

A BEACON OF HOPE

ANNUAL
REPORT
OCTOBER
2019



Esperanza Shelter



A Note from the President

SABRA LAVAUGH PHOTOGRAPHY



As a seven-year-old child, my mom and I felt little hope. My father was an abuser who clouded our days with words, beatings and threats that could have stolen my childhood—and my future—away from me. Mom and I managed to escape the abuse and Esperanza welcomed us with open arms. Entering the shelter, we were frightened and unsure of our next steps, but it was not long until we were able to glimpse the lighted path headed toward a better future.

Esperanza changed our lives and I am forever grateful to my mother for finding the strength to leave her abuser. After we were safe, we experienced years of economic hardship as my mom worked long hours as a housekeeper in a local hotel. We persevered, however, as thousands of Esperanza clients have done since we lived in room number eight. Esperanza was a beacon of hope for my mother and me.

As president of Esperanza’s Board, I work with dedicated volunteers who work together to release our community from the snare of domestic violence. The board identified the key ways in which it should improve and strengthen itself. We have recruited new members and solidified policies and procedures. Every board member has contributed to Esperanza’s mission in his/her own way. They are generous with their time, talent and donations.

I am proud to continue to lead a Board that has so much heart and soul.

Marcos Zubia
President, Board of Directors

A Message from the Executive Director



It was a challenging yet rewarding year for Esperanza Shelter. We were able to meet our fundraising goals thanks to a strong, coordinated effort between the staff, board, supportive donors, foundations and local businesses. The need for funding, however, continues as long as domestic violence threatens thousands of people in New Mexico. The need for additional funding will continue as long as domestic violence shelters remain underfunded on the state and federal levels.

However, the work done by our staff and volunteers is critical to the healing and well-being of those we care for each year. For survivors, Esperanza’s light shines brightly. For them, Esperanza is a destination of hope.

Regardless of the current political toxicity in the U.S. including the persecution of immigrants, the degradation of women and the oppression of people of color and members of our LGBTQI community, Esperanza continues to embrace anyone in need of domestic abuse services. Esperanza continues to provide survivors’ services at no charge to them. Esperanza remains a steady source of hope at a time when our country is in a state of turmoil.

Join me in embracing Esperanza’s mission. Help survivors of abuse become Thrivers, building lives for themselves and their children that will be strong, safe and secure.

Anji Estrellas, M.A.
Executive Director

Esperanza is a Beacon of Hope

Esperanza Shelter has provided comprehensive services for survivors of domestic abuse for over 40 years. Services include both residential and non-residential services for women, children and men who have experienced trauma because of abuse.

Sonya Romero is a domestic violence survivor who fled to Esperanza Shelter several years ago. She lived at the secure, confidential residence for one month. Since recovering from her trauma involving two abusers, Sonya has worked hard to become a Thriver. Today, Sonya is healthy and strong, raising her teenage daughter, completing a college degree in social work and working full-time at Esperanza Shelter where she is the residential shift supervisor. Sonya is grateful to Esperanza for its help in leading her onto a path that is bright and shining with future possibilities.



THE YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

Working Towards Healthy Relationships

Esperanza's Path to Peace program is the **only one of its kind in Santa Fe County** and was one of only three in the state of New Mexico to achieve a 90% or better completion rate for its participants.

The Path to Peace program is a non-residential program for people who have learned to use violence and power to control and abuse others. Participants in this program are primarily men and most are court ordered into the 52-week group sessions. Many participants, however, self-refer to the program. Participants are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and learn healthy ways to communicate and manage conflict. For participants, the Path to Peace program often provides the first glimpse of life lived without violence.



Esperanza Shelter
PATH TO PEACE

More than 95% of abusers were witnesses to abuse or were directly abused as children. While childhood trauma is tragic, it is never an excuse to abuse others. This statistic, however, helps us understand that the cycle of violence must be broken through early intervention with abused children.

Healing Children

Seeds of Hope provides therapy and life skills education for children who have experienced trauma because of abuse. Esperanza established an exciting new program during the past year to benefit both parents and their children. The entire Seeds team trained on an evidence-based model called **Circle of Security**, proven to strengthen secure attachment between parent and child. Some of that training was funded by CYFD through the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The program at Esperanza was so successful it is becoming a standard part of the Seeds of Hope curriculum.



seeds of hope
Esperanza Shelter

Esperanza launched an **Infant Mental Health** program thanks to the generosity of the Brindle Foundation. Science has shown that when an infant experiences trauma, the child's development is interrupted—and actually freezes. Early intervention for traumatized babies is important to avoid devastating effects later in life. These

effects can include struggling in school and with social skills, and a significant increase in physical, mental and emotional difficulties.

We have learned that some things are really worth waiting for. For more than two years, Esperanza Shelter has been trying to complete the **Hope & Play Garden**. This outdoor space is designed for both children and survivors living in the emergency shelter. For a variety of unforeseen reasons, completing this project has been like climbing an enormous mountain. However, we have finally scheduled the work to begin in October. Without the incredible generosity of donors including The Irene Ritter Foundation, Southside Rotary Club, Hancock Family Foundation and Exerplay, Inc., we would never have gotten this far! We look forward to hearing children laughing and survivors enjoying the fresh air in this new sunny sanctuary.

Getting the Word Out

Esperanza's strategic plan included the commitment to better inform and educate our community about domestic abuse. Esperanza formally launched an outreach & education department in February 2019. We have employed an experienced teacher as coordinator of this program; she has spent many hours learning about domestic abuse, the impact of trauma on people and Esperanza's services. She, in turn, has already booked numerous educational sessions and staffed many tabling events in Santa Fe and beyond. Esperanza plans to continue to grow this program because we believe that **education is the key to the prevention of violence and other forms of abuse**. For information on how you can book an educational session or tabling event, call 505.365.7651.



Hope Speaks.

Esperanza Shelter

Community Outreach & Education

Expanding Services for Residential Clients

Esperanza's emergency shelter received a grant award from the City of Santa Fe Human Services Division to create a new position to improve client services. **The community navigator** helps clients define personal goals and then connects clients with community services, removing any barriers to those services that may exist.



The shelter was the recipient of a VOCA grant that allowed the agency to **hire a bilingual residential court & family advocate**. The advocate's job includes helping residents prepare orders of protection, civil restraining orders, motions to enforce, name changes and assisting survivors in submitting a Crime Victims Reparations application.

Thanks to CYFD and the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic

Violence, the agency received some funding for a child therapist position at the shelter.

From Survivors to Thrivers

The non-residential program at Esperanza includes services for survivors of domestic abuse who have their own housing. The 26-week group sessions are conducted at the Support Center. Survivors and their children never pay for any of Esperanza Shelter's services.

The Winged Women provide a new opportunity for those who have completed the non-residential survivors program. Winged Women is in its early stages but exists to provide further support and creative outlets for graduates of the non-residential program. Survivors who consider themselves "Thrivers" run the group democratically with the help of a domestic violence advocate.

Corporate Giving

In spring of 2019, **Dion Silva**, president of the Santa Fe region for Enterprise Bank & Trust, approached Esperanza with a thoughtful and generous idea. He proposed a corporate sponsorship of Esperanza for \$30,000 over the next three years. Esperanza agreed to find a match of equal value. We are very grateful for Enterprise's proposed funding, which is allocated for the Seeds of Hope Children's program. **Call our development office if you are interested in making this match and/or if you would like to consider a corporate sponsorship.** The number is **505.365.7630**.



The Mayor's Ball

The long-standing tradition of the Mayor's Ball got a new twist this year. Rather than raise funds for one or two organizations, Mayor Alan Webber decided to honor 250 dedicated volunteers from almost 30 nonprofit organizations in Santa Fe. Esperanza Shelter was one of the agencies represented at the March 30 event held at the Convention Center. Esperanza chose to honor four long-time, hardworking volunteers who have contributed a great deal of their time and talent to the agency: Board Members **Marcos Zubia (center), Janie Alderman (right), and Jo Ann Dewing Ward**, and former board member and finance committee volunteer **Kevin Brennan (left)**. Esperanza remains grateful to these four "forever friends" of our mission and the people we serve.



New Fund Launches

The Hope & Comfort Fund, established at the end of the fiscal year, supports some of the unexpected expenses clients have when suddenly thrust into



a new situation after fleeing abuse. Both residential and non-residential clients often need gas cards, bus tickets, train tickets, temporary help with a utility bill or temporary help with

a rent, phone, medical or insurance bill. Sometimes helping the survivor with even one bill can give her the time to get back on her feet and support her family. The simple act of providing gas cards can get a survivor to a job interview or a doctor appointment. The Hope & Comfort Fund will also consider client requests for baby strollers, cribs and other necessities.

Thanking Those Who Care

How do we convey the gratitude we feel towards our donors? It is a difficult thing to do adequately. Without our donors, Esperanza's doors could not remain open. Our donors bring a special light and hope to every single survivor of domestic abuse who stands on the doorstep of Esperanza Shelter.

We give special thanks this year to three women who understand the importance of caring for victims of domestic abuse: **State Senator Nancy Rodriguez, State Senator Elizabeth Stefanics and State Representative Linda Trujillo**. Collectively, our three champions generously supported our mission by earmarking \$250,000 of their discretionary funds for Esperanza Shelter. We look forward to receiving this new funding in Fiscal Year 2020.



Thank You All!

On behalf of the hundreds of people we serve annually, we thank all of our donors for their commitment and generosity. We consider every donor and funder a critical member of our team!

Every effort was made to make this list accurate. Please call our development office if you find an error or omission (505.365.7630). Due to space constraints, this list includes donors who made a minimum gift of \$500 to Esperanza. The complete list is at <https://esperanzashelter.org/about-esperanza/our-donors/>.

Fiscal Year 2019 Donors

\$100,000 and above

New Mexico Children, Youth &
Families Division
Anonymous

\$75,000-\$25,000

Christus St. Vincent Hospital
City of Santa Fe Youth and Family
Services; Children & Youth Commission
Prima Title LLC
Tortuga Foundation
Lineberry Foundation
Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

\$24,999-\$10,000

Anasazi Fund, Santa Fe Community
Foundation
Anonymous
Brindle Foundation
Farris Foundation Fund
Frost Foundation
Gale Family Foundation
Irene Ritter Foundation
Brian McMahon
Santa Fe Community Foundation
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Thornburg Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

Diana Kay Crow Veritas Foundation
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Alex Garcia
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\$2,000-\$4,999

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Valerie & Bud Hamilton Family Fund

\$500-\$999

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Jorge Fonseca, Director of Finance &
Operations
Denise Vermeulen, MBA, Director of
Development & Communications

2019 Annual Report

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HOW YOU CAN HELP



Esperanza Shelter Fiscal Year 2019

- **Make a donation:**
 - Visit www.esperanza-shelter.org and click on **Donate**.
 - **Text 443-21** with the message **WeAreHope** to make a donation.
 - Send a check made payable to **"Esperanza Shelter"** to:
Support Center
3130 Rufina Street
Santa Fe, NM 87507
- Talk to your attorney about making a gift to Esperanza through **estate planning or your will**.
- Purchase a **term life insurance policy** naming Esperanza Shelter as your beneficiary.
- Learn more about **Esperanza** through our website and Face Book page—and help us share information about our agency and the societal issue of domestic abuse.
- **Volunteer:** Check out our website for more information.

SUPPORT CENTER

505.474.5536
3130 Rufina Street
Santa Fe, NM 87507

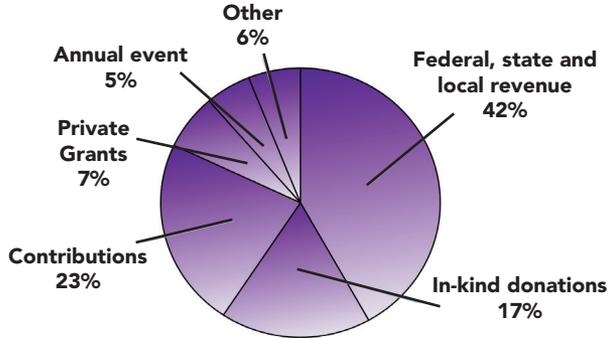
www.esperanzashelter.org

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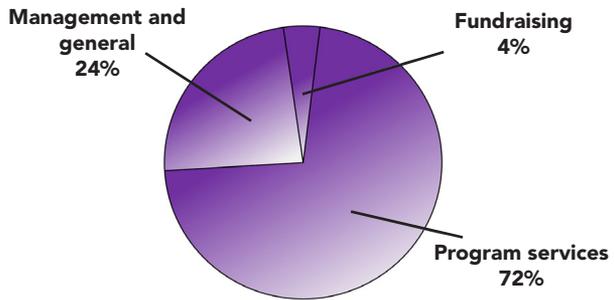
Our Mission is to shelter those threatened by domestic violence and to support healthy relationships.

24/7 Crisis Hotline:
505.473.5200 or
1.800.473.5220

Sources of Funds
7/1/17 – 6/30/18



Uses of Funds
7/1/17 – 6/30/18



Number of Shelter Nights



Average Number of Days Clients Stay in Shelter

