



HOUSING FOR ALL!!!

NEWS FROM THE NEW MEXICO COALITION
TO END HOMELESSNESS

Volume 16, Number 4

December 2016

Following Years Experiencing Homelessness, Henrietta Correa Now Serves on NMCEH Board

by Stephanie Lefebvre, Office Manager

Henrietta Correa was elected on the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness Board in 2013 and has been determinedly contributing to it since. Henrietta, who experienced homelessness in the past, is very committed to her role on the Board, making sure that “the voices of those experiencing homelessness are heard.” She insists that “we all have a mission in life”, and hers “is to have overcome homelessness and help those still living it.” She relates to the Board what she feels are important matters when living on the streets and gives NMCEH the opportunity to learn from a consumer’s experience, and better understand how services should be delivered. Such input is essential to ensure that housing programs meet the needs of those they are serving.

Having Henrietta on the NMCEH Board is a source of inspiration, knowing how much she had to overcome before she became an advocate. Born in Southwestern New Mexico, Henrietta developed symptoms of mental illness by the age of 15, and started to self-medicate. She married and had a child when she was 19, but soon there was domestic violence and she had to leave her marriage. Henrietta then experienced multiple episodes of homelessness (which she prefers to call “displacement”). Later, she stopped self-medicating, went back to school and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in social work. She became an advocate for various homeless services with a focus on getting people housed.

After almost 30 years, she relapsed and started self-medicating again to the point that she was facing a long-term prison sentence if she could not remain sober. At her “breaking point”, Henrietta was admitted to a 6 month recovery program in Albuquerque, followed by a 2 year program, which helped her obtain housing. With the support from the program she “decided to become part of the solution instead of the problem.”

At the Coalition, we are grateful for Henrietta choosing our organization to make a difference in the lives of those experiencing homelessness!



Henrietta Correa, who has been serving on the NMCEH board since 2013.

How Quickly Can We House Andre?

by Hank Hughes, Executive Director

Andre Fresquez is now in his early 40's but he has been homeless off and on for most of his life. He was raised by his grandmother in Colorado, but her death, when he was 12, led to his becoming homeless for the first time. He also got involved with the wrong people trying to survive and ended up in prison for a time. Now, even though he is homeless again, he has hopes for a new life. He has experience in graphic design, auto body repair, canine training and janitorial work, and he hopes that one of these skills will land him a job soon.

On November 21, Donna Trainer of NMCEH was giving Andre the Coordinated Assessment survey at Pete's Place in Santa Fe, a shelter and day program for homeless people. Using what she learns from the assessment, Donna will help Andre get appropriate assistance with housing.

There are several hundred people like Andre in New Mexico who are chronically homeless. As we get close to our goal of being able to house all homeless veterans quickly, we will turn our attention to those who are chronically homeless. We will try to find and house all of the chronically homeless people in New Mexico using the resources that already exist such as permanent supportive housing, public housing and short term rental assistance for those who can support themselves but need a boost to get housed. Ideally by sometime in 2018 we will be able to house anyone who becomes chronically homeless and asks for housing within 30 days. A person is considered chronically homeless when they are disabled and have accumulated a year of homelessness.

Andre Fresquez meets with Donna Trainer at Pete's Place on November 21st to complete the Coordinated Assessment which she will now use to match him with housing opportunities.



Santa Fe Joins Las Cruces in Effectively Ending Veteran Homelessness

by Hank Hughes, Executive Director

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness has informed Mayor Javier Gonzales that Santa Fe has effectively ended homelessness among veterans. Las Cruces obtained that distinction last year and Albuquerque is expected to reach that milestone shortly. We are very pleased to have reached this goal with the support of our partners in Santa Fe: the Santa Fe office of the VA, Goodwill Industries, St. Elizabeth Shelter, Life Link, Interfaith Shelter, and the Housing Trust. While there are still a few homeless veterans in Santa Fe, the system for housing veterans in Santa Fe has reached the point where any veteran who becomes homeless can be housed in less than 90 days. While Veterans used to make up about 20% of New Mexico's homeless population, they now constitute about 3% and the percentage is still shrinking. At some point in 2017 we hope to effectively end veteran homelessness for the entire state. And, if we can do it for veterans we can do it for all homeless people.

Our Sincere Gratitude Goes Out to These Individuals & Organizations

Thank You to Our Individual and Business Supporters (since last newsletter)

5 Star Burgers
Anonymous
Jon Barr
Bike & Build, Inc.
Nancy Dahl
Five & Dime
Rebecca Frenkel
Mari Grana

James Hammerberg
Patricia and Richard Hawkins
Diane Irwin
Patricia Lollar
Amy Malick
Montgomery & Andrews, P.A.
Linda Osborne
The Owings Gallery

Joann Phillips
Susan Sattell, in memory of her
father, Irving Sattell
Sommer, Karnes and Associates, LLP
Sarcon Construction Corp.
Montgomery and Andrews PA
Tomasita's Restaurant

We really appreciate:

Lynette Weding and **the Otero Hunger Coalition** for hosting the second summit on hunger and homelessness and for their work to address hunger and homelessness in southeastern New Mexico.

Marsha McMurray-Avila, Helen Fox, Trina Wheeler, and Carol Pitts for founding the new Friends of NMCEH group in Albuquerque.

The **Albuquerque Community Foundation** for providing meeting space for many of our meetings in Albuquerque.

Jennifer Lopez and **Zoe Lebeau** for starting a Toolkit program in New Mexico to help communities develop more supportive housing for people who are homeless.

Our **Board of Directors, Advisory Board** and **Veterans Helping Homeless Veterans** for their dedication to help us house everyone in New Mexico.

Advisory Board:

Abigail Adler, Tom Ageson, Peter Chapin, Gloria Holloway, Betty Baxter.

Board of Directors:

Nicole Martinez, Co-Chair, Mesilla Valley Community of Hope
Alexandria Taylor, Co-Chair, Valencia Shelter Services
Carol Luna Anderson, Treasurer, The Life Link
Deborah Tang, Secretary, St. Elizabeth Shelter
Celeste Trujillo, Co-Chair, Community Against Violence
Liz Reynolds, Health Care for the Homeless of Santa Fe
Lynn K. Valdez, Supportive Housing Coalition of NM
Cheryl Bartlett, Homeless Advocate
Linda Stone, First Nations Community HealthSource
Mary Ann Chavez Lopez, El Camino Real
Lynn Love, San Juan County Partnership
Henrietta Correa, Homeless Advocate
David Sisneros, Albuquerque Heading Home
Angela Merkert, CLN Kids
Roger Martinez, Taos Men's Shelter
Paul Lanier, Homeless Advocate
Theresa Armendariz, Las Casa Inc.
Connie Chavez, Barrett Foundation

Veterans Helping Homeless Veterans Board:

Mike Barr, Revell Carr, Tom Ageson, Chris Calvert, Mark French, Raphiel Benjamin.

Staff:

BeAnna Chavez, *Coordinated Assessment Connection Specialist*
Victoria Cruz, *Data Analyst*
Hana Ottesen, *Project Coordinator*
Hank Hughes, *Executive Director*
Lisa Huval, *Associate Director*
Julie Jacques, *HMIS Project Manager*
Stephanie Lefebvre, *Office Manager*
Lisa Maury, *Project Coordinator*
Rachel McHugh, *Coordinated Assessment Data Specialist*
Rada Moss, *Project Manager*
Benjamin Ofoma, *HMIS Data Quality Coordinator*
Mark Oldknow, *Program Director*
Roman Seaburgh, *Coordinated Assessment Director*
Donna Trainer, *Coordinated Assessment Connection*

Member Organizations and Individuals: For a list of our 77 members, please go to www.nmceh.org



PO Box 865
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Phone: 505.982.9000
Fax: 1.888.527.6480
www.nmceh.org

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SANTA FE, NM
PERMIT NO. 140

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness

- *Creating more housing for homeless people*
- *Quickly connecting homeless people to housing*
- *Holding governments accountable*

Ron McManus Was Housed For Many Years After Bouts of Homelessness

by Hank Hughes, Executive Director

Ron McManus was a friend of the Coalition for many years and a personal friend as well. Although I rescued him from homelessness several times, I think he helped me more than I helped him. In the material sense I helped him more, but in a spiritual sense, he helped me more. The Dalai Lama wrote an essay recently about our need to be needed and how our deepest desire is not so much to be happy, but to be useful. Ron made me feel useful every time I helped him with housing, a health crisis or employment. Beyond helping me feel needed, Ron taught me what homelessness was really like on an up close gut wrenching level.

When I learned last month that he had passed away in Montana, I realized how much I would miss his rambling text messages and his phone calls for advice on this or that. Ron had been housed in what he described as a beautiful apartment in his hometown for many years when cancer caught up with him. He leaves behind a number of other people whom he helped when they were homeless. He too wanted to be useful and needed, and he was.



Ron McManus marching in Santa Fe's Homeless Memorial Day walk in December 2006.