



HOUSING FOR ALL!!!

NEWS FROM THE NEW MEXICO COALITION
TO END HOMELESSNESS

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Four Corners Foundation To the Rescue

by Hank Hughes, Executive Director

Before the Four Corners Foundation came along the PATH Shelter in Farmington struggled in an old building that was far too small. The plumbing was in constant danger of being destroyed by the garbage truck. At the same time there were few options for people who needed help moving out of the shelter.

The Four Corners Foundation was formed to improve the situation for homeless people in Farmington and the Foundation quickly realized they could be most effective if they teamed up with PATH, which had been sheltering homeless people for 30 years. The Four Corners Foundation raised almost \$3 million and financed another \$1.6 million to build a new shelter with twice the capacity and 12 small transitional apartments.

Jonna Sharp, the executive director of PATH, gave me a tour of the new facilities on a sunny day in July. We were joined by Matt deKay, President and Pat Gross, Executive Director of the Four Corners Foundation. The new shelter can house 72 people and has separate wings for men, women and families with children. There is plenty of space for cooking, eating, relaxing and learning new skills. A computer room was being set up.

The transitional housing consists of 12 one bedroom apartments in a building that is three stories tall. Each apartment has a nice kitchen and is sunny and modern. The transitional housing will be used for families as well as single people with disabilities. People will be allowed to stay up to two years in the transitional apartments.



The Four Corners Foundation is busy raising more money to pay off the debt on the buildings and then perhaps they will build more. I was impressed at this example of a community coming together to help the homeless people in their town.

Matt DeKay and Pat Gross of the Four Corners Foundation flank Jonna Sharp of PATH in Farmington standing front of the 12 new transitional housing apartments for homeless people

Our Sincere Gratitude Goes Out to These Individuals & Organizations

Special Thanks to:

Advisory Board Members **Patti Ferguson and Peter and Honey Chapin** for very generous donations to our Individuals and Families fund this summer!

Brian Brigham and Piñon Fast Print for low cost printing for the past 14 years. We wish Brian the best in his new endeavors with Alphagraphics.

The **Santa Fe Community Housing Trust** for their very generous donation and to executive director **Sharron Welsh** for making sure their apartment developments include apartments for people who have been homeless.

The **Mortgage Finance Authority** for including NMCEH as a partner in the New Mexico Housing Summit in August.

The **Indian Pueblo Cultural Center** in Albuquerque for hosting our 2014 annual conference.

The corporate sponsors for our 2014 Housing for All Conference: **City of Albuquerque, MFA, Moye Waters and Associates, Bank of the West, Delta Dental, The Apartment Association of New Mexico, and Century Bank.**

Our major organizational supporters:

- . New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority
- . The City of Albuquerque
- . The Daniels Fund
- . The Frost Foundation
- . The McCune Foundation
- . The US Department of Housing and Urban Development

Thank you to Our Individual Supporters (since April 2014):

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Patricia and Michael Owens
Pattie Ravenheart
Kathryn Sherlock
Martha and Ken Simonsen
Annette Strom
Marvin Van Dilla

Thank You!

We want you to know that your thoughtfulness is truly making a difference in the lives of hundreds of New Mexicans in need of supportive services and housing!

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For a list of our 77 members, please go to www.nmceh.org

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Save the Date! The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness Fourth Annual Conference is scheduled for April 9, 2015 in Albuquerque.

Coordinated Assessment Begins in New Mexico

by Roman Seaburgh, Coordinated Assessment Director

On June 1st, the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness and its members began the implementation of the New Mexico Coordinated Assessment Pilot (CAP). Coordinated Assessment is a system that uses a standardized assessment tool to assess a homeless individual's or a family's vulnerability and to refer them immediately to multiple housing options which meet their needs. The CAP (pilot project) is a collaboration with NMCEH and selected providers in Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Sandoval County. The CAP will first focus on chronically homeless individuals and families. System mapping of the pilot agencies was conducted before the launch to identify the flow of services and ways to ease client navigation through the homeless system.

The Pilot kicked off in the city of Santa Fe with St. Elizabeth Shelter and The Life Link. Chronically homeless individual residing in the emergency shelter looking for housing were identified and assessed for vulnerability. These individuals then were referred to several housing options. Homeless people that were not immediately residing within the emergency shelter were assessed at Life Link and the Housing Trust.

Sandoval County was then incorporated into the pilot to begin to bridge the gap between Santa Fe and Albuquerque, as well as incorporate feedback. From the kickoff CAP encountered a few issues and needed to address them before incorporating any other providers. After slight modification to the process Casa Milagro and the Santa Fe Community Housing Trust joined in. The Coordinated Assessment has now expanded in to Albuquerque to include the Supportive Housing Coalition, Heading Home, Crossroads for Women, Barrett Foundation and Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless.

Eventually, within a year, the project will include all of the federally funded homeless service providers in New Mexico as well as many privately funded agencies. At that point homeless people throughout New Mexico will be able to be assessed for the best housing for them, and then obtain appropriate housing assistance more quickly and efficiently.

Since the launch of the CAP providers have identified and assessed 24 chronically homeless individuals. Of those 24 seven have had secured vouchers for housing and three have moved in to housing.

Greetings, NMCEH Members!

by Kristin Fleming, Planning Assistant

My name is Kristin Fleming and I am the newest addition to the NMCEH staff here in Albuquerque. I've been on board since June, and I've already learned so much from my wonderful colleagues and our incredible community this summer.

Before moving to New Mexico, I received my bachelor's degree in Urban Studies and Community Organizing from the University of Pittsburgh. While there, I also had the opportunity to study in Havana, Cuba and later, to study permaculture and natural building with the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. I decided to keep moving and landed here in Albuquerque, where a number of opportunities and wonderful people have convinced me to stay. I have come to make New Mexico my home, and am thrilled to have this opportunity to be of service here.

As the Planning Assistant, I will be working primarily with Lisa Huval on coordinating the annual Continuum of Care process as well as helping to organize events and trainings hosted by the Coalition. As an AmeriCorps alum, I'm especially excited to begin working with our agency member's VISTA volunteers as well when they join us later this fall.

For those of you I've met and worked with already, I so appreciate your continued support as I settle in to this new role. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the coming months, and to working together towards ending homelessness.



Kristin Fleming, at NMCEH

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Gearing Up for Advocacy at the State Legislature

by Lisa Huval, Policy and Advocacy Director

The NMCEH is busy preparing for the 2015 legislative session. One of our major advocacy priorities for this session will be to increase state funding by \$1 million for the services needed for supportive housing and for Rapid ReHousing programs. A \$1 million increase would help create an additional 325 supportive housing beds for people living without homes. Over the last two years, NMCEH's advocacy has led to a \$490,000 increase in state funding for programs that serve people experiencing homelessness and we are very hopeful that we will be to secure additional state funding in 2015. We have already begin setting up meetings with our members and key House and Senate finance committee members to build support prior to the session.

During the 2015 legislation session we will also work with Senator Bill O'Neill from Albuquerque to amend the New Mexico Hate Crimes Statute to include homeless people as a protected class under the law.

The NMCEH worked with then-Representative O'Neill several years ago to pass a similar bill, but the session ended before the bill came up for a final vote.



Supporters rally in Santa Fe on August 29th and join NMCEH to speak out in support of SNAP benefits (food stamps) currently jeopardized in New Mexico .

We feel that it is particularly important to advocate for this bill given the recent tragedy in Albuquerque, where two homeless men were brutally murdered. Although the long-term solution to homelessness is to provide permanent housing and service for everyone who needs it, we also need to do everything we can to protect people who are currently homeless. This action would also be a powerful affirmation from the government that the lives and well being of people who are homeless are important and deserve protection.