SARANAM

Central's Family Transitions Assistance

ANNUAL REPORT ~ 2006

Core Values

As a family of faith working to end homelessness in families, we demonstrate these core values in our words and in our deeds.

Respect

We are inspired with a sense of grace, love and compassion, thus we honor each other as diverse, unique, and worthy individuals.

Transformation

We seek to provide opportunities for comprehensive change both in outer and basic needs fulfillment as well as inner change in character and spirit. We, the church will be touched with the grace of transformation through service opportunities.

Empowerment

We provide avenues by which families develop their skills to become independent through education and training, sharing and mentoring.

Integrity

We adhere to principles of character, responsibility, truthfulness and clear communication.

Faithfulness

We understand that living a Christian faith involves taking risks and we are willing to learn the lessons that risk teaches. We invite others to be a part of our family of faith.

Compassion

We demonstrate social concern by a conscious involvement with needy families, expressing grace as a part of our community.

Saranam is very proud to have its first two families graduate from the program this year! These two families have completed the Saranam program by finishing their education and moving into their own housing.

It has been a great programmatic asset to house all of our families in the same location this year. They have holidays and parities together, they share parenting duties, the children play and go to school together.

One of Saranam's goals is to stay connected to Central UMC. This year more families connected into these ministries at CUMC:

- Attending Central UMC on Sunday mornings
- Children attending overnighters
- Children participating in VBS as well as adults volunteering
- Families enjoying Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and Pretzel Day activities
- Families dressing up for Trick or Treat Not on the Street
- A baby baptized
- Saranam Sunday – a morning committed to learning more about this program

> *I have learned to have confidence in myself and my abilities. I know that whatever I put my mind to, I will succeed in. I have built my self-esteem and I am able to be an example for others. I could not have done this without the support from everyone at Saranam.*
>
> *–A recent graduate*

To help build community we have had volunteers from three different churches, Central UMC, Counterculture Church and Covenant UMC, at least five adult Sunday school classes, one Bible Study group, and Keep Albuquerque Warm blanket-making group from CUMC, a TVI Service Learning student volunteer, and over 50 individual volunteers as mentors, decorators, furniture movers, shoppers, computer set up, board work, donors, and more. What we do with our families would absolutely not be possible without our volunteers!

Additionally, Saranam has remained connected to Central New Mexico Community College (formerly TVI) by contracting with them again for our on site adult education and life skills program.

This year Saranam changed to a new accounting system which is better able to track monies, especially grants. In our first year to write for grant monies, we received $98,250 in grants. We also received corporate contributions, numerous memorial gifts and individual donations. Another local organization, Computer Reruns has provided all of our families with reconditioned computers as they transition to their off-site programs.

Saranam managed the apartments for Frances Thaxton Ash Homes, LLC most of 2006. In the fall Central UMC decided to pay off the loan on the apartment complex with monies from the Frances Thaxton Ash Endowment. Management responsibilities are now with the apartment's owner, Frances Thaxton Ash Homes, LLC. Now Saranam just rents apartments for its resident families.

We are working towards meeting all of the goals in our strategic plan: the church owns an apartment complex, we occupy training and office space, we are connected with CUMC, we are working with CNM on proven programming, we continue to develop our board and work with a solid financial plan.

Most importantly, this year has been one about the journeying with our families. In addition to our two graduates finding success in family, at home and at work, we have been a part of children being born and baptized, a whole family going through catechism, and a wedding**.** We have celebrated passed parts of the GED, enrolling in and attending classes at CNM, getting driver's licenses, and many other successes. We are looking forward to another great year!

Mission Statement

To transform the lives of homeless persons — physically, emotionally, educationally and spiritually, through the faithful stewardship of the Frances Thaxton Ash Endowment, the active personal engagement of the congregation of Central United Methodist Church and the surrounding Albuquerque community.

Vision

Saranam is a 2-year residential program made possible by the generous gift of the Frances Thaxton Ash Endowment, offering a range of services to assist families in transitioning beyond homelessness.

Importance of community

Ending homelessness is a challenging task.

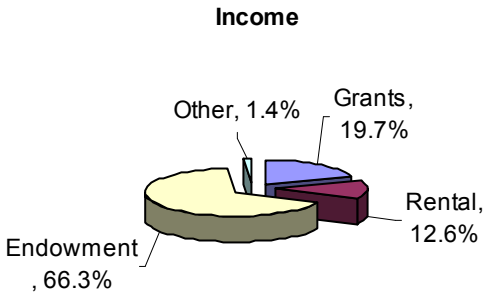
We believe the underlying causes of homelessness go beyond the most often cited causes: domestic violence, lack of affordable housing, unemployment, poor economy, mental illness, substance abuse, lack of public assistance. These are certainly important factors. However the lack of and loss of community and support systems is the underlying cause of homelessness, and thus building relationships is crucial and is intentionally incorporated into every aspect of this ministry!

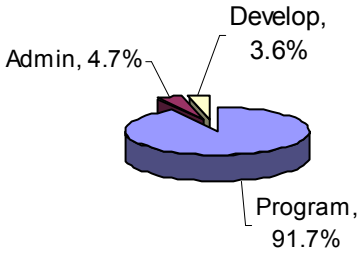
Our goal is to assist homeless families to become self-sufficient and productive members of the community at large and to provide opportunities for them to build relationships that encourage them to reach their human and spiritual potential.

Volunteers and staff are invited to assist in teaching, mentoring, encouraging, celebrating and walking with families in the program — demonstrating the value of healthy relationships that form as a result of strong community. In this way, we share the grace found within this Christian community of faith.

Helping becomes a reciprocal relationship. Both the homeless families and those working in this program with them will be transformed. Saranam's specialized setting and intentional community is a unique transitional housing program.

Saranam, LLC ~ 2006 Financial Summary





Total Income: $473,023.06

Total Expense: $442,549.36

Grants Awarded to Saranam in 2006

United Way of Central New Mexico

1. Housing $40,000
2. Education $22,000
3. Technology Assistance $1250

William and Florence Thaxton Endowment Fund $10,000
Daniels Fund $20,000
Sandia National Laboratories/Lockheed Martin $5000

Corporate Contributions

Land America Title $2500
Myers, Oliver & Price, P.C. $1500

Gifts to Saranam

In Memory of Jim Tanzola by….

- Dick & Linda Reinhart
- Ralph & Helen Chamblin
- Thomas & Laurel Reed
- Dorothy Crandall
- Friday Smokeless Group
- Phil & Mary Beth Reeves
- Merrill & Frances Jones
- Gail Moore
- Tom & Bettye Hoover
- The Partnership Class
- Conscious Aging Network of New Mexico

In the Name of…

- Mr. & Mrs. Frank Chavez and Family by Mary Homet

Saranam Expense Detail

Administration = $ 20,707.52 = 4.7%
Development = $ 16,068.31 = 3.6%
Program expense = $405,773.53 = 91.7%
(Includes Housing, Education & General Program - see below)

Housing—$271,120.24 = 61.3%

Covers all physical provisions including :

Apartment supplies	Toiletries
Stocked kitchen/pantry	Background checks
Counseling	Drug tests
Rent	Rental insurance
Stipend	Telephones
Transportation	Utilities

Education—$130,933.61 = 29.6%

Covers costs of being in school including:

Child care	Contract with CNM
Computers	Scholarships
Training fees and supplies	

*Salaries, classroom, office, volunteer, and other operating expenses not listed are allocated into all categories of expense

During 2006 – Saranam Housed 10 Families

2 Accepted in 2004 – 4 Accepted in 2005 – 4 Accepted in 2006

Household Makeup

3 are 2-parent households
7 are 1-parent households

Number of Adults –		**14**
Age range	18-25	1
	26- 35	10
	36+	3
Gender	Female	11
	Male	3
Number of Children		**29**
Infant to age 5		14
Ages 6-10		12
Ages 11+		3
Ethnicities		
African American		11
Caucasian		3
Hispanic		20
Native American		9
Education Level Completed at Entrance		
Completed 6th grade		1
Completed 8th grade		1
Completed 9th grade		1
Completed 11th grade		2
High School Diploma		6
GED		3

Average age of adults housed: 29.7
Average age of children housed: 6.3
Average age of ALL housed: 13.9

19 Families Applied for the Saranam Program in 2006

Number of Adults	20
Average Age of Adults	33.9
Number of Children	50
Average age of Children	7.6
Average age of all Applicants	15.2

Life Skills and Basic Education

Received Training In-House
8 families – 10 adults

Life skills consists primarily of parenting, nutrition, financial training, domestic violence awareness, safety, sex education, drug and alcohol prevention, home maintenance, and civic duties.

In 2006 3 of 4 accepted have high school diploma or GED. The 4th has passed all but one section of the GED since entering the program.

Received Vocational Training – 5 adults

Type of Training	
Medical Assistant –	2
Construction –	1
Welding –	1
Landscaping –	1

Contributing factors of homelessness in Saranam Families are:

Substance Abuse:	70%
Domestic Violence:	40%
Mental Health:	40%
Low Self-Esteem:	40%
Family Rejection:	20%
Born into Poverty:	20%
Health:	10%

Saranam Volunteers

Number of volunteer hours:	**2389.5 hours**
Number of mentoring hours:	607.5 hours
Number of hours preparing for new families:	1014.5 hours

(340 more hours than 2005)

Who are our volunteers?

- At least 54 individuals
- Volunteers from Central UMC
- Volunteers from Covenant UMC
- Volunteers from Counterculture Church
- WOW—Bible study group
- Keep Albuquerque Warm
- At least 5 Sunday School groups

Saranam thanks our 2006 donors and volunteers! We truly could not do all that we do without the time, energy, talent and support of these generous individuals and groups.

Saranam, LLC
1000 Eubank, NE Ste. C
Albuquerque, NM 87112
505.299.6154
Fax 505.275.5699

Board of Directors
Council on Homeless Ministries
Barbara Allender (2007)
Alan Clawson (2007)
Tom Hoover (2007)
Nancy Jackson (2007)
Donna Berry (2008)
Corbin Hildebrandt (2008)
Dick Reinhart (2008)
Claudia Ryan (2008)
Susan Armstrong (2009)
Cindy Arndell (2009)
Nicole Gates (2009)
Jane Vaughan (2009)
Stephen McElroy
Senior Pastor, Central UMC

2006 Retiring Directors
Traci Bailey
Jim Tanzola

STAFF

Executive Director……..… Tracy Sharp
Case Manager……...…….. Eddie DeCristofaro
Support Services Coordinator…… Laura Ralston
Bookkeeper……. Julie Green

Saranam, LLC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization owned and operated by:
Central United Methodist Church
201 University Ave NE
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Thank you for your support and participation in the ministry of Saranam to our retiring Board members, Traci Bailey and Jim Tanzola. In the coming year we will be expanding the CHM to include up to five directors from within the community at large. Welcome to all of our new directors: Susan Armstrong, Cynthia Arndell, Alan Clawson, Corbin Hildebrandt, and Jane Vaughan.

Saranam Services

Housing

Each family is provided with a furnished apartment in order to have a home that will facilitate stability. All families are located in the same apartment complex in order to encourage the formation of community.

Case management:

General: Families are provided with daily support and advocacy from the case manager. Accountability is an important piece of the transition out of homelessness.

Transportation: Bus passes or gas cards are provided for families each month. In addition, transportation is provided for some appointments as well as weekly shopping trips for groceries.

Counseling: Assistance in obtaining counseling services is provided for every family. Various services are utilized, including but not limited to individual counseling, family counseling and counseling for drug and alcohol abuse. These services are provided in order to address the issues that may have been contributing factors in becoming homeless. Most Saranam families receive some sort of counseling.

Education

Life Skills and Basic Education: In the first phase of the program, adults participate in life skills and basic education courses provided in-house by CNM. Some of the topics covered are GED, literacy, computer skills, parenting, financial management, nutrition, health and hygiene, communication and domestic violence, drug & alcohol education. This step prepares adults for vocational training and promotes holistic learning.

Vocational Education: Following basic education, adults pursue certificates from a trade school or community college. Obtaining a certificate in a trade allows for more job opportunities and increases earning potential. Saranam provides some scholarship money as well as assistance in attaining other monies for vocational training.

Childcare: Saranam covers any childcare and before/after school care not otherwise provided for up to full time for all children. Childcare plays and important role in the success of the adults who are in school and in the workforce. Each family chooses the childcare providers for their children that they are comfortable with, and that meet their specific schedules and needs.