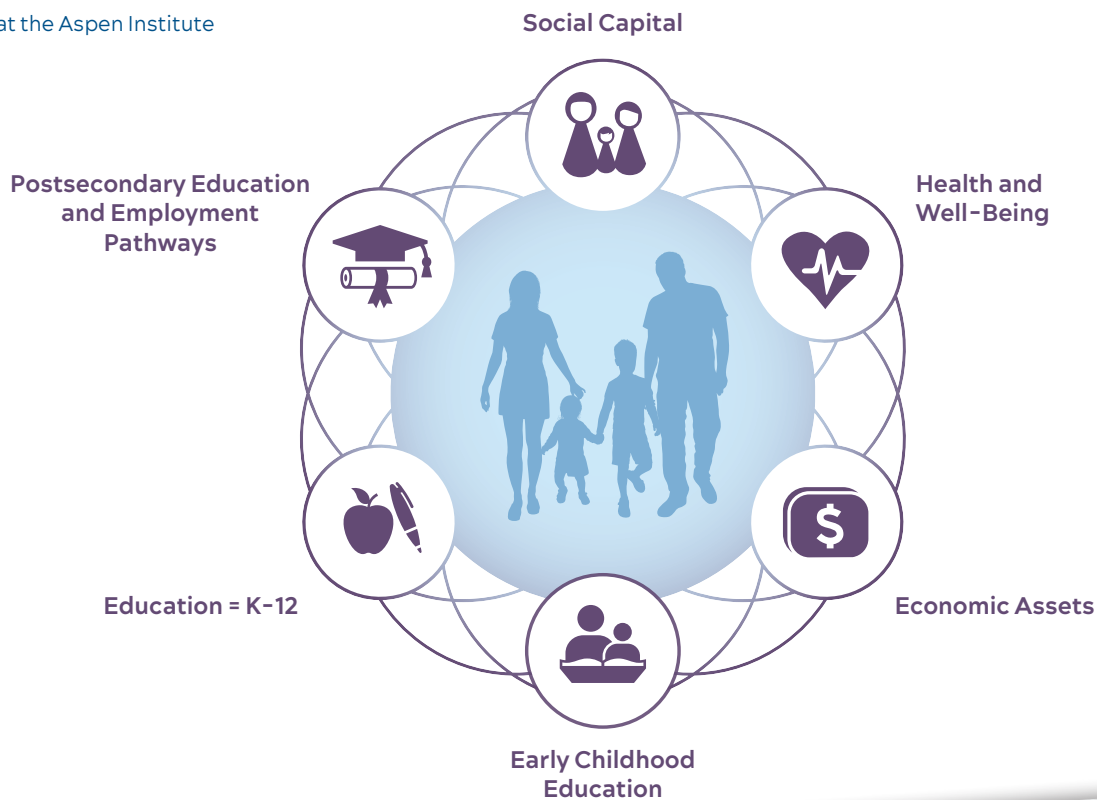
GED prep
vocational training, college
life skills
financial management
children’s literacy
childcare referrals
computers

Community

cohort model
evening family activities
volunteer opportunities
community accountability
family center
playground
community gardens
resource recommendations
alumni support

6 KEY COMPONENTS OF THE TWO-GENERATION APPROACH

From Ascend at the Aspen Institute



ECONOMIC IMPACT

Costs

UNM's School of Public Administration
2022 cost analysis study:

\$110,834

Estimated annual cost to the City of Albuquerque and affiliated organizations of a family experiencing homelessness

\$53,273

Saranam's annual cost for a family

\$1.4 M

Annual savings to the community as a result of Saranam serving 26 families (81 people)

Earning Potential

\$8,892

Annual increase in earning potential with high school diploma vs none*

\$4,264

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

\$7,904

Annual increase in earning potential with associate degree vs HS/GED*

\$30,108

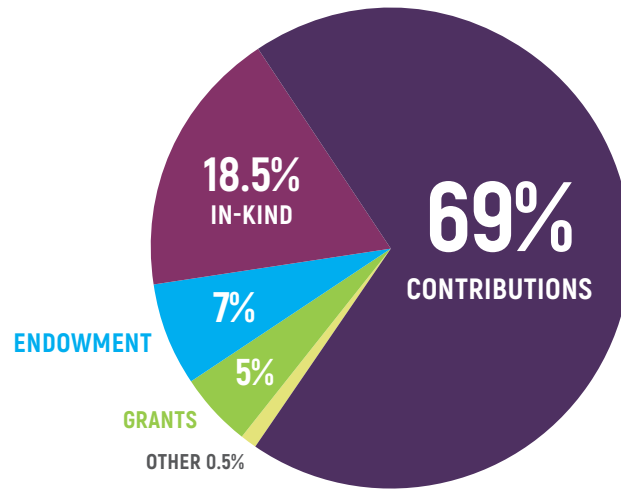
Annual increase in earning potential with bachelor's degree vs HS/GED*

In addition to the increased earning potential, individuals with a high school diploma saw a 1.5% decrease in unemployment rates, and the unemployment rate decreased an additional 1.3% for individuals possessing an associate degree.

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Table 5.1, 2022, Current Population Study, Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.

2023 Financial Summary

TOTAL REVENUE
\$2,750,594

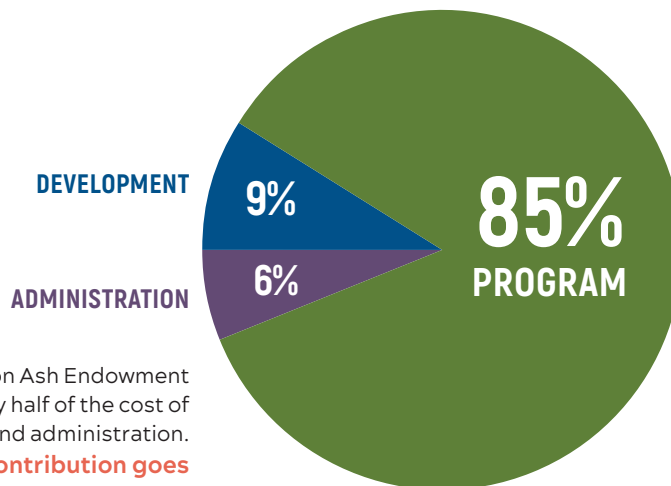


REVENUE	
Contributions	\$1,891,298
In-Kind	\$509,375
Grants	\$205,200
Endowment	\$127,553
Other	\$17,168

NET ASSETS

12/31/22	\$7,678,473
12/31/23	\$8,617,614
Change	\$939,141

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$1,811,453



The Frances Thaxton Ash Endowment covers nearly half of the cost of development and administration.

92% of every contribution goes directly to the program.

AVERAGE COST PER FAMILY
\$ 53,273

AVERAGE COST PER PERSON
\$17,100

PROGRAM EXPENSES

Housing Costs \$567,948
31% of total expense

Covers all physical provisions and services, including:

- Rent
- Apartment and hygiene supply
- Stocked kitchen/pantry
- Cash allowance
- Transportation
- Background checks
- Drug tests
- Internet and utilities
- Case management

Education Costs \$386,718
21% of total expense

Covers school and other trainings, including:

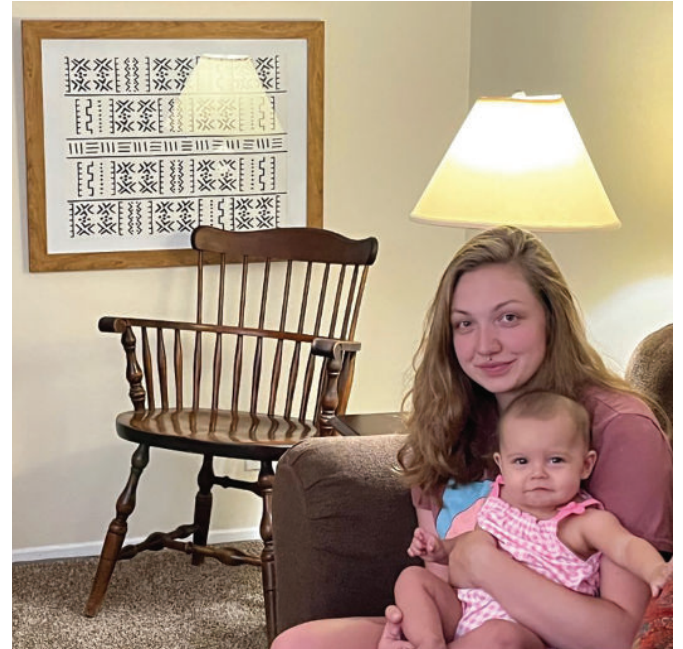
- Contracts for instructors
- On-site classes fees and supplies
- Scholarships for tuition, fees, textbooks, supplies
- Computers
- Child care
- Family and children's programming

Alumni Costs \$79,184
4% of total expense

Includes:

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

Program expenses not categorized include staff development, program occupancy, capital, and operating supplies.



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 and has 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 needed 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.

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.



Decorators pour so much of their heart and soul into the homes they prepare. They fill the apartments with special touches and every item a family might need. Every year, without fail, a new family asks us, “How did they know I liked that?” One mother said that sunflowers had always been a symbol of hope for her after a trying time. She teared up as she told us that the theme of her apartment was sunflowers and it was her sign that everything was going to work out!

A LETTER TO OUR APARTMENT

— from a Saranam mom

Our departure date is approaching, time is going by quickly. The space and things make the days feel uncertain, this place it is not what it was anymore, we are not the same either. But a little bit of what we have been through seems to still be here in these empty rooms. These walls don't really belong to me, however these walls have listened to my prayers, they even know the words that were not said. Its ceilings have engraved my looks of desolation from those nights where I could not sleep due to insomnia, nights where nothing was going well, and could not see what path to follow.

We came here 2 years ago, with broken sails and hearts. This place welcomed us, gave us security, protection. This place has known my frustrations, happiness, and has also seen the tears of a mother for her children. They have seen me grow and go through different stages of life, they have witnessed my experiences and fears, fears that now stay in the past.

These walls: now naked, these rooms now full of boxes gave me refuge. Its doors have given me opportunities and new challenges, and now have closed leaving behind the complaints, the anger and the I cant's.

I hope to come back soon to return what they have done for me.



Apartments are customized for each family based on size and children's ages. All have at least 2 beds with bedside tables, 2 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.

Saranam families take their whole home full of furnishings with them when they leave!



13 decorator teams consisting of 130 volunteers worked over 1,200 hours

Volunteers make a HOME happen!

The summer was *hot...* at times *hectic...* and ultimately *highly rewarding* for the volunteer decorating groups preparing new homes for 10 arriving families.



JANUARY-JUNE
Furniture and decor are collected and kept in storage for volunteer decorators to "shop" for each apartment.



JUNE-AUGUST
Stock apartments with toiletries, paper goods, infant/toddler items, desk/study supplies, basic tools and cleaning supplies.



AUGUST
Decorator groups set up the rooms adding personal touches to transform each apartment into a home.

AUGUST
The day before the new families move in, volunteers shop for groceries to stock the families' refrigerators and pantries.



Education Brings Employment Opportunities



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

EDUCATION AT SARANAM



Adult Academic and Vocational Education

Saranam's Adult Academic and Vocational Education includes an assessment of current academic skills, GED preparation, individualized academic instruction, and offsite post-secondary education.



Adult Life Skills Classes

Saranam's Adult Life Skills Classes are offered throughout the first year of the program to help the adults sustain and further develop their roles as parents, community members and potential employees.



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. Families get what they need to create a legacy of economic stability and overall well-being that passes from one generation to the next. Family education happens several nights a week. Together, parents and their children learn and practice life skills while building relationships with each other and the rest of the community.

2023
ACADEMIC &
LIFE SKILLS
HOURS

Adult Academic/Vocational
220
HOURS

Adult Life Skills
384
HOURS

Children and Family Life Skills
135
HOURS

Additional GED Workshop
174
HOURS

“Saranam gave me the knowledge and confidence to accomplish my dreams.” –A Saranam mom

When I got into Saranam, my goals weren't very big; I was looking to provide stability for my children and get my GED. While here I was able to accomplish those things and so much more.

I was able to provide stability in my home with the tools that I got from Saranam, like the importance of time management and scheduling. Now my children follow a routine every day and they're better for it. Learning about the development of my children's brains and behavior and identifying their needs also helped bring stability to my home. It's a good feeling to have an idea of what you need to provide for your child during these developmental stages and I'm able to address things in a calm and relaxed manner. Gaining this knowledge made parenthood not so scary.

I did get my GED with the help of the kind and caring people who spent hours tutoring me, and not giving up on me, even though we were going over the same material over and over again. And while those things seem minuscule, it's the things that I gained that you can't see with the naked eye that really matter.

While here, I realized what really matters and what is important in life. I learned that I can accomplish goals that I set my mind to – it just requires elbow grease and hard work. I learned that a bump is just that, a bump in the road; it's not the end of the world and life moves on. My reaction to these things and the way I choose to handle them has changed drastically and it's made me a better woman overall.

Saranam didn't just help me provide for my family. They gave me the confidence and knowledge to do it on my own. I will forever be grateful to Saranam for showing me that I can fall and lose it all and still get up and gain it all back.



Saranam's instructors work hard to ensure adults are confident learners when they begin their college classes.

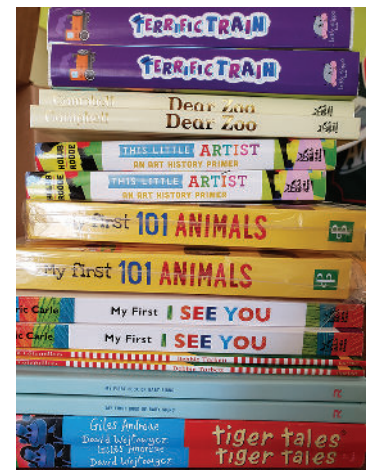
One mother told us, “During my time doing classes at Saranam, the math teacher was amazing. Everything he taught was exactly the perfect brush up for when I started my math classes at CNM. In my calculus class, I would be doing my work and I would think—I am so thankful that he taught me this before I started.”



Summer Literacy

Our 2Gen Family Nights Are a Collaborative Effort

Our literacy volunteers have a heart for working with young readers and are highly qualified to support literacy development. From former educators, STEAM professionals, and others who value lifelong learning, our literacy volunteers showed up two nights each week in the summer to develop our next generation of students. We engaged families with reading, some writing, a lot of story-time, playtime, snacks, and parent and child time. Youngest readers take home a new book each week to keep for their own. Older youth (ages 6-14) work one-on-one with literacy volunteers to write and illustrate their own story.





Community Builds Connections

Everybody needs somebody. That's why we bring Saranam families in together. That's why we function in a 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, improving social capacity and decreasing 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. The 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.





NICOLE



In Nicole’s initial days at Saranam, her new cohort engaged in a teambuilding game that required them to collaborate in order to reach a finish line. When everyone was struggling and the task seemed insurmountable, she devised new rules so that she could assist the others, boosting them to the end.

Her strategy that day perfectly illustrates the values she has implemented throughout her life. She is accustomed to hardship, yet in every challenge she has extended a helping hand to ensure others have the resources she did not. These convictions were initially instilled in her children and are deeply embedded in the fabric of their family.

As a young mother she left school prematurely but always emphasized the importance of education to her children as they grew up. She supported their hard work, taking on multiple jobs to ensure their well being. Nicole recalls that her family always had what they needed, but not necessarily everything they wanted.

Now at Saranam, she dares to acknowledge how much more she desires for herself as well. Her experiences have provided her with a new perspective on what holds significance in her life and have expanded her notions of what her goals could encompass. In this new chapter of her life, she is granting herself the same belief in a bright future that she has always inspired in others.



Nicole’s unexpected journey to Saranam took her by surprise. Her stable, comfortable life was abruptly disrupted when she became a survivor of organized crime. Once she was in a safe environment, she discovered that everything she had worked for — her home, job, and savings — had vanished in the blink of an eye. Despite encountering compassion, she found that she did not qualify for any community resources that could provide assistance.

Encountering one closed door after another, she cautiously welcomed the opportunity to join Saranam. It appeared to be the perfect place for her to heal and contemplate her next steps. Her intuition proved correct.

Now, several months into the program, her perspective on everything has shifted. “I now realize that we were merely surviving life, not truly living it. It has humbled me. I possess the fewest material possessions ever, yet I feel more complete than I have ever felt. I am where I belong.”

She is transforming her journey into a mission to help others.

Her first step is pursuing the education that she always prioritized for her children. Returning to school was not something she had considered for herself, but rekindling her interest in learning has altered her entire perspective on what is achievable.

“When you are doing well, you want others to thrive. I want everyone here to succeed. I observe everyone blossoming...”

“If you had asked me about my future before, it seemed bleak. I was resigned to living the same life. This is the first time someone has said, ‘I’ll take charge, you focus on your education’. Now, I realize there is so much more to life out there.”

She has enthusiastically embarked on classes to obtain her GED, and as she passes her exams one by one, she proudly announces to everyone, “I’m doing it!” Her future is not what she had envisioned...it is better.

She is driven to be a voice for individuals who have undergone similar experiences. She aspires to work as a counselor or social worker within a program like Saranam, advocating to bridge the gaps in services she has observed.

The close-knit community that her cohort has formed has been a significant source of motivation. “I entered as a participant at Saranam, but I swiftly became a member of a family.” True to her nature, she ensures that her new extended family remains focused on their goals, celebrating their achievements, and supporting them through challenging times. Success, she affirms, is contagious.

“When you are doing well, you want others to thrive. I want everyone here to succeed. I observe everyone blossoming; we started as small seeds in the ground, and now I see leaves starting to sprout and the various plants everyone is nurturing.”

She remains awe-struck by the unwavering support she has received so far at Saranam. It has inspired her to find new ways to empower those around her, starting with the next generation. Extending a helping hand and aiding others has evolved from a mere practice into a calling. “I feel compelled to assist others. A single opportunity can change someone’s entire future and the futures of their children. Access to the right resources can transform everything.”

“Saranam has forever changed what I imagined for my family’s future. I am so grateful for this experience.”



SCARS OF HONOR

by Nicole

There’s Something Different About Me,
No I wasn’t born with them,
But I will learn to wear them proudly
Like a badge of honor
To remind me how Brave I was and will forever be.
These new scars on my body remind me,
Everyday that I am a survivor,
These scars are proof that,
Life can hit anyone, with anything, at any time,
Regardless of who you are,
I so happened to fall into a line of people,
That life has changed,
There’s something different about me,
Each new scar will tell my story
Without me uttering a word.



AT SARANAM, we know that it takes more than two years for a family to end their homelessness and poverty. We continue to work with our families to prevent homelessness upon exit. Our alumni program reinforces healthy living concepts and tracks improved stability and ending poverty.

LEANNE

Leanne is living her childhood dream. From her earliest memories, she has wanted to help people heal and navigate life’s challenges as a mental health professional. She has overcome many trials with implacable strength and gained insights into her priorities. Now a Saranam alumni, she is using her creativity and wisdom to build an exciting future as a dedicated mom, counselor, and innovative entrepreneur.

Leanne came to Saranam after leaving an abusive marriage and was ready for a new chapter but was unsure what exactly that would look like. It was Saranam’s emphasis on education that inspired her to take a chance: “I didn’t see the future but (my case manager) did, and she knew education was going to create stability.”

Her first semester of classes got her excited to be a student again. Whether tackling a tricky statistics class or laying out their new family values with her kids, she could feel a familiar determination returning. The most powerful lessons, though, came from the recognition of the courage she had shown in leaving her old life behind. Having the time and space to heal and focus inward changed how she thought about herself and what she was capable of. “I learned to reassign my worth not on what I can produce, but who I am,” she says.

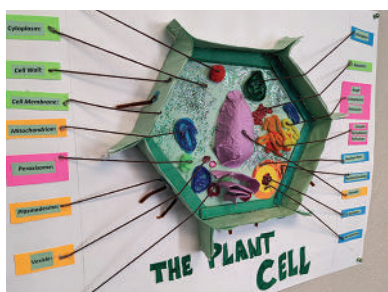
Community has had a tremendous influence on her identity formation and for her, it started at Saranam. Through fun family nights and the stressful days of quarantine, she remembers watching the group find their rhythm and become like a family. When the pandemic hit, the friendships she and her kids made ensured they had a huge support network. Despite the circumstances, the community felt safe.

Bolstered by the community’s support and her restored confidence, she felt ready to pursue her dream as a counselor. With an undergraduate degree already under her belt, she turned her sights on graduate school and was accepted into the university she had always wanted to attend.

Her focus was unwavering. Even when COVID-19 hit and quarantine necessitated a pivot to online classes, she found an instructional format that suited her



“I absolutely wouldn’t be where I am without Saranam.”



learning style. “Every class was my ticket to stability,” she said. “Failure wasn’t on the table.” Not long after leaving Saranam, she received her master’s degree in counseling and landed her dream job!

Saranam will always hold a special place in her heart. Her family still carries warm reminders of the program with them, like the beds her kids still sleep in and the ornaments they decorate with every holiday; they are symbols of the enormous strength they harnessed here and the belonging they found along the way.

Leanne has remained financially stable since leaving Saranam. She completed her alumni savings plan for her individual development account in record time and is hoping to buy her own home soon. Her financial stability has allowed her to invest in a burgeoning online marketing business and has given her the opportunity to pursue passions that feed her soul. A talented musician and magnificent painter, she is now comfortable enough to turn what had been coping mechanisms into creative expression.

The Saranam community that began her own healing journey has been a model for her kids as they cultivate their own support network at church. Now they are surrounded by fun, love, friends, and community.

She hopes other Saranam families find what she did. Her advice to them: “Follow the rules, this is gold! Let your guard down and own your story. Be bold and step into your future.”

She feels freer than ever to create something spectacular and is finding new outlets for her ideas every day. Leanne is proud of what she has built and the many, many dreams she cannot wait to bring to life.



OUR ANNUAL SURVEY informs program improvements and helps us track long-term alumni stability.

- › Since 2007, we have remained in contact with 76% of families who exited one year or more ago.
- › Of those families, 86% who left the program successfully remain stable year after year.
- › In 2023 we were in direct contact with 62 families — 12 of the children in those families (2-Gen kids) are now adults and maintain a relationship with Saranam.

DID YOU KNOW

Building assets has a direct correlation to long-term financial stability.

Through a partnership with Prosperity Works and Rio Grande Credit Union, Saranam offers two savings programs for our families.

IDA | Individual Development Account

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

- › 22 savers participated in IDA
- › 9 already met their goal of saving \$1,000

CSA | Child Savings Account

Current families are encouraged to enroll each of their minor children in the CSA program. Saranam provides seed money, match 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.

- › 36 children, representing 15 families, participated in CSA



Data Matters

Saranam has served 172 homeless families, including 363 children and 197 adults, during our 20 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.

2023 By the Numbers

11 FAMILIES EXITED

- 9 families achieved 3+ measures of success
- 3 families achieved all 6 measures of success

- 26 families served
- 10 new families entered
- 29 Adults
- 52 Children
 - Ages 0-4 22
 - Ages 5-12 18
 - Ages 13-18 12

RACE/ETHNICITY

- 26 Hispanic
- 21 Caucasian/White
- 11 Bi-racial
- 8 American Indian/Alaska Native
- 6 African American/Black
- 9 Declined to state

11 students were enrolled in CNM, UNM, and Carrington College.

Students enrolled in postsecondary programs earned a total of 92 postsecondary credits.

COMPLETED

- FAA Part 107 remote pilot certificate
- GED x 3 students
- Licensed Practical Nurse certificate
- Nursing Assistant certificate
- Phlebotomy certificate
- Practical Nursing certificate

PURSUING

- AA, Accounting
- AAS, Culinary Arts
- AAS, Radiologic Technology
- BA, Sociology
- BS, Anthropology
- Cosmetology certificate
- Nursing Assistant certificate
- Phlebotomy certificate
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems certificate

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

76% cumulative success rate at exit | 86% cumulative stability rate one year post exit

“We want to make sure that every part of our program is intentional, effective, and measurable. At Saranam, everything connects and there is a reason for everything we do.”

—Ellen Shepherd, Saranam’s Director of Continuous Improvement

SARANAM'S THEORY OF CHANGE

When families have... safe, stable housing, individualized education, and supportive community within a structured, multi-generational program;

When families engage... for a sufficient time, set and achieve short and long term goals, learn and practice new life skills, and increase their education;



Families will develop... the resilience and economic stability to end their homelessness and poverty.



EVAL LAB Update

For the last 3 years, we have partnered with the UNM Evaluation Lab to improve our program and demonstrate its effectiveness through internal evaluation. This year, our 4th year funded by the Carl C. Anderson Sr. and Marie Jo Anderson Charitable Foundation, we shifted our focus outward. That is, our goal is to design and ultimately implement the most effective and impactful external study possible to demonstrate the effectiveness of our program.

To this end, we set forth our theory of change for our program along with the underlying socioeconomic research and neuroscience evidence. We continued our focused alumni outreach that provides an ongoing – and rare – opportunity to pursue an external study that tracks longitudinal effectiveness of our program.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION OF EVIDENCE

Evaluation Team

Audrey Cooper, Team Lead	Tracy Weaver
Erin Spurgeon, Fellow	Jennifer Mullen
Maggie Klug, Fellow	Ellen Shepherd
	Rachel Zepper

EVALUATION OVERVIEW

Saranam is a two-year, two-generational program for families experiencing homelessness that provides housing, education, and community to work holistically to tackle the causes of homelessness and poverty.

Question: When looking at the overall data picture generated by Saranam’s theoretical basis and current measures of success, **what is needed to assess their program’s effectiveness** in empowering families to end their homelessness?

Goal: To **build the tools and theoretical framework** for Saranam to assess the effectiveness of their program in empowering families to end their homelessness and **identify the most appropriate study design** for Saranam to use in the future to test their program’s effectiveness to gain external validation.

EVALUATION APPROACH & RESULTS

Mapped out the Theory of Change

- Purpose:** To identify each outcome’s underlying theories and rationale
- Methodology:** Root cause analysis via semi-structured interviews with key Saranam Staff
- Example:**
 - Theory:** Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs
 - Program Outcome Pillar:** Housing
 - Application:** Key reason Saranam provides housing to all families -> a basic need -> allows families to focus on other needs

Reviewed the Literature for Evidence

- Purpose:** To review evidence to assess theories identified in semi-structured interviews
- Analytical Approach:** PRISMA Guidelines
- General Findings:** Saranam’s program components have a multitude of evidence, but much of the evidence is not specific to the population that Saranam serves (homeless families with children), so we expanded search criteria to include proxy populations and a larger timeframe
- Example:**
 - Theory:** Future Orientation Theory
 - Evidence:** “The Impact of Psychosocial Factors on Subjective Wellbeing among Homeless Young Adults” by Barczyk, Rew, and Thompson (2014) - found that a future orientation is associated with higher levels of subjective wellbeing in homeless males
 - Relationship to Saranam’s programming/outcomes:** This is a universal theory to Saranam’s program in which they seek to foster a future orientation in their families to shift their mindset

Saranam’s Program

Housing	Education & Employment	Community	Resilience
7 Theories & Concepts Identified 10 Sources Found	5 Theories & Concepts Identified 7 Sources Found	6 Theories & Concepts Identified 9 Sources Found	9 Theories & Concepts Identified 10 Sources Found

32 THEORIES/CONCEPTS UNDERLYING SARANAM’S PROGRAM IDENTIFIED

39 SOURCES CITED IN LITERATURE REVIEW SUPPORTING THE IDENTIFIED THEORIES

Sources available upon request.

TIMELINE: BUILDING THE EVIDENCE BASE

Created a Logical Framework and revised Alumni Survey to align with organizational goals

2020-21

2021-22

Conducted a survey to determine whether any family or program characteristics were associated with program success

Explored RCT as study design option & conducted preliminary study to set Saranam up for formal study in the future

2022-23

2023-24

Mapped out theory of change & conducted literature review of theoretical underpinnings to further establish evidence base & explored more study design options

After consulting with epidemiologists, the UNM Evaluation Team recommends a **mixed-methods cohort study** to generate evidence for Saranam’s program due to the small sample size and sensitive population.

Systematic Reviews
Randomized Controlled Trials
Cohort Studies
Case-Control
Cross-Sectional Studies
Case Reports

Higher

Quality of Evidence

Lower

RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Create a **clear measure of success/indicator** for the community outcome in the Logical Framework.

2 Conduct a **mixed-methods evaluation** to create a pre/post/post tool to measure cohort program outcomes over time.

3 **Partner with organizations** serving similar populations with similar underlying theories to establish evidence supporting those theories.

The UNM Evaluation Team would like to give special thanks to the Saranam team. We are deeply grateful for the guidance provided by health economist Dr. Claudia Diaz Fuentes, as well as epidemiologists Dr. Andrew Rowland and Dr. Sam Swift from the UNM College of Population Health and Dr. Gale Hannigan and Amy Weig-Pickering from UNM’s Health Sciences Library.



Aerial view of the 3.5-acre property next to the Mesa View United Methodist Church at Montañó and Taylor Ranch Roads.

Saranam is committed to being a sustainable solution to family homelessness



Saranam ADC Family Campus Update

We have operated at our current 24-unit campus on the westside 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 double 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.

We have encountered cost increases, supply chain issues and many delays. Now we finally see the end is near. The campus should be complete by spring 2025.

We appreciate everyone’s support of our expansion. The ADC Family Campus will be a perfect place for families to begin their journey at Saranam.



To stay informed of our progress reach out to Tracy Weaver at tweaver@saranamabq.org.



Donors, Partners, Friends, Volunteers, Collaborations, and Partnerships

By generously sharing their expertise, time, and never-ending care, volunteers ensured every Saranam family felt the life-changing impact of a supportive community. Their dedication is evident in every corner of our mission.

Because of our volunteers, we are able to serve our families abundantly. Some of the ways volunteers helped this year:

- Planning and teaching cooking classes for busy families
- Teaching gardening tips from Master gardeners
- Assembling furniture
- Seasonally decorating shared spaces
- Organizing incoming donations
- Collecting household supplies
- Constructing external communication packets
- Graphic design for campus signs
- Landscaping and facility beautification
- Cleaning our family activity center
- Participating in family night activities and facilitating games
- Bringing the fun of science to family nights
- Maintaining library systems
- Creating a centralized resource for family impact stories
- Hosting special experiences for children
- Digital marketing database maintenance
- Project management for volunteer groups
- Inventory maintenance
- Preparation of financial education materials
- Mock job interviews
- Building shelving units
- Decorating and preparing apartments
- Shopping for family essentials
- Managing storage of furniture and household goods
- Event planning for alumni reunion

- Building pergola for playground area
- Mural preparation and painting
- Wrapping and organizing holiday presents
- Facility repairs
- Sharing expertise through contributions to Saranam's blog
- Preparing food for incoming families and special events
- Tutoring adult and child academics
- Parenting instruction and tips
- Organizing youth literacy events
- Creating holiday gift baskets and stockings
- Teaching a class on home purchasing for prospective buyers
- Teaching science to early learners
- Hosting youth financial education night
- Community outreach and information sharing
- Childcare for learning parents
- Fulfilling monthly supply orders
- Preparing holiday baking kits
- Renewing exterior games around courtyards
- Guest presentations from industry leaders (topics include domestic violence, childhood education, and finance)
- Serving on Saranam Board and committees



DID YOU KNOW

The national value of a volunteer's time is estimated at \$33.49 per hour.*

Our volunteers represent an enormous financial impact for us.

*independentsector.org

Unduplicated Volunteers
788

Volunteer Hours
4,772

Value of Volunteer Hours to Saranam
\$159,814



A group came to one of Saranam's Campus Clean-Up events. One member of the group shared, "I just want to make this a nice place for families." They told our staff they knew someone who had participated in Saranam's program and it had really made a positive difference. The group wanted to contribute in their honor.



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Please call or email with any needed corrections.
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Albuquerque Academy
Albuquerque Involved
Albuquerque Police Department
Albuquerque Woodworkers Association
Be The Neighbor
Brazilian Ladies of Burque
Central United Methodist Church
Covenant United Methodist Church
Del Webb Mirehaven
Double Eagle Elementary School
Faithful Friends
Heights First Church of the Nazarene
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
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Love God, Love Neighbor
Manzano Day School
Mercy Associates with St. Joseph on the Rio Grande
North Valley Gardeners
PEO Chapter AD
Pursonalities Plus

R&R – Amy Romero and Eve Rivera
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United Way NCNM Women United
United Women in Faith
Valley Gardeners
Kathleen Weston - Bunko Group
What's Important Now
Women of Vision
Women with Purpose

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Bank of Albuquerque – *Family financial literacy*
Breaking the Silence – *Mental health*
Rachel Breinholt – *Yoga classes*
Mark Burton, Master Gardener
Common Impact – *Operations Road Map*
CPR2UNM – *CPR and first aid training*
Create U 505 – *Painting class*
Del Webb Mirehaven Team – *Cooking classes*
Enchanted Equine Adventures
Explora – *Science nights*
Fidelity Investments – *Operations Road Map*
Good Jobs Program Manager – *Job training and employability*
Daniel Griesel, Realty One – *Home buyer class*
Peter Heald – *Auto maintenance*
Heart and Soul – *Healthy relationships*
Jeff Hoffman, Corporate Trainer

iCAN – *Cooking and nutrition classes*
League of Women Voters – *Civics*
Laura Metzler, South Broadway Library
Native Community Health Network – *Consent in relationships*
Parents Reaching Out – *School advocacy*
Presbyterian Peer Support Workers – *Peer support programs*
Prosperity Works
Responsible Sex Education Institute – *Sexual and reproductive health education*
Rio Grande Federal Credit Union – *Financial education*
S.A.F.E. House – *Healthy relationships*
SANE: Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners – *Sexual and domestic violence*
Chantel Stuckman, Desert Willow Family School – *Children's literacy*
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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.

We demonstrate these
core values in our
words and actions.



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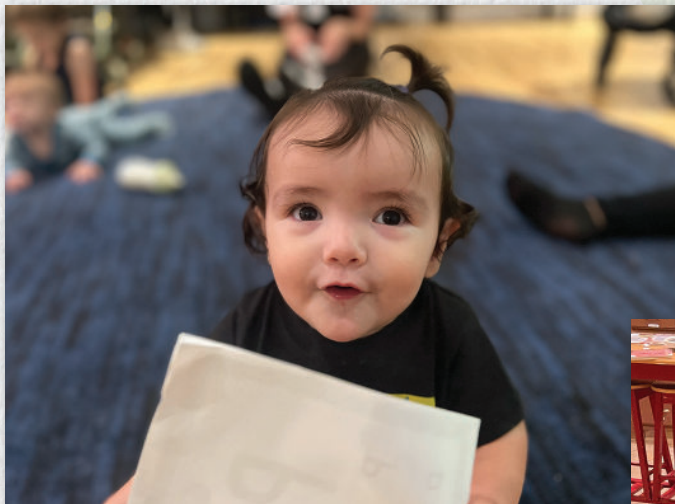


Respect

Transformation



Integrity



Faithfulness



Compassion





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Saranamabq.org

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