Before becoming homeless I looked forward to the holidays; I had lots of friends around and did all the festive things that come with the holidays. In 1997 I lost my job and became homeless. I ended up having a mental breakdown. I moved from California to Las Cruces, NM. I had an RV and soon lost it. Being new to the world of homelessness I had to learn how to survive very fast. I found a place to sleep behind a truck stop. Some homeless guys felt it wasn’t safe for me there so they built me a hutch behind the sewer plant. For money I learned how to fly a sign. Started to drink everyday and heavily. I had a very lonely time during the holidays. Eating in soup kitchens, I no longer fit in with the community. There was no reason to window shop; I had no money. During the Christmas holidays I wanted to go to church; at least celebrate baby Jesus’ birthday. They ushered me to the back of the church in case I became odorous. I felt so unwelcome even in church; even knowing that Jesus too was homeless.

...continues on page 2...
Our Sincere Gratitude Goes Out to These Organizations & Individuals

Special Thanks to:
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Sue Campbell...Continued from page 1
Being cradled with nature, helped me raise my spirits enough to want to try again back into the mainstream.
In 1998 The Mesilla Valley Community of Hope was built, a day shelter for homeless persons. I started going there. I took care of my basic needs and got some counseling from a social worker. I healed enough to start volunteering and then learned how to be a case manager. Now twelve years later I’m the Client Services Supervisor. People trust me because I’ve been there. I help people with basic needs. I am giving back as it was given to me back then. I have become a SOAR Rep. Helping chronically homeless get on benefits and off the streets. I am a big advocate for people with mental illness. Belonging to NAMI and the Chairman of Fic-Dac helping persons with mental health issues get fair treatment.
I have a great home with my animals and we celebrate the holidays together with great meals and treats. Now I go to the dog park and have made many new great friends. I also have great co-workers to share the holiday spirit with.

Happy Holidays Everyone! Love Peace and Happiness!, Sue Campbell, Homeless Advocate and NMCEH Board Member
On November 9, 2010 Wendy Wintermute presented The New Mexico Campaign to End Child Homelessness Report In Response to House Memorial 7 (HM7) to the New Mexico Legislature Interim Committee for Health and Human Services. The Report follows up on HM7, sponsored by Representative Bill O’Neill passed during the February 2010 legislative session. The profound impact and consequences of homelessness, experienced by 14,500 New Mexico children every year, prompted the legislature to request a study on child homelessness and to ask for recommendations to end it. The report proposes to eradicate child homeless in New Mexico by increasing coordination and collaboration among state agencies, service providers and community leaders working to prevent and end homelessness, by ensuring access to quality, affordable housing in New Mexico, by ensuring access to educational opportunities, by increasing access to high quality early childhood development and care, by increasing income support, by improving access to health and behavioral health care, by insuring access to supportive services, by increasing data collection efforts, and by increasing revenue to support initiatives to prevent and end child homelessness.

Wendy Wintermute received the Legislature Interim Committee full attention with comments from Senator Cisco McSorley and Representative Antonio Lujan and Representative Gail Chasey visibly moved by the report. Senator McSorley asked for an example of an organization with proven accomplishments in child homelessness eradication. Cuidando Los Niños Executive Director Dr. Jaime Taimez took the stand to describe his nationally accredited program providing early childhood development and therapeutic services to children and their families experiencing homelessness. 74% of the families who complete Cuidando Los Niños year-long program achieve stable housing and are once again self-sufficient and ready to engage in their community.

Permanent Supportive Housing in Numbers
by Hank Hughes, Executive Director

People who are homeless and also have disabling conditions are the ones who are most likely to be stuck in homelessness for a long time. The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness has made it a priority to house this group of people in programs that provide permanent supportive housing. This statewide goal is in keeping with national goals to prioritize help to the chronically homeless people with disabilities. The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness estimates that New Mexico needs at least 2,100 permanent supportive housing beds to provide housing for all of the homeless disabled people in New Mexico and so this is our short term goal. The NM Human Services Department estimates a need for 5,000 units total, a longer term goal. The chart shows progress from 2003 through 2010 toward reaching these goals. We are making steady progress, but we are not there yet!
Casa Libertad helps Toby Winklar Get a New Start
by Stephanie Jacquot, Office Manager

Toby Winklar just turned 18. He has been living at Casa Libertad for a year. Prior to moving to Casa Libertad, Toby’s living situation had been precarious. As a teenager, he was living at a relative’s house where he slept on the floor and experienced rejection and psychological and physical abuse. At 16, Toby eventually left and stayed at friends’ houses for a few months before he finally checked in at the Santa Fe Emergency Youth Shelter. When Casa Libertad opened in April 2010, Toby moved into a two-bedroom apartment with a roommate.

His second floor apartment at the is welcoming and filled with light. The door opens to a living space with a bright green wall, a set of drums, a dining area and a cozy sofa. At first it was challenging for Toby to move to Casa Libertad. He feels he learned and changed a lot. He used to be very quiet; he has become outspoken and confident. He works two jobs, pays rent, and is responsible for taking care of his place. Next spring he will be taking classes at the Santa Fe Community College. He is also planning on traveling to France or Argentina with his church to learn the language and help others.

Casa Libertad

NMCEH staff members Hank Hughes and Mark Oldknow helped Youth Shelter and Family Services raise the funds to build Casa Libertad and helped with managing construction. Casa Libertad is a Santa Fe Transitional Living Program providing supervised apartment living and educational support services for homeless adolescents and parenting teens, ages 16 to 21. An intensive curriculum in independent living skills is part of the program. The program assists homeless adolescents in becoming independent and productive citizens.

After 10 years of successfully operating an emergency youth shelter, YS launched the Transitional Living Program (TLP). The program serves homeless youth and pregnant/parenting adolescents ages 16-21 for up to 1 ½ years in a 24-hour supervised apartment setting. TLP allows youth to build life skills and save money so that they can move out on their own and become independent and contributing members of society.