

January 2010

Dear Casa Friend and Supporter:

What do you have when you have a non-profit without volunteers? We were talking about just that question in a meeting recently. As we talked I began to create a list of just a few of our extra special Casa Esperanza volunteers. As you may remember we are an 18,000 square foot facility with just one facility manager. There are 28 rooms and common spaces that need carpets shampooed, walls painted, windows washed, general maintenance and everything you do at your home.



But most important, we have residents who come to this house to find warmth, availability, cleanliness and a little hope, cheer and support thrown in for good measures. There is simply no way we could take care of this facility without Volunteers in Mission from the Methodist Church who cook, clean and take on special projects; the APS Transition Outcomes Program who do simple jobs like straightening cabinets, yards, and folding linens; South Valley Academy who staff the front desk so our staff members can all attend weekly staff meetings; students from Nuestros Valores Charter School who volunteer weekly in the house on what ever project is current and many more groups who come for one visit and groups who come monthly to take on the needs of the facility.



I then thought about all the groups who come to prepare and serve meals for our families. Groups like Cardinal Health, Ken Ray and the staff from Ray Steel who provide Thanksgiving dinner for our families each year; the Albuquerque Civitan Clubs, Desert Springs Church, US New Mexico Federal Credit Union, Payless Shoe Source, Peoples Bank, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, St. George Greek Orthodox Church to name a few. Also there is Los Poblanos who provides fresh fruits and vegetables weekly through the MBA/UNM Graduate Student Project.

I thought about groups of volunteers who give their time and skills to plan special fundraising events benefiting Casa Esperanza. The members of the "Day of the Tread Team" who plan and host the *Annual Day of the Tread* event held in October; members of the retirement community of Tierra del Sol in Belen who hosts our *Mike Moore Memorial Golf Classic Tournament* in June; the Clovis Board of Realtors who host an *Annual Golf Tournament* in Clovis in September; the *Keller Williams Realty* who host a *Golf Tournament* in the fall, a wonderful group of artists who donate their time and skills by creating beautiful pieces for our *Annual Art for Hope Auction* in the spring and the *Artists of New Mexico* who donate art pieces for a raffle at the International Balloon Fiesta in October are just a few of the giving, energetic and compassionate groups who donate their time, skills and funds to keep our doors open.





I thought about our grantors and funders such as Bank of Albuquerque, Bank of America, PNM Foundation, Larry H. Miller Charities, Los Alamos Laboratory Foundation, Cardinal Health, CVS Pharmacy, Lovelace Sandia Health System, and our Department of Health contract to name a few. Our individual funders have supported us through our Friends Campaign, private donations, memorials and honorariums. Of course we also could not function without our

wonderful in-kind donors like the recent gift from the Fairwinds Retirement Community who donated a full Wii System and 26" TV for our residents use during their stay at CE.

I thought about our Board of Directors, Advisory Board and Committee members who give their time and expertise to make sure Casa Esperanza stays fiscally responsible, ethically balanced, and up to date on policies and procedures to ensure Casa Esperanza remains transparent and accountable to our donors and residents.

So, I hope you have the same picture in your mind that I have in mine. It is a picture of activity by volunteers understanding our home and mission. That activity is funded by children, youth, and adult volunteers who live nearby or travel great distances to offer their support. Our residents find joy through our volunteer's eyes and hands.

In this difficult economy, the one we all had hoped would go away, you have been more than generous with your donations of funds, time and skills. Thank you. Your on-going support in this coming year will help us continue to serve New Mexico cancer patients and their families.

I know what you would have if a non-profit did not have volunteers. You would have a non-profit in financial and physical difficulty. The other part of the answer is Casa Esperanza exists because of its volunteers. If you would like to expand your current relationship with Casa Esperanza or begin a new one by volunteering in the house or at a special event please call me or one of the staff members at Casa Esperanza at 505-277-9880. I look forward to personally seeing you in the house or at special events.



Sincerely,

Johnese

Johnese Turri, President
Casa Esperanza Board of Directors