

HOUSING FOR ALL!!!

NEWS FROM THE NEW MEXICO COALITION
TO END HOMELESSNESS

Volume 22, Number 3

October 2022

Good news in the Mesilla Valley

by Nicole Martinez, Executive Director of Mesilla Valley Community of Hope



Mesilla Valley Community of Hope (MVCH) serves clients that are currently homeless or on the brink of homelessness. We provide support through a myriad of services to help people get back on their feet and off the streets. Southern New Mexico is facing a time where housing units are scarce and rent prices are soaring far above Fair Market Rent. This puts our communities at higher risk for homelessness and housing insecurity.

We are excited to announce our recent success in garnering a grant from the City of Las Cruces to use ARPA funds to implement a Landlord/Housing Risk Mitigation program. With these funds, MVCH seeks to attract landlords to partner with our rental assistance programs as well as to maintain and nurture our current landlord partnerships.

Here are some of the ways MVCH plans to utilize the funding:

- Extraordinary damages in excess of the security deposit
- Extraordinary cleaning and pest infestation
- Delinquent rent up to two months
- Rent over Fair Market Rent
- Bringing units up to Habitability standards
- Other costs required to recruit and/or retain landlords

We hope that this will help bring in new units and help our clients transition more quickly from the streets to their own home, while also providing a more sustainable way to keep currently housed clients in their units.

Volume 22, Number 2

Celebrating Champions of the Homeless in New Mexico

By Georgia Evans, Development Associate

This year, we had the privilege to hold our annual awards ceremony at the 2022 Mortgage Finance Authority (MFA) Housing Summit. Every other year, we work with the MFA to put together a group of workshops, led by our member agencies and our NMCEH staff, that cover a range of topics related to homelessness and housing, for the Summit. This year, we had topics ranging from De-Escalation and Safety, to Human Trafficking and from how to address NIMBYISM (Not in My Backyard) to how to work with Tribes for Urban Native American homelessness.

For the first time, this year, we were able to hold our awards ceremony during the Summit. Individuals from our member agencies nominated people in the community who are working to end homelessness in incredible ways. Awards were given for the Direct Service Employee of the Year: Christina Gallardo, Inspirational Leader of the Year: Linda Simon, Innovative Idea of the Year: Donnie Quintana, Data Innovator of the Year: Lori Johnson, Property Manager of the Year: Theresa McFarland, Housing Assistant of the Year: Angelina Curley-Watson, Non-Profit Leader of the Year: Shane Rabindranath, and the Lifetime Achievement Award: Hank Hughes.

Our ceremony is a time, not just for celebration of these incredible people, but also a time to showcase the incredible work our member agencies are doing across our state. Thank you to these champions of the homeless and for the incredible work they are doing!



Hank Hughes giving Angelina Curley-Watson her award.

HOUSING FOR ALL!!!

Our Sincere Gratitude Goes Out to These Individuals and Business Supporters *(since previous newsletter)*

Nancy Dahl
Susan Penick in honor of Abigail Adler
The Blackbaud Giving Fund
Jennifer Sloane Warren
Beryl Markowitz
The Blackbaud Giving Fund
Linda Osborne
Nancy Wirth

Stephen Verchinski
Marisol Atkins
Beverly Lanzetta
Building Adventures Unlimited
Jean Bergeron
Robert Howes
Fidelity Charitable



NMCEH Office Manager, Libby Treu and DV Navigator, Joey Hinkle

Special Thanks to:

Board of Directors:

Meryl Lieberman, *Co-Chair, Retired-Casa Milagro*
Henry Brutus, *Co-Chair, La Casa Inc.*
George Lyon, *Treasurer, Samaritan House*
Edward Archuleta, *Secretary, St. Elizabeth*
Bobby Ehrig, *Director, Veteran Integration Center*
Nicole Martinez, *Mesilla Valley Community of Hope*
Lynn K. Valdez, *Director, Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless*
Mary Ann Chavez Lopez, *Director, El Camino Real Housing Authority Shelter*

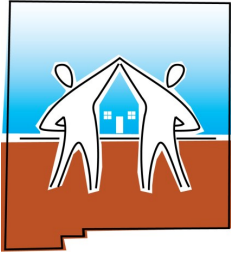
Trina Lopez, *Director, Western Sky*
Henrietta Correa, *Director, Homelessness Advocate*
Rachel Sierra, *Director, El Refugio*
Ann Shaw, *Director, Homelessness Advocate*
Nicole Martinez, *Director, Mesilla Valley Community of Hope*
Linda Simon, *Sandoval County*
Shelly Felt, *Youth Shelters*
Riley Masse, *New Mexico Legal Aid*
Lacie Yoxall, *Mesilla Valley Community of Hope*

Advisory Board:

Betty Baxter, Peter Chapin, Gordie Holloway,
Peter Glankoff, Alan Jones.

For a list of our Board of Directors, Advisory Board, Staff and our 80 members organizations, please go to www.nmceh.org

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Retirement will Open New Doors

From the NMCEH Executive Director, Hank Hughes



Hank with NMCEH staff at the MFA Housing Summit 2022



Hank with MFA Executive Director, Izzy Hernandez

I have decided to retire from my position as Executive Director and the Board is actively searching for the next Executive Director. I will stay on until the new person is comfortable in the position. Running NMCEH was always my dream job, and I have enjoyed working with all the members and supporters of the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness over the last 21 years. When I started as Executive Director, I was the only employee. Now there are 32 staff members working on supporting member agencies in the work to house everyone in New Mexico. Retiring from NMCEH will allow me to devote my full attention to my new position as a Santa Fe County Commissioner, and it will allow someone with fresh energy to take over at NMCEH.

While the problem of homelessness still exists, it is also true that many thousands of people have been helped out of homelessness over the years due to our combined efforts. There are hundreds more housing units for people experiencing homelessness than when we started NMCEH, and our system of coordinated entry is helping connect people to housing more quickly. The Homeless Management Information System at NMCEH gives accurate up to date data on homelessness, which is very useful for advocacy. Moving forward, we now have more tools to help toward the goal of housing everyone. I will be looking for the best ways to stay involved as I take a step back.