



# HOUSING FOR ALL!!!

NEWS FROM THE NEW MEXICO COALITION  
TO END HOMELESSNESS

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## Member Brings Life Long Experience With Homelessness to the Coalition

*by Stephanie Lefebvre, Office Manager*

A valuable member of the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness, Paul Lanier knows a lot about homelessness. Born in Oklahoma 61 years ago, Paul experienced severe child abuse at a young age. The resulting trauma that followed him into his early adulthood made him become homeless for the first time in the 80s. Later, Paul relocated to Albuquerque and struggled to find work while living in the streets. He had no address and no phone number he could give to a potential employer and the clothes he wore were a turn-off to business owners. Eventually, however, Paul managed to find a part time job as a cook in downtown Albuquerque. As a result, he was able to move out of the streets into an apartment and for the next seven years he lived a sheltered life. Then, for the next decade, Paul's mental health relapsed. He lost his job and went back to living in the streets on and off, coping by using alcohol and drugs. Eventually, Paul was able to enter a residential treatment program, Albuquerque Rescue Mission. There, for the next 14 months he worked at overcoming his addictions and improving his health. He then entered a dual-diagnosis program at St. Martin's, and was officially diagnosed with post traumatic syndrome and bipolar disorder II. His dual diagnosis enabled him to access resources such as health care, SSDI, Section 8 and Shelter Plus Care. Paul has been using these combined resources for the past four years and has rebuilt and stabilized his life.

Being safe and housed did not make Paul forget the 17,000 individuals struggling with homelessness in New Mexico. He is greatly concerned about "the public stigma related to homelessness and about the 50% undiagnosed individuals living in the street for whom accessing services is the most challenging". To give a voice to those experiencing homelessness, Paul became a member of the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness two year ago. He currently serves on three Committees (Continuum of Care, Policy & Advocacy and New Mexico Plan to End Homelessness). Paul is a powerful and respected voice giving a perspective on what homeless life is like, explaining the needs of people living in the street and working at creating solutions to end homelessness!



*Paul Lanier, after many years struggling with homelessness, has been a valuable member of the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness for the past two years.*

## Please Contribute to Our Campaign to End Homelessness

*by Hank Hughes, Executive Director*

We have two groups of volunteers raising money to be distributed as mini-grants to the best projects in New Mexico and for advocacy to get local state and federal governments to do their part. You can use the enclosed envelope to contribute.

**The Veterans Fund** - is a project of New Mexico Veterans Helping Homeless Veterans. The funds raised go to projects that do the best job of helping homeless veterans obtain appropriate housing with the services they need to get back on their feet.

**The Individuals and Families Fund** - is a project of our Advisory Board. The funds raised go to projects that do the best job of helping homeless individuals and families get quickly into permanent housing where they can rebuild their lives.

## Our Sincere Gratitude Goes Out to These Individuals & Organizations

### Special Thanks to:

- **Senators Sander Rue** and **Richard Martinez** for offering to sponsor our two top priority bills in the State Legislature;

- **The Owings Gallery** for donating their space for our gathering of Veterans Helping Homeless Veterans;

- **Santa Fe Community Foundation** and **Amity Foundation** for hosting planning sessions on ending homelessness.

- **DreamTree, the Albuquerque Community Foundation** and the **San Juan Center for Independence** for hosting NMCEH member meetings.

- **Piñon Fast Print** for discount printing services;

- **Dick Wagner of Wagner Digital, LLC**, for discount webmaster services.



### THANKS TO OUR OUR MAJOR SUPPORTERS:

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The City of Albuquerque  
The Daniels Fund  
The Frost Foundation  
The McCune Foundation  
The US Department of Housing

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Please see list at [www.nmceh.org](http://www.nmceh.org)

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*The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness is on Facebook! "Like Us" on Facebook so you can follow our progress in ending homelessness!*

## New Facilities for People Experiencing Homelessness in Farmington

*by Hank Hughes, Executive Director*

The Four Corners Foundation broke ground in Farmington on November 15 for a new shelter and new transitional housing for people experiencing homelessness. Several of us from NMCEH were fortunate enough to be able to attend. The Four Corners Foundation has been raising money for the new project, which will be operated by another nonprofit, People Assisting the Homeless (PATH). PATH has operated an emergency shelter in Farmington for many years but their current facility is too small and is also wearing out. The new site is in a beautiful a 5.27 acre site spot next to the Animas River. In addition to the new emergency shelter there will be twelve transitional housing apartments, where families or individuals can live while putting their lives back together.

Dr. Matt deKay, the president of the Four Corners Foundation, led a group of supporters in a procession that began in a park, continued over a bridge over the Animas River, and ended at the site of the new project. A group of children then donned yellow hard hats and began digging a hole on the site of the shelter. The new shelter will house up to 60 people and the transitional housing will house 12 households with a total of 12,500 square feet. The emergency shelter part of the project is expected to be completed by summer 2013.



*Matt deKay speaks to supporters at the ground breaking for a new shelter and transitional housing project in Farmington on November 15.*

## Getting Ready for the 2013 Legislative Session

*by Lisa Huval, Policy and Advocacy Director*



In January, the New Mexico Legislature will convene for a 60 day legislative session. The NMCEH will be at the Roundhouse lobbying for additional state funding for services that help people who are homeless become stably housed. More specifically, we will be advocating for a \$500,000 increase for the Rapid Re-Housing Program and a \$500,000 increase for the Housing Stability Performance Awards Program. Both these programs are administered by the Mortgage Finance Authority, which then allocates the funds to agencies across the state that serve people experiencing homelessness. Both programs are based on best practices and proven models for ending homelessness. The Rapid Re-Housing Program serves individuals and families that need rental assistance and supportive services for a shorter period of time (3-24 months) in order to get back into housing and stabilize their lives. The idea behind Rapid Re-Housing is to help homeless individuals and families quickly obtain permanent housing where they can continue to live even after assistance ends. Housing Stability Awards are allocated to programs that have a strong, proven track record of helping homeless individuals and families achieve housing stability. One specific type of program is permanent supportive housing programs, which serve people with disabilities who need long term housing assistance and supportive services in order to stay housed.

**Please plan to join us for our 7th Annual Lobby Day, Wednesday January 23, 2013 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm!** This is our opportunity to tell legislators directly that New Mexico must invest in solutions to homelessness. Staff members, people who have experienced homelessness, board members, volunteers and community members are all welcome. More details coming soon !

# The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness



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## NMCEH Working with VISTA

by Kriselda Yazzie, Network Development Specialist

Hello New Mexico! My name is Kriselda Yazzie, I just recently moved to Santa Fe from a little place called Rock Point located on the Navajo Reservation.

I was assigned by Americorps VISTA, Volunteer In Service To America, to work with NMCEH as a Network Development Specialist. While working with the Coalition I will be helping the organization connect with the youth in the community, educating the young generation about homelessness and getting them involved. I will also help coordinate the upcoming SOAR training and an annual conference.

Having come a long way from home, I find it a bit hard to adjust to a new location with no family members near. Although I have overcome many obstacles as a struggling single parent, from drug addictions to homelessness to getting recruited as a state volunteer, I still find it pretty hard to do certain things. I must say that I am lucky to be here and I honestly have to say I didn't see myself getting this far in life or even this far away from the reservation. Being the youngest child I've always had a determination to do something first, something different from my siblings. I have done so many wrongs in my life and now its time to make up for all the wrongs I have done by finally doing something right.

I look forward to working with the many great members of the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness. I would like to thank VISTA & NMCEH for this great opportunity and the great support that I have been getting from my two children. Through thick & thin, we made it. Happy Holidays from my little family to yours!



Kriselda Yazzie joined the NMCEH in November



## Santa Fe Alternative Gifts Market to Raise Money to Help Homeless Veterans

New Mexico Veterans Helping Homeless Veterans will again be part of the Alternative Gift Market at DeVargas Mall in Santa Fe this year. The market will be on December 14, 15 and 16. At the Market you will be able to purchase housing and services for homeless veterans as alternative gifts. You can also support this effort by mail if you check veterans fund on the enclosed envelope.