Letters from Casa
1992 Hope Place
Albuquerque, NM
Thank you for all the services you provide to help families in need. Keep up the wonderful work.
- Barbara Toward

Casa Esperanza housed my family and friends while I was in the Burn Trauma ICU at UNM. I never spent a day alone while in the hospital because of Casa Esperanza. I am forever grateful.
- Leslie Wachter McDonald
Locklan Haynie was a normal teenager from the Bloomfield Farmington area. But the occasional headache progressed. Those headaches got more frequent and more severe to the point where Locklan could not see. Finally, the pain was so intense, he went in to see his doctor. The doctor said it was nothing so the next step was to go to the eye doctor. The optometrist said that there was a lot of pressure on his optic nerve and that he should go to the emergency room immediately.

“I got an MRI and they found a tumor – the size of a tennis ball!” the young man recalled. The ER doctor tried to get him into a hospital in Denver, but there were no spots available. After a call to University of New Mexico Hospital, he was sent by helicopter to Albuquerque.

After numerous MRI’s, Locklan was ready for surgery. It is hard to say how long he had already lived with the tumor in his brain, but it is speculated that it had been growing in his head for a few years. When doctors finally removed it, it was the size of a tennis ball.

Luckily, it was not cancerous, but that did not mean the teen was in the clear without any complications. “I lived with it so long that it was holding spinal fluid. My body kept making more because the tumor kept storing it. Once the tumor was gone, the spinal fluid my body was making was too much,” Locklan said.

Locklan Haynie is now on medication to help reduce the amount of spinal fluid made and awaits to hear if it is working or if he will have to have a port put into his head to help with draining it. He is also hoping to regain his full vision back.

While he was in the hospital his mom, Dorothy, stayed at Casa Esperanza. “At first, I was paying for a hotel that I wasn’t really staying in. I’d go to shower and get a few hours’ sleep, but I wanted to be with my son,” she recalled. “I was also running out of money. I was told about Casa Esperanza and I was amazed. There were so many good people just willing to help!” she said.

Dorothy was able to stay near her son and be there when he needed her most. “I didn’t know places like this existed and was just surprised at everything,” Dorothy stated.
Three-year-old Spencer Parrish is a lively, handsome, smart boy. He has four brothers, two sisters, one brother in heaven, and parents with enormous hearts. “We’d go hiking and he was always running ahead of everyone,” dad, Spencer, commented. “He was always a big eater and very active,” he recalled.

When Spencer started crying one day and didn’t eat, his parents knew something was wrong. At the end of the day he was taken to the hospital and couldn’t move. The family from Sanders, Arizona took Spencer to a hospital in Gallup, NM. After an x-ray was taken of his stomach, Doctors noticed some blockage. The doctors did a blood test and found cancer cells. Spencer was flown to Albuquerque for further tests and it was then that the family was given the diagnosis of Pancreatoblastoma. It is a very rare pancreatic cancer that has only been found in one other child in the United States. His family dropped everything and came to Casa Esperanza to support Spencer in any way they can.

Little Spencer underwent 6 cycles of chemotherapy. The chemotherapy left sores that made it hard for him to eat and drink. But the tumor that pushed his insides up into his ribcage was reduced by 60%. Finally, it was decided that two surgeons would operate on Spencer to remove the tumor. On July 24th he underwent surgery. His spleen and part of his pancreas was removed. After such a long and extensive surgery, Spencer remained in ICU.

His parents, Tori and Spencer, were by his side while he healed. “His brothers and sisters are affected and we are trying to stay positive for us and our children,” Spencer mentioned.

“Going to church has helped us get through a lot of the hard times. We pray,” Spencer said. “We never understood what places like Casa Esperanza were for. But the last five months has shown us what a miracle a place like this can be. It really touched our heart and gave us comfort to stay here.” Spencer concluded.

Spencer is now in remission and his whole family has gone home together.
**All Time Residents**

- **Total**: 40,967
- **AZ residents**: 3,793
- **TX residents**: 718
- **CO residents**: 500
- **NM residents**: 34,970
- **Other**: 986

**Native American**: 32%

- **Hispanic**: 30%
- **Caucasian**: 15%
- **Other**: 23%

- **Cancer**: 49%
- **Kidney**: 9%
- **High Risk Pregnancy**: 7%
- **Other**: 35%

**Board of Directors**

- Yasmin Abdeljalil
- Luis Armendariz
- Elizabeth Ashton
- Dr. Richard Castillo - Member at Large
- Dean Cross
- Andrew Kamm - Secretary
- Yuriana Lancaster
- Michael Latting - President
- Robert Martinez
- Sean O’Neill
- Abdiel Ramirez
- Derek Roland - Treasurer
- Bryan Runyan
- Katrina Tracy - Past Board President

**Volunteer Hours**

- **6,447 House & Car Lot Volunteer hours**
- **121.75 Board Volunteer Hours**

**Volunteer Services**

- **158 Dinners Served**
- **179 Food Resources Issued**
- **1589 Children**
- **1689 Families**
- **5310 Individuals**

**Gender Distribution**

- **Female**: 49%
- **Male**: 32%
- **Unidentified**: 19%
Dear Donors, Volunteers and Community Cheerleaders,

Definition of a blessing:

*a beneficial thing for which one is grateful; something that brings well-being.*

As you read through the Letters to Casa from families, donors and volunteers, we are honored to be considered a blessing by so many. Now it is our turn to let you know what a blessing each of you are to Casa Esperanza, especially since suffering extensive storm damage to our facility in late July.

To those media partners that headlined the events of our disaster so empathetically and eloquently in an effort to inform our community... *thank you.*

To those that heard the news of our crisis and picked up the phone, sent a letter of encouragement or came to our facility to offer support... *thank you.*

To those that read about the devastating damage to our building and eagerly wrote a check, started a collection or opened an account for us... *thank you.*

To those that rolled up their sleeves and moved furniture, cleaned walls, packed up 28 rooms and woke up sore the next day... *thank you.*

To those that continue to spread the word about how vital Casa Esperanza is to the community and the families that need us... *thank you.*

Each of you has a role in our story, in our history. As we rise from this disaster, we will never forget that it was you lifting us up.

Gracias

*We have the most amazing, compassionate, generous supporters!*
It has been an honor to serve on the Board of Directors for Casa Esperanza for the last 4 years. We have been able to continue to streamline our operations to maximize the positive experience of our residents over the past year. Although we’ve experienced a hiccup courtesy of mother nature, the morale of the Casa Esperanza staff, volunteers and donors is stronger than ever!

The board is continually amazed by the tireless efforts of the Casa Esperanza staff and volunteers and the work they put forward on a daily basis to make our guests and families dealing with cancer and other serious illnesses feel as welcome and wonderful as possible. Although the renew project to upgrade our wonderful facility has been sidetracked by inclement weather for a short time, we look forward to its implementation in the coming months to make Casa Esperanza the best it can be.

For the last 26 years, Casa Esperanza has worked tirelessly to provide a home away from home for our guests. As we move into the future, Casa Esperanza will continue to modernize and adapt to fill the needs and always be the “House of Hope” for individuals and families throughout New Mexico.

Twenty-six families came pouring out of their rooms, hearing the pelting of hail on Casa Esperanza’s roof. The devastation continued for weeks, as the dark clouds and storms flooded our “Home Away from Home”. The excitement of starting our kitchen/dining renew project dwindled as rising waters filled the hallways.

Letters with gifts and thanks from our community give us hope. The outpouring of love, the volunteer spirit and generosity of heart continue to be palpable. A local church wrote, “We thank you for your ministry in our community and consider our support for your work to be a privilege. May God grant all who labor in your organization the strength to persevere in this valuable mission field.” Many new donors shared that “Someone gave us a roof over our heads many years ago and it meant so much. Just glad we are able to help a little” and “I so admire your help to families in need.” Another friend wrote, “What a heartbreaking story in the Sunday Journal. We are praying for you all to be up and running again soon, and for all those displaced during the closure. Thanks for all you do.” A previous patient said, “I hope this helps with the clean-up. I wish it were more. I’ll never forget how you helped me in 1996.”

These letters of encouragement and thanks are like rays of sunlight creating a rainbow above our home. We send gratitude to each of you and know Casa Esperanza will be restored very soon.
Our association with Casa Esperanza goes back several years to 1995. I, Ernest, was introduced to Casa Esperanza by a friend who was a board member. He told me that they were looking for volunteers to be on their advisory board and after an interview I was accepted as a member of the Board of Advisors.

Betty and my appreciation of the work that is done there was greatly magnified in 2007. Betty was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and underwent treatment and surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. It was a place far from our home in Albuquerque.

Going there was akin to being in a foreign land. We were far from family and friends and any support we did get would be from people in Baltimore. To our good fortune they have a set of apartments very near the hospital where we stayed with our family. It was a perfect example of fulfilling a need for a family who is scared and suffering. We can understand so well how much Casa Esperanza is necessary for people who want to be near their loved ones in times of fear and pain.

Casa Esperanza offers another advantage that was not really present for us in Baltimore. The staff at Casa Esperanza is an added support. The members of the staff are caring and helpful to the occupants. Those we have met and with whom we have interacted with are kind, caring and available. At Casa Esperanza they seem genuinely concerned about those who are staying there, whether they are family or patients.

Over time we have made many contributions to Casa Esperanza. We learned recently about a fund that Casa Esperanza has established to help them with the expenses of a significant renovation of their 26-year-old facility. Over a period of five years we will make, to us, a substantial contribution.

Since we have had the advantage of such a facility when we were so vulnerable we decided that in this way we can pay our debt at least in a small way for the care and consideration that we received when we most needed it.

- Ernest & Betty Dorko
### CASA ESPERANZA, INC.
**FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018**

#### Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$69,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Income</td>
<td>$318,849</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions &amp; Support</td>
<td>$161,261</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation Support</td>
<td>$71,326</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event Income</td>
<td>$26,982</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>$133</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$1,671</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Kind Income</td>
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<td><strong>Total Support and Revenue</strong></td>
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#### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>$459,025</td>
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<tr>
<td>General &amp; Administrative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$8,222</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses before Depr</strong></td>
<td><strong>$613,105</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets before Depr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation Expense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</td>
<td><strong>$34,332</strong></td>
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### ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION
**FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018**

#### Revenues

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<th>Item</th>
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<tr>
<td>Car Donation Program (net of cost of sales)</td>
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<td>Event Income</td>
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<td>Contributions &amp; Support</td>
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<td>Investment Return</td>
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<td>In-Kind Income</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
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#### Expenses

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program (Support to Casa Esperanza, Inc.)</td>
<td><strong>$71,326</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General &amp; Administrative</td>
<td><strong>$148,496</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Depreciation Expense</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</td>
<td><strong>$130,231</strong></td>
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Copies of the full 2018 audit for Casa Esperanza, Inc. and the consolidated audit for Casa Esperanza, Inc. and Casa Esperanza Endowment Foundation are available from the organization office.

**Average ROI = 7.10%**

**Long-Term Investments**
- Mutual Funds $908,728
- Equity Funds $501,819
- Fixed Income Bonds $10,435
- Land held for sale $136,716
- ABQ Comm. Fdn Funds $30,874
- Charitable Gift Annuity $17,279
- Total Investments $1,605,851
SNEAK PEEK OF KITCHEN UPGRADE

Want to be a part of our Renew Project? Call Chrisann at 505-246-2704
Dear Casa, I volunteer because I care

Since 1992 Casa Esperanza has provided housing for over 41,000 families from all 33 counties in New Mexico.

Nonprofits have many fundraising opportunities, galas, golf tournaments, and Casa Esperanza is no stranger to these events. Unique to Casa Esperanza, however, is our Give Hope a Ride program. Last year, this vehicle donation program accounted for over $300,000 to the Casa Esperanza Endowment Foundation. Help the Foundation provides to Casa Esperanza impacts hundreds of families. Those families, who, in what can be one of the most difficult points in their life, had the support of Casa Esperanza.

Auction day is filled with frenzy as bidders are rushing to sign up and finalizing their personal “wish lists” on the cars they’d like to take home with them. During this time, you’ll see Jesus, making final preparations for the main event of the day.

Starting at 9:30 am you’ll see volunteers performing a plethora of tasks. From cashiers, to lot volunteers, crowd control, moving cars, handing out keys and everything in between.

You’ll see volunteers like Gregory, now retired, leaving no stone unturned in his desire to bring every car he touches back to life. You’ll see a local fraternity who is spending their Saturday morning moving cars, to make it easier for their new owners to take home.

What makes the program so unique is the people that come together to make it successful. It’s a program by the community, for community. The wonderful staff and volunteers process the paperwork and run all of the auction activities. The community comes out bids, and buys the vehicles.

For some people it’s their first car, some find their new project car, or find an investment they can fix and sell again. At the end of the day the proceeds from all of this work provides families in need a home away from home. They’re all just as equally important, it takes a village and there’s really no better way to describe it.

I hope to see you on auction day, always the second Saturday of every month!

- Abdiel Ramirez
Sincerely,
Breanna, Chrisann, Daisy, Daniel, Desiree', Greisi, Jesus, Mary, Melanie, Mike, Taura, & Yuliana