



Casa Cuentos

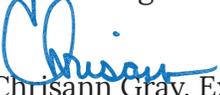
- Stories of Hope -

I love spring! The air smells sweet, birds sing outside our windows, budding flowers reach for the sunlight in the garden. It is indeed a time of renewal & new beginnings. Spring is a catalyst to embrace what is and open up to greater possibilities for Casa Esperanza (CE). I wake up every morning grateful for each of you who contribute to our growth & know that our collaboration creates prosperity & makes a positive impact.

Our Family Care Team has seen many changes including welcoming Kim Palmer to our team. We implemented a new guest management system that allows us to generate accurate information & manage our room inventory on a real time basis, moving us toward excellence. 2016 has seen increasing occupancy & many nights where all 28 rooms were full. Community dinners are a time resident families share & make themselves at home.

At our Board/Staff retreat we decided that CE needs to embark on a Facility Upgrade Campaign. I am excited to share we are in the early stages of this project. Dreamstyle Remodeling, Ray Steel, a manager of Hampton Inn & Suites & CE Staff/Board have formed a committee to look at our current space & think about our needs for the next 25 years. This is a large project with many phases over multiple years. I know that each of you will be vested in a new & better future so our residents can work on their healing journey.

The Give Hope a Ride Program continues with monthly auctions. Our Staff, Board & Volunteers dedicate each day to supporting our families. You are amazing! Thank you.


 Chrisann Gray, Executive Director

- Upcoming Events -

Join us for a Thrilling Evening of
 Dinner, Dance, Auction
 and Intrigue
Saturday, May 07
From Casa with Love
 at
Hotel Albuquerque
 Get your Assignment by calling
 505-246-2700 or visit CasaNM.org

Caring Sometimes Begins
 with a "Tee"
CASA ESPERANZA
 Michelle Moore
 Memorial Golf Classic
Thursday, June 9
 Santa Ana Golf Club
CasaNM.org

For the past 24 years, Casa Esperanza has been providing a home away from home for patients with serious medical conditions who must travel to Albuquerque for treatment. In addition to lodging, Casa Esperanza also provides funds for transportation, food, clinical counseling and a variety of other services. Most importantly, through donor and partner support, we never turn anyone away in need. Through our partnerships, we have been able to make an immeasurable impact on individuals, families and communities across the state. Because of YOU we will be able to continue to do so, well into the future.

Casa Esperanza
 1005 Yale Blvd. NE
 Albuquerque, NM 87106
 CasaNM.org - 505 • 246 • 2700

His Cancer Treatment Has Had Complications, But His Mom Is Still Able To Find Hope



Tracey Antonio and his Mom, Christina, have been staying at Casa Esperanza since September of 2015. Tracey is currently being treated for Pre-B

Leukemia at UNM Children's Hospital and can not go home to Torreon, NM. Tracey had just started his 4th grade year at Torreon Christian School when he was diagnosed with cancer. Like lots of kids his age, Tracey wanted to become more physically active to start building the habits of a healthy lifestyle. Tracey started exercising regularly, and as expected, he lost some weight. It was not until he started to complain about knee and back pains, that his Mother thought something might be wrong. Tracey's pain increased to the point that he was having back spasms and could no longer walk. It was at that point that the doctors discovered Tracey's high white blood cell count and suspected there was something serious going on. They immediately sent him to Albuquerque to receive the diagnosis and treatment he would need, leaving behind the school and the life he knew back home.

Tracey spent a month in the hospital before regaining the ability to walk again. His treatment has been a rough process. At one point, he even lost feeling in the left side of his body and was blind for four days due to spinal tap complications. His regular cancer treatments have been recently postponed to allow his body to recover before he starts the intensive 10 day cycles of chemotherapy again. All Tracey and Christina can do right now is wait until he is ready... they can not move forward or go home. They are on hold.

Christina says the waiting and uncertainty of everything has been very hard. She was recently diagnosed with Anxiety and Depression caused by the stress of her situation. She has been receiving professional help for her diagnosis, but she said it

also helps to have the support of the people at Casa Esperanza. Christina said, "I've made friends here who share their stories and it helps me. I can talk to them about what they have gone through and I can ask what to expect." Christina has a network of information and advice on what to do next for her own son. She said, "Staying at Casa Esperanza is like being at home. The people who work here are really nice and Tracey is comfortable." Christina has even been able to have her daughters, Tracey's sisters, stay with her at Casa Esperanza. Tracey still potentially has years of treatment for his cancer, but thanks to Casa Esperanza, his family is able to be together under one roof even though he can not go home yet.

- Staff Spotlight -

Congratulations to Mike Gallegos and Mary Loyd for Their Two Decades of Service to Casa Esperanza



Casa Esperanza is honored to recognize Mary Loyd and Mike Gallegos for celebrating 20 years with this organization. Mary (Bookkeeper) and Mike (Facilities Coordinator) have both dedicated their lives to helping families throughout the state.

Mary verifies that our donations are appropriated correctly and bills are paid on time. With her attention to detail, we can provide the necessities people need to relax and recover.

Mike's devotion and pride for Casa Esperanza has helped our residents stay comfortable whether they stay one day or a year. His hard work keeps our house clean, safe and in working order.

The families and staff cannot thank them enough for their dedication to New Mexico's House of Hope.