

# NEWS *from* CASA ESPERANZA

New Mexico's House of Hope



Spring 2000

Volume 7, Number 2



*Bank of America volunteers Dana Kuck, Jamie Wilson and Francie Rawlins traded in their calculators and laptops for hammers and drills to assist with the construction of our new playground. The Bank also supported the project with a substantial cash donation.*



*Joining in United Way's Day of Caring, Sandia National Lab Volunteers Richard Kinchen and Roy Jorgenson earned our enduring gratitude by turning 56 sets of mattresses & box springs.*

**April 9-15 is National Volunteer Recognition week**, and we are proud to once again dedicate our Spring newsletter to our outstanding volunteers. During last fiscal year alone, we logged more than 1000 volunteer hours, and we know there are many more that went unreported. By all indications, this year promises an even higher yield in terms of the precious time our volunteers give to Casa Esperanza. Beside the fact that this house could not function very well without them, our volunteers bring many immeasurable gifts to our families, especially the gift of themselves. Thank you, each and every one.



*Diane Paiko & Jocelyn Harvey, members of Honeywell's volunteer organization, Neighbors Uniting Neighbors, take charge of flipping burgers at Casa Esperanza's annual barbecue. Honeywell employee's have hosted this event for the past six years.*



*Jane Pierpoint is joined by members of her Koinonia group from Cross of Hope Lutheran Church. The group tackled the never-ending task of washing more than 50 windows at Casa. Several Koinonia groups from Cross of Hope have "adopted" Casa Esperanza and volunteer regularly.*

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## Casa Esperanza Staff

Eileen Cook	Executive Director
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Veronica Gutierrez	Residence Aide
Patricia Virgen	Residence Aide
Mike Gallegos	Maintenance Tech
Alison Rosner	Weekend Aide/Security
Erin Cook	Weekend Relief

### Our Mission

*Casa Esperanza provides a low cost home away from home for out-of-town cancer patients and their family members while the patient undergoes treatment at an Albuquerque healthcare facility.*

# Director's Page

by Eileen Cook

## Our New Backyard

Thanks to the efforts of many individuals and businesses, we are proud to announce that we now have a very secure and lovely backyard for our families to enjoy. It features a new stucco wall complete with colorful tiles and custom made wrought iron gates, an enormous redwood "clubhouse" playground structure, concrete picnic tables and benches. And the landscaping - well, you must come by and see for yourselves. We will dedicate this project on Saturday, May 6th, during our Annual Bricklaying Ceremony, from 10 a.m. to noon.

The project has long been a dream, and it is thanks to the generosity of many that the dream has finally been realized. Bank of America Charitable Foundation kicked off the efforts with a \$2500 donation and a challenge to other businesses to follow suit. PNM Foundation answered that challenge with a \$10,000 offering and Presbyterian Healthcare Foundation did the same with a \$6500 gift. Our faithful supporters at the Cosmopolitan Woman's Club contributed \$500 (these generous women have supported Casa Esperanza with an annual grant since we opened in 1992). Then we got to work.

Accents and Interiors of Santa Fe designed the wall and tile arrangements (the tiles can be removed and engraved in recognition of our Endowment and Legacy members). Sunrise Masonry constructed the wall and Richard Douglas Contractor installed the tiles. Ray Steel custom designed and installed the "child-proof" gates, Rainbow Play Systems of New Mexico designed and installed the play structure, and Bob Dugan Nursery supplied the picnic tables and benches. Our longtime friends at Alternative Landscape added pea gravel and a *banco* wall for the play area, as well as new sod, plants and shrubbery for the perfect finishing touches. We are very proud of our new backyard, and we hope you'll come by and enjoy it with us.

## Did You Know . . .

. . . that Casa Esperanza has a new web site? Maryle Barber's son John Hunter volunteered 25 hours designing, editing, registering, and the result is fantastic! Thank you, John. Check us out at:

[www.casaesperanzainalb.org](http://www.casaesperanzainalb.org).

. . . that you can donate your old car, boat or RV to benefit Casa Esperanza? And it doesn't even need to be in good running order. (An engine and wheels are essential, though.) If you're looking for a good way to dispose of that old clunker in your driveway, call the Car Program at 1-800-513-6560, and they will make arrangements to tow it out of your life. And you'll really be helping Casa Esperanza, as this has been a very successful program for us.

. . . that the Legacy Society has been established to honor those generous friends who remember Casa Esperanza in their wills? These charitable planned gifts are extremely valuable to our home, as they allow us to make long range financial plans and commitments and insure future service to those who depend on us. If you have named Casa Esperanza in your will or would like to find out how to go about doing so, please check the appropriate box on the enclosed envelope and send it back to us.

. . . That the Casa Esperanza Endowment Fund was established to insure the future soundness and maintenance of this extraordinary 18,000 sq. ft. facility - a facility that can accommodate 28 families at a time? If you would like to help us with this colossal task, just fill out the 2K2K section of the enclosed envelope and return it to us.

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Lucy Brubaker, our cherished friend and Golf Committee member, lost her long battle with cancer on March 13, 2000. We miss you, Lucy.

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## A very different kind of Volunteer *by Maryle J. Barber*

Last year was my first gold event at Casa Esperanza. I have never worked for an agency that benefited from a golf event such as our Mike Moore Golf Classic. I had not even been on a golf course since high school. Earlier in the year I had sold my first mulligan - I now know this to be the thing which golfers carefully guard and protect and from which non profit agencies reap great rewards. I attended nine months of committee meetings- a real labor and delivery production - and met many wonderful, caring, committed and energized volunteers. Each volunteer had a specific task to accomplish before, during and after the event. I learned that there were both "up front" volunteers and "behind the scene" volunteers. There were "organized" volunteers and "creative" volunteers. Soon I began to hear about one particular volunteer who never came to meetings, but who was reported to be creative, organized and supportive. Any time someone spoke of the silent auction and all the wonderful donations we received, her name was mentioned. If you needed help, you were to call Kerri Allgood. She would know how to get that special donation. She always came through. I became interested in meeting this person. I asked myself, why would someone who lives in Gallup, who may have never been inside Casa Esperanza, care so much about our ability to provide a home away from home for cancer patients?

I did a little research. Kerri was born in Mountainair, NM and raised in Gallup, where she still lives. She is the daughter of Jack and Edie Redfearn and has one brother, Ron, who lives in Farmington. Kerri met and married her husband, Lance, in Gallup. Lance is Supervisor of the Gallup Water Department and Kerri was the branch manager of the Santa Fe Credit Union formerly located in Gallup. Kerri has several very specific loves in her life. There is Lance, of

course, and a dog, Krinkles, her family and *golf*. Kerri remembers her dad playing golf, and she thought back then that it was a pretty dumb sport. But alas, she caught the bug, and she has been playing for at least 13 years - often playing with Lance, her mother Edie and her friend Fred Moore. And maybe to justify her love of the game, Kerri volunteers at the golf course in Gallup and for Casa Esperanza's golf event.

I finally got to meet Kerri last June at the second annual Mike Moore Memorial Golf Classic. She smiles, works hard, laughs a lot and loves her family and friends and golf.

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*"I love golf  
and I  
believe  
in  
Casa  
Esperanza."*

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hope to go. What more can an agency possibly ask of a volunteer?

I asked Kerri why she cares about Casa Esperanza. She replied that her dad had cancer, and she remembers how difficult it was for him and her mother to drive back and forth between Belen and Albuquerque for his treatments. Kerri's dad died six years ago. Then came another devastating blow. Fred Moore's wife Michelle (Mike) was diagnosed with can-

cer, and they also started making the tedious drives back and forth between Albuquerque and Belen - that is until they learned about Casa Esperanza. Fred stayed in our home while Mike was in the hospital, and after Mike's death, Fred suggested a golf event in Mike's memory. Edie and Kerri became immediately involved with Fred in planning the event, resulting in a wonderful new rela-



*Volunteer Kerri Allgood, Gallup, NM*

tionship with Casa Esperanza.

I also asked Kerri why she thought that businesses in Gallup care about Casa Esperanza? She said that this house is very well-known in Gallup, and many businesses like to show their strong support by donating valuable items for our silent auction. Kerri said "they know people who have either stayed at CE or were traveling back and forth, and they want to support the house so that Casa Esperanza will be there the next time someone needs a place." However, I think Edie and Kerri are two of the main reasons why people in Gallup know about Casa Esperanza, which shows just how effective "word-of-mouth" advertising can be. Kerri thinks it is very important that a place like this exists. Thanks for all you do, Kerri, to make sure it continues to do so. I look forward to June and to working with you again.

## 3RD ANNUAL MIKE MOORE MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC

### What A Blast!

Due to the enormously profitable efforts of the Golf Committee and to the huge success of last year's events, we find ourselves with a mixed blessing. It is due in large part to the exceptional efforts of Valencia County individuals and businesses that we have had such amazing success. But because of this very success, we have outgrown our venue in Belen and must move from Tierra del Sol Country Club, our wonderful host for the past two years.

This year our banquet extravaganza will be held on Friday June 23 at the Albuquerque Marriott. There, as last year, we will conduct a reverse drawing resulting in a \$10,000 grand prize winner (or \$2500 if the remaining four tickets drawn are each marked "split"). Even if you don't win the big prize, you have a good chance to win something, since every 10th ticket drawn is at least a \$100 winner. Tickets, available for \$100 each, will enter you in the drawing AND admit two for dinner. Those of you who attended last year's banquet remember how lively this particular event was, and this year promises to be every bit as spirited.

Another event featured at the banquet will be a silent auction. And this year we have a great deal more to offer - from fine art, jewelry and rugs to weekend "get-aways" and autographed sports paraphernalia and collectibles. You may see and bid on some of our more interesting items at [www.abqauctions.com](http://www.abqauctions.com) beginning May 1.

The golf tournament will be on Saturday, June 24th at Isleta Eagle Golf Course. We will host 188 players for a

shotgun start, and the "flighted" team slots are filling fast. We expect several celebrity golfers to participate, so we encourage you to reserve your teams now. The \$85 golf registration fee includes lunch and all the usual goodies. Mulligans will again be available for \$3 each or two for \$5. Of course, we know no one really needs a mulligan or two!

For information on any of these events, please call Eileen or Maryle at the office, 277-9880, or one of the Golf Committee Co-Chairs - Beverly Luna, 864-0587 or Fred Moore, 864-3651.

Please show your appreciation to our major event sponsors by taking your business to them. They are: WB-19-TV and New Mexico's 50 UPN, Isleta Gaming Palace, Radisson Santa Fe, Albuquerque Marriott Hotel, NM Travertine & Rocky Mountain Stone, Bank of Albuquerque, Burn & Littlefield PC, Intel Corporation, Wal-Mart Super Store in Belen, Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Wells Fargo Bank in Belen, Valley Improvement Association, Beverly Luna Chevrolet-Olds, Casey Luna Ford-Mercury, Furr's Supermarket in Belen, Valencia County *News Bulletin*, KOB 770 Radio, KNML 1050 "The Sports Animal" Radio and KRST 92.3 Radio. We will publish a complete list of all participating sponsors in the Summer 2000 newsletter. Meanwhile, our heartfelt thanks to each and everyone of you who help make the *Mike Moore Memorial Golf Classic & Banquet Extravaganza* a smashing success.

*Happy and smiling through it all, eight-month old Reyes Manuel Salazar-Banda is Casa Esperanza's youngest cancer patient currently in residence. Reyes is here with his parents Roberto Salazar and Ruby Banda of Las Cruces.*



## Guest Relations Committee

The Board of Directors established a new standing committee in March to deal with issues directly affecting our residents - the Guest Relations Committee chaired by board member Karen Mann. After their first meeting, members quickly decided that two subcommittees were needed - one dealing with hospitality concerns and the other dealing with resident needs. Both groups have already met and are off to a roaring start.

Board member Johnese Turri chairs the Amusements & Diversions Subcommittee and is joined by community volunteers Maggie Eifert and Marcia Schiff, and CE Community Relations Manager, Maryle Barber. They have already thrown a party for St. Paddy's Day,

and plans include special holiday events, potluck dinners (as well as catered dinners from area restaurants), and other CE special events. For instance, the committee has arranged for Albuquerque Title employees to provide the refreshments for our Annual Bricklaying Ceremony and to host the event as well.

Former CE Executive Director and current volunteer Lily Curtis chairs the Resident Needs Subcommittee, and is joined by board member Zane Reeves and volunteers from UNM Cancer Research & Treatment Center, Rod Touchet, Social Work Case Manager and Judith Payne, Director of Clinical Services. Laura Abeita, our Residence Manager, is also a member. These energetic souls



have agreed to tackle such issues as the care-giver requirement, transportation and child-care needs, as well as making sure that CE's message is reaching all those who need to know about us. The staff could not be more delighted that the board has established

this committee and that so many people have committed themselves to its success. We are absolutely certain that our guests will benefit enormously from their efforts.

### Up Coming Casa Esperanza Events

#### **Annual Bricklaying and Dedications**

May 6, 2000 10:00am - 12:00noon at Casa Esperanza

#### **Annual Barbeque**

May 23, 2000 6:30pm at Casa Esperanza

#### **Mike Moore Memorial Golf Classic**

Banquet, June 23, 2000 6:00pm at Albuquerque Marriott  
Golf Tournament, June 24, 2000 7:00am at Isleta Golf Course

#### **Annual Dinner**

September 15, 2000 6:30pm at Albuquerque Marriott

# Su Casa Suite Dedications

Saturday morning, May 6th, during our Annual Bricklaying Ceremony, we will officially dedicate our two *Su Casa* suites - the Valencia County and the Curry County suites. The *Su Casa* program encourages support of the house by the communities statewide which are served by Casa Esperanza. Communities or counties

are asked to adopt one of our 28 rooms or suites at a suggested annual "fee" of \$3500 to \$5000 - the approximate cost of operating and maintaining each unit for a year. Valencia County and Curry County have valiantly risen to the occasion by sponsoring annual events to benefit Casa Esperanza, and Grant County is in the process of doing so. In

return, these counties have brought a bit of local color to their "adoptees" by providing arts and crafts produced in their communities. Believe me, this goes a long way in making our guests feel more at home. Call Eileen Cook at the office for more information about this opportunity.

"NEWS from Casa Esperanza" is published three times a year by Casa Esperanza, Inc. in Albuquerque, NM.

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