

NEWS

from



Summer 2004

Volume 11 Number 2

Members of Cub Scout Pack #442 brought much needed toiletries for our families.



Joe and Rita Scaletti and Helen and Sid Eskow volunteer at the dunking booth at the Coca Cola Rodeo. Proceeds were donated to Casa Esperanza.



Cardinal Health volunteers come each year to help our families decorate the house for the holidays. Everyone had loads of fun.



Pictured are Michelle Halberg, an employee of Cardinal Health, and her two daughters. Casa Esperanza welcomes volunteers of all ages.



CE hosts many youth volunteers from area churches, this time from the Northeast Church of Christ. Wow, what hard work they do for us.

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DIRECTOR'S PAGE

by Eileen Cook

We saw a need. Actually, we knew about the need for a very long time, but it took someone else to give us a way to meet it. Will and Jeanmaire Weinstein of San Francisco came to visit last year and seemed taken with Casa Esperanza and the services we provide. Will is a cancer survivor, and he understood. He understood so completely that he came to us with a plan. He knew first hand how crippling cancer can be – physically yes, but also of course, emotionally debilitating as well as financially overwhelming. Our families come to us in crisis, leaving every possible means of support in their home communities. They have left family members, friends, jobs, schools and churches to travel to Albuquerque in what could be the most devastating period of their lives. Will wanted to help.

So, he challenged us. He committed the Weinstein Family Fund to supporting an in-house clinical counseling program at Casa Esperanza and in return expected us to match funding ourselves or successfully find funding to match his contributions. And we've been hard at work at that task, with several grant proposals pending approval. Certain of success, and not wanting to wait and very eager to start, we began the program in January with an initial grant of \$7500 from the Weinstein Family Fund.

What a success it has been, too. Bob Stice, LPCC, is the program director and has over twenty-five years of private practice experience in the areas of clinical counseling and psychotherapy with individuals and families. For a number of years, he provided clinical supervision for staff at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Bob is also a member of our board of directors and was Will's recommendation to direct the program.

Bob spends every available Tuesday evening at Casa Esperanza, in-

teracting with our families at dinner time and scheduling appointments for Thursday afternoon each week. Our Guest Services Team ensures that families are made aware of the program and Bob's availability, and the families seem eager to avail themselves of this free service. Bob is becoming quite a regular feature in the house. Bob provides staff support as well, especially in providing us with the tools to deal with grief. It is clear that our families deal with grief even in the absence of death, grief over the temporary but very real loss of home and health. And we staff members grieve as well, for we feel deeply the loss of friends who have been with us a while.

There was a problem. Now there is a solution - one which will provide ongoing support for our families.

You Can Make a Difference ...

A gift to us demonstrates your belief in our mission and reinforces your commitment to making a difference in the lives of families who must depend on Casa Esperanza. Many types of gifts allow you to fulfill your charitable intentions and may result in immediate and possible future benefits for you. For instance, if you own property that is not mortgaged and has appreciated in value, a charitable gift may be an attractive option. You can claim an income tax deduction based on the fair market value of the property, avoid all capital gains taxes and remove that asset from your taxable estate. Or, you can transfer your home or farm to us now and continue to use the property for life. Due to the complexities involved, we encourage you to contact your estate planning attorney or financial advisor for advice. Please contact us to discuss gifts of real estate and other planned giving opportunities.

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Casa Esperanza has a wonderful website maintained by Shelly Lieberman. Be sure to check it out for the most current and up to date pictures and information on past event and upcoming events, how to donate on-line (secure site) and how to become involved at CE. Our website is: www.casaesperanzanm.org

Cancer Services of New Mexico: 2004 Family Cancer Retreat will provide NM's adult cancer patients/survivors and the family members and loved ones who serve as their primary caregivers with a week-end of education, reflection, and rejuvenation in a relaxing and beautiful environment. The retreat will focus on educating participants on the process of surviving, from the difficulties of handling the initial diagnosis, through coping with therapy, through a variety of medical and social topics relating to at-home care and the emotional issues associated with surviving. The program will be held from September 10-12, 2004 at the LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center in Glorieta NM (approximately 18 miles from Santa Fe). **There is no charge to participate** in the retreat - the entire program, including meals, lodging, and all educational activities is provided at **no cost to participants**. **Space is limited**. To pick up an application, stop by Casa Esperanza, call Blaire Larson at (505) 259-9583 or go to www.CancerServicesNM.org.

Nick and Grace Martinez

by Crusita Jaime

Nick and Grace Martinez met in Gallup, where they fell in love and married on May 29, 1948. They have three sons, two daughters, ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Nick and Grace have been married for a total of fifty-six years and plan to be together for many, many more.

Nick lived in Atarque until 1945 when he was drafted into the US Army, 34th Combat Engineers. In 1946 he spent 6 months in South Korea, building roads and pads for troops and officers' quarters'. After coming back in 1947, Nick worked for Fort Wingate Army Depot in Gallup until retiring in July 1973; after retiring he went to work for Rico Motor Company for 6 years, and then to Carbon Coal Company for 12 years. Finally he really retired in January 1991.

Nick and Grace love to spend time together in their home in Gallup, and Nick likes to hunt with his sons and grandson. Life in retirement was just grand.

Then in 2003, Nick got the worst news of his life: he was diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Nick's doctor gave him three choices; the first was to do nothing, the second was to undergo radiation, the third was surgery. His doctor recommended radiation, so Nick chose the seven weeks of radiation treatment.

When Grace heard about Nick's prostate cancer, she was shocked, but they agreed that the best thing to do was to take the doctors advice, and to have faith.

Each week Nick's doctor orders an ultrasound to see if the cancer has grown or gotten smaller, and each week Nick gets good news.

One day at the Cancer Center, Nick and Grace met a wonderful couple by the name of Salaz, a family who had stayed at Casa Esperanza while Mr. Salaz was getting his treatments. This family talked about Casa Esperanza as if it was their home, about how much they loved their stay. That day Nick and Grace spoke with social worker Carol Jordan about staying at Casa Esperanza.

Nick tries not to think much about his cancer-each day is the same for him, with just a few added appointments each week, "I am 76 years old, and I have had a great life with my fam-

ily. I have always had faith, and I will let God lead us."

"Casa is our home in this time of need; we look forward to coming each week to see our new friends." Nick has a son who lives in town, and Nick and Grace spend one night each week with him before coming to Casa Esperanza for the rest of the week. In his time of need, Nick says his wife has been a Godsend, as she has been there to help him and to care for him. As life goes on for the Martinez family, they



Nick and Grace Martinez at Casa Esperanza

are always thankful for the life they have lived and each day they have with one another and with their family.

~Over \$18,000 Raised by our second annual Caja de Esperanza Fiesta~

CAJA DE ESPERANZA



Participating Artists:

Pat Beatty, Mike Copeland, Dee Sanchez, Abby McCulloch, Lori Musil, Barbara Romero, Joycelyn Campbell, Virginia Gonzales, Connie Blake, John Saunders, Caroline Babbitt & Patsy Delk, Luanne Burgin & Jenna Burgin, Ruth Andrews Vreeland, Patricia Brkich, Nancy Wood Taber, Charlie Odegard, Gary & Carolyn Roller, Amado & J.B. Pena, Liz Rowe & Peggy Engel, Linda Morel, Darryl Willison, Patricia Forbes, Tim Donahue, Mike Gallegos, Lily Curtis and OK Harris. **Sponsors:** Unpainted Furniture; Albuquerque Monument; Alphagraphics on Osuna; Lamar Outdoor Advertising; Double Tree Hotel and Catering; John Greenleaf Furniture; KHFM;

Rhombus; Land America-Albuquerque Title; Wells Fargo Bank; French Mortuary; Talbot Agency; T. Zane Reeves; Robert E. Bussey D.D.S.; John L. & Toots Green; Laurie A. Hedrich, P.A.; Jimmy's Cafe on Jefferson; Life by Design; Haley's Hallmark Flowers and Gift Baskets; Hamilton-O'Dell Funeral Home; Jason Pike; Greta Weiner and Shirley Rich at Keller Williams Realty.

Committee Members: Lee Beckley; Jody Contreras; Melanie Cravens, Vikki Florez, Johnese Turri, Greta Weiner, Eileen Cook and Maryle J. Barber. **Special Assistants:** Dick Loyd; Christina Kennedy; Del Norte Jr. ROTC and all the extra people who volunteered their time to make this event a great success. **Special Guests:** Steve Stucker, Eyewitness News 4 Today, Emcee; Bob Padilla, Auctioneer and crew; the music group "Festival."



Left are Eyewitness News 4 Today's Steve Stucker and Johnese Turri, member of Casa Esperanza's Board of Directors. Steve was Emcee for the event.



Shown above is Albuquerque's legendary cowboy Red Rider admiring the hope chest decorated by his son, artist John Saunders. Saunders' chest brought the highest bid at this year's event, raising \$2000 for Casa Esperanza.

To the right is artist Darryl Willison, enjoying some of the great food at the Caja de Esperanza event. Double Tree of Albuquerque was the caterer and host at the downtown Wool Warehouse.





Each year Marvin Glass from Wal-Mart Distribution Center and his teammates participate in the tournament. Behind them is the PT Cruiser donated as a hole-in-one prize from Auge's Dodge-Chrysler-Jeep. Alas, no winner this year!



Get ready, get set, go... Carts are lined up and ready for the 142 players for the annual event.

Fred Moore makes the early morning announcement before the teams head out for the tournament.



7th Annual Michelle "Mike" Moore Memorial Golf Classic raises over \$10,000

Participating Sponsors and Supporters:

Kachina (Media) KNML 610 Radio, Comcast, Valencia County News Bulletin

Kokopelli \$2500 Wal-Mart Distribution Center

Koshare \$1000 Auge's Dodge-Chrysler-Jeep, Tierra del Sol Golf & Country Club, French Mortuary, Albuquerque Lighting, Talbot Agency, Wells Fargo Bank (Albuquerque & Belen)

Shalako \$500 Howard Electric, T. Zane Reeves, Falcon Ridge Development, LLC.

Mana Course \$100 Romero Funeral Home, Marty's Muffler, Small Business Computing, Sugar Bowl Lanes, La Merced Moose Lodge, Steve Dudoich Lawn Maintenance, Casa Crew, Carl's Wood Designs, Dennis Sylvester, Michelle Campbell, United General Title Insurance, Christian Fellowship Church, Union Savings Bank, Peltier Gustafson & Miller, McKelly Roofing, Sunshine Flowers & Gifts, Deborah Taylor, Ranchers Bank, Exit Altura Realty, Coldwell Banker, Bank of Belen, Buckland Pharmacy, Carpet Warehouse, Stewart Title of Valencia, Inc., Share N'Care Pharmacy & Medical Supply, Bette Carleton, Gerald Chavez Realty

Non-Attending Sponsors: Bob & Faye Tucker, Edward Schuler, Clyde & Nancy Detty, Tommy & Linda Perkins, Robert & Catherine Malone, Charles Hobby, Harold & Sue Wakitsch, John & Delores Sorenson, Peter & Lois McCatharn, Richard & Nancy Feldbush, Carl & Marie Schauer, John & Mary Lee McCoy, Cortez Kibble, Lemoine Hopkins, Sid & Helen Eskow, Joe Morales, Reynaldo & Cecelia Rivera, Victor & Nancy Scovill, David & Alice Coats, Mrs. James Kauffman, Irving & Jill Rubin, Barbara J. Davis, Peggy Lacey, William & Ann Hancock

In-Kind Donations for Silent Auction: Erin Cook, Fred & Edie Moore, Nick Landers, Travertine, Glenn Magelssen, Leo Moya, Richardson Trading Co., Turney's Inc., Randy Slaughter, Mary Silverwood, Michelle Campbell, Sunshine Flowers, Lance & Kerri Allgood, Tim Cron, Gerald & Jane Chavez, Sierra del Sol Condominums in Taos, Daniel Griego, Tierra del So Golf & Country Club, Pete's Restaurant, Monique Sanchez, La Mirada, Art & Virginia Romero, T & R Market, Inc., Maryle J. Barber, Eileen C. Cook, Adele Fuller, George Trujeque, Pavlos Panagopoulos, GT Communications and Bob & Midge Cron

In-kind Donation for Ditty Bags: United General Title, Steve Dudoich, Frito-Lay, Coca Cola Bottling Co. of Albuquerque, Premier Distributing, Wells Fargo Bank, Golf USA, UNM Cancer Research and Treatment Center

Special Thanks to Tom Nielson, General Manager, Tierra del Sol Golf and Country Club and staff for providing the facilities and excellent service that make this event such a success. **Special Thanks** to the event committee for their tireless efforts: Sid Eskow-Chair, Fred & Edie Moore, Kerri Allgood, Midge Cron, Michelle Campbell, Steve Dudoich, Rita Garcia, Karen Karnes, Cathy Malone, Leo Moya, Ginny Romero, Helen Eskow, Eileen Cook and Maryle Barber. **Special Thanks** to our great volunteers that came out early and stayed late: Jenny Barber, Erin Cook, Adam Youtzy, Leland Casey, Ryan Casey, Gail Turnmire, Carol Nichols, Debbi Eichler, Ida Armstrong, Don Armstrong, Bob Malone, Don Karnes, Bob Cron, Lance Allgood, Cy Jackson and Vic Scovill. **Special Thanks** to all the extra volunteers for giving the energy and care that goes such a long way in making this event a success.





Casa Esperanza was blessed in many ways this year. One blessing was an angel named Jim Wiley. He donated his time cooking every Tuesday night for all of our families. Jim and his family were recently relocated back to their home town in Colorado, and we miss him dearly. Many thanks to this kind-hearted man who helped make a difference at Casa Esperanza. Tuesdays are now know as "Family Night." If you are interested in helping out with dinner on Tuesday nights, give Serena Talamantes a call at 277-9880.

Each Spring, Casa Esperanza hosts a Volunteer Recognition lunch for our hard working supporters. Over 75 volunteers were invited to celebrate their accomplishments this year. Pictured in our new "Carol Palmer Family Room" is Don De Noon, regular office volunteer, and Audrey Vernon from Sierra Vista Civitans. If you are interested in volunteering, give Serena Talamantes a call at 277-9880 and make it happen.





May 1st was our annual Bricklaying, an opportunity for families to be recognized for their generous donations to Casa Esperanza. At left is Mary Ann Howard, Casa Esperanza Board Chair, and Betty Othmer, representing Cosmopolitan Woman's Club. Pictured below are the family members of Marilyn Jackson placing their brick in memory of Chuck Martin.



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Something Good This Way Comes...

from the notebook of Angelica Medina

I have long believed that something positive can come out of something negative. And I have a great story to share, one that will well illustrate my point.

PNM generously donates tickets to us for several Isotopes baseball games each season, and we had several families attending a game in May. Such activities provide our families with a much needed respite from their daily hospital and treatment routines, and we are very grateful to PNM for providing these chances to forget – just for a little while.

One family attending that night has a daughter undergoing treatments at UNM Cancer Research and Treatment Center. She has been at the hospital for a very long time, and is expected to remain there for an indefinite period, requiring her family to move to Albuquerque, as the services she requires are not offered in their hometown hospital.

So the family took time out and went to see the Isotopes play against the Tucson Sidewinders. Their seats were perfect - they were right behind home base, right up front. Behind them sat a team official whose job it was to record the speed of the ball thrown by the pitcher to the batter. The mother in the family, Mom we'll call her, began to talk to the man, and she told him that her grandkids were very excited to be at a baseball game. Mom is originally from New York and grew up attending Yankees' games. But her grandchildren had never attended a real live baseball game before,

and this was such a treat. The official asked where they were from and why they were here, so she began to tell him their story.

The day after the baseball game, Mom came to Casa Esperanza and told us what a terrific time they had at the game. She also informed us that something wonderful had resulted from her conversation with the team official.

Apparently he talked to both teams and told them about the family staying at Casa Esperanza. The teams took it upon themselves to visit the daughter at the hospital the day after the game. They brought her banners, small baseball bats, baseballs, stuffed animals and all sorts of goodies. Mom commented to the baseball players that they had been in this big ruckus the night before, and now, here they were, together, bringing light and joy into her daughter's life. They responded that for such special circumstances, there is no fighting, no competition. They stayed and visited with the daughter and then took time to visit with other patients on that floor. All the nurses, doctors and patients were indeed astonished to see two teams of baseball players on their floor, and were grateful and supportive of their acts of kindness.

So, something good this way came – directly to benefit a young woman battling cancer. Thanks so much to PNM and to the Albuquerque Isotopes, and to the Tucson Sidewinders as well.

Our Mission

Casa Esperanza provides affordable housing for families facing cancer.

“NEWS from Casa Esperanza” is published two times a year by Casa Esperanza, Inc. in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Casa Esperanza (Tax ID #: 85-0356946) is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. All contributions are tax deductible. Casa Esperanza does not telemarket, participate in door-to-door solicitation, or campaign via chain letters or e-mail appeals. Casa Esperanza receives a portion of its funding from a contract with the New Mexico Department of Health. Casa Esperanza is a participant in the NM Department of Health Comprehensive Cancer Plan.

Member: National Association of Hospital Hospitality Houses, a professional organization that promotes and assists not-for-profit programs that provide lodging and supportive services in a caring environment for families accompanying ill loved ones away from home. To learn more about NAHHH and other special places such as Casa Esperanza, visit www.nahhh.org.

Member: Albuquerque Cancer Coalition, an alliance of cancer support agencies, hospital treatment centers and governmental agencies to inform, to educate and to advocate on behalf of NM cancer patients and their families.

Member: Chambers of Commerce in Albuquerque, Belen, Clovis, Alamogordo, Los Lunas.

Member: Albuquerque Better Business Bureau.

~Donate your car, boat or RV to benefit Casa Esperanza. Call 1-800-513-6560 or visit www.donatecar.com and let them know you want to designate Casa Esperanza as the beneficiary of your donation.~

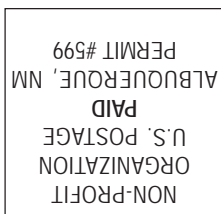
~If you receive more than one newsletter, please share it with someone who will find it interesting and useful.~

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