

June 2009



Dear Casa Friend and Supporter:

Well Hi! It has been a few months since I've written to you, and I should bring you up to date on how we're coping with this economy and its effects on our families. I would also like to take a moment to tell you about all the good things happening at Casa Esperanza.

I was visiting with a Casa Esperanza family the other day, and they shared how important it is having a home like Casa. They have been at Casa for over three months, and they expect (hope) to go home the first week of July. They moved into Casa lock, stock and barrel, and they are part of our lives, just as we are part of theirs. The staff chats with them every morning before they leave for treatment and discusses their day every evening as they return. This family has access to our free Clinical Counseling and Patient Navigation programs,



Delia Garcia, Senior Manager, Public Affairs & Gov't Relations with Wal-Mart Foundation; Stacie Soto, Patient Navigation Director and Cathy Moore, Assistant Director (left to right) receiving a \$10,000 grant donation from the Wal-Mart Foundation in support of the excellent Patient Navigation at Casa Esperanza

helping them to cope with the extended times away from home as well as with the medical "stuff" that challenges them daily. They enjoy the volunteers who come weekly to prepare meals and celebrate our residents. They made friends with our Volunteer in Mission volunteers who traveled from Oklahoma to work in the house for a week. All of this got me to thinking - is this family different in any way from our other residents? But no, their journey is not uncommon. Cancer takes hold of your life and controls all you do, think, dream and plan. Casa Esperanza is simply a place where you can be yourself and know there are others here on the same path.

I know you are all effected by the current economy, so you can imagine the effect on our families. Sometimes, for example our residents have to choose not **when** they will go for their cancer treatment but **if** they will go. By knowing there is an affordable, caring place for them in Albuquerque, cancer patients and their families will have access to many services that are simply not available in their communities. Albuquerque is the center of the state for cancer healthcare as well as for many support

networks. But our families need to get here first. This is really one of the toughest challenges we see.

Our occupancy is averaging 87% during the week. Our staff works every day to make sure social workers, doctors and care managers know about Casa Esperanza. In the past you have stepped forward to make our in-kind donations jump off the charts and saved us funds in so many ways. You donate all kinds of necessary items like groceries, paper products, kitchen equipment and linens. You send financial donations used to underwrite our general operating budget. And joyfully, you come out in droves to volunteer in the house. You paint, wash windows, shampoo carpets, provide meals, and generally take to heart our requests for help. You also participate in events that benefit Casa Esperanza and the Endowment Foundation. You purchase hope chests and art; you play or sponsor golf; you ride a bike, play volleyball or work as an event volunteer - all to sustain our ability to care for cancer patients and their families.

Our lodging needs continue to grow. The new UNM Cancer Center will open its doors this fall and will be treating cancer patients daily from 7am to 7pm. Wow! We will need to have staff in place for the extended hours as well as rooms ready and waiting for the increased demand. *Our Nina Bean Patient Navigation and Survivor Services Program (NBPNP)* guides our residents through the health care system. The program's mission is to enhance the delivery of cancer care, improve quality of life, and reduce the cancer burden for cancer patients and families from all New Mexico counties. We need to be ready.



United Methodist Church Volunteers in Mission (VIM) from Bartlesville, OK work to re-tile our community kitchens.

On that note, I want to share a few very special celebrations with you. In March, we hosted our 7th Annual Hope Chest and Art Auction at the Embassy Suites. Bob Clark and Steve Stucker served as our enthusiastic emcees, working along with auctioneer extraordinaire, Howard McCall. It was a great evening with all silent and live auctions items going out the door to happy new homes. We made more than \$25,000 and are already planning another great event for **March 20, 2010** and with your help, we will generate even more revenue. The Michelle "Mike" Moore Memorial Golf Classic has just put away the sponsor signs and packed up the boxes for the twelfth year! We hosted more than 100 golfers in June at Tierra Del Sol Golf and Country Club in Belen and raised \$10,000 with extra help from tourney coordinators, Fred and Edie Moore and droves of returning volunteers. We also received a generous sponsorship from Western Refining for \$5000.



Leo Moya, CE VP Board Member, concentrates on a practice shot before the big Tournament.

So, what's in our future and how can you help? **Friday, September 4th** is the Keller Williams Realty Charity Golf Tournament. You can email Annie Jaques at anniejaques@aol.com to join in on the fun to benefit Casa Esperanza, Cuidando Los Ninos and CASA. **Sunday, September 27th**, NBPNP will be hosting their second annual "Volleyball for Hope" volleyball tournament. Go to www.casaesperanzanm.org to register or become a sponsor. The funds raised at this event will directly benefit the program. **Sunday, October 25th** is the 3rd Annual Day of the Tread sponsored by Embassy Suites of Albuquerque. It is a tremendously fun bike event created for the family rider as well as for the pro. Go to www.dayofthetread.com for info and registration.

This event benefits both Casa Esperanza and Carrie Tingley Foundation. Of course don't forget our Vehicle Donation Program, "Give Hope a Ride." Our public auctions are **Saturdays July 11th, September 12th, November 14th and January 9th** at our car lot 8401 Zuni SE. You can call 277-2066 or go to www.givehopearide.com to donate your vehicles.

So, as you can see, we have been very busy at Casa Esperanza. And we continue to need your support (financial, in-kind and volunteer) to keep our doors open and fund programs like our Nina Bean Patient Navigation and Clinical Counseling programs. (I have enclosed a donation envelope for your convenience.) Please contact Angelica Medina at the house if you want to volunteer. Her email is amedina@casaesperanzanm.org, or simply give me or any staff person a call to schedule a tour of the house or time to talk to us about a planned gift. Your gift allows us to provide a home for your friends, your neighbors, and your community. Thank you for support.



Returning Alamogordo Artist Michael Copeland's 2009 Hope Chest



Sincerely,

Johnese Turri

Johnese Turri, President, Board of Directors
Casa Esperanza, Inc & Casa Esperanza Endowment Fdn.

Ps. If you are interested in receiving your correspondence from us by email; please email Maryle J. Barber mjbarber@casaesperanzanm.org to be added to our email blasts.