



Winter 2017/18 - Volume 3

# Casa Cuentos

## -Stories of Hope-

### Casa Esperanza's Renew Project

At Casa Esperanza there is so much potential this new year as we start to make positive and impactful changes to our house.

We are diligently working on our Renew Project. We do our very best to provide a safe, warm and helpful place for our families to stay during their time of need. This Renew Project will allow us to update our facility so that we can continue our work for another 26 years.

We are so very thankful for DreamStyle Remodeling and their participation in this project. They have committed to renovating the kitchen, dining room and laundry room, and so much more.

The dining room is the heart of our house. It is a place where our residents can meet one another, help one another and support one another. It is also where our families meet to eat dinner after a long day of treatments. Community groups come to cook dinners for our families - so much sharing and hope happens here. We are very excited to get our renovations started.

But our work has just started. There are other areas of our house that are so very important and necessary to provide the comfort our

families need on their healing journeys.

Our playroom is an area where kids can be kids. Our outdoor area allows for families to relax, meditate and unwind. The lobby is where we welcome our families into our home and they become part of the Casa Esperanza family. Each of our 28 rooms tells the story of countless trials, tribulations, tears, successes, hope and healing.

These are just a few of the areas that need renewing and we need your help. We have big goals for our home, families and supporters.

We invite you to be a part of this wonderful project. There are various ways that you can be involved and lend your support.

Please contact us if you are interested in helping with this project. Any level of support is greatly appreciated and will move us forward toward our \$1.5 million goal.

Thank you,

Executive Director  
505-246-2704  
cgray@casanm.org

## **“Cancer has never scared me.”**

Christy Cogsdill from Grants is a strong, courageous and free-spirited person. When you meet her, you will smile. When you chat with her, you will give a full belly laugh – more than once. Christy is a photographer and author of children’s books with characters that you can’t help falling in love with. So when Christy was diagnosed with breast cancer at the end of February 2017, she began her fight with her positive attitude and has not stopped fighting since.

“I felt a lump and I could tell as soon as I saw it... I knew it was cancer,” Christy recalled. She started to do her own research soon after her diagnosis and decided to choose a teaching hospital for treatment. University of New Mexico Hospital has “the best surgeons, the best doctors” she said. “Given the choice again, I’d still make the decision to go there for treatment,” confessed Christy.

Christy has always lived in rural areas including Michigan, Colorado and New Mexico. Coming to Albuquerque was a hard adjustment for someone who is used to open spaces and few people. Casa Esperanza offered a place for her to retreat. “One thing I truly love about Casa Esperanza is that I can park the car, not worry about traffic, jump on a bus and get to all of my appointments,” she commented.

Going through chemotherapy, radiation and estrogen therapy is staggering, but Christy has not given up. “Cancer has never scared me. I know I am going to get rid of this,” she declared. For Christy, Casa Esperanza has not only been a House of Hope – it is a “House of Hope and Healing – a healing place” during her healing journey.

“For someone like me, [Casa Esperanza] literally saved my life. My car is a 1987. I could not go to my treatments from Grants as frequently as I needed to. I wouldn’t be able to afford a hotel,” she added.

## **- You’re Invited -**

### **“Hopelessly Devoted to Casa”**



Casa Esperanza’s annual Gala for Hope fundraising event will take you back to a time of sock hops, jukeboxes and milkshakes. Our Gala will be centered around the 50’s decade.

Go ape for the ginchiest event in Albuquerque. Guests are encouraged to dress the part in your favorite costume or attend in black-tie style.

Prepare for an evening of bidding, dining, and entertainment. Visit [brownpapertickets.com/event/3221328](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/3221328) for your tickets!

**Sponsorship Opportunities:**  
Interested in becoming a sponsor at our event? To learn more about sponsorship benefits and other ways to support our event, e-mail [djaecks@casanm.org](mailto:djaecks@casanm.org) or call 505-246-2705.

***Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>***  
***Hotel Albuquerque 6 p.m.***

