



## 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

A REFUGE FROM HOMELESSNESS, A JOURNEY HOME



Words from **Mary Ellen Coon** BOARD CHAIR



SARANAM, A PLACE FOR LIVING—an opportunity for giving. It all began with Frances Thaxton Ash, a woman who in her gratitude for home and family gave through her legacy the means for others to experience the joy of “home.”

Her legacy continues and provides the opportunity for generous volunteers in our community to give out of their gratitude the gift of home, education and a supportive community to those without such basic resources.

While acknowledging that giving and receiving cannot be separated, we, the Board of Directors of Saranam, say “thank you” to all our volunteers for helping to so greatly enrich and continue the vision and legacy of Frances Thaxton Ash.

*2011 celebrated the 10th year of Mrs. Thaxton’s gift.*

*Saranam is harder than I thought it would be, but it's worth it.* –SARANAM RESIDENT

### Words from Tracy Sharp EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who helped make 2011 another great year for Saranam—our staff, volunteers, donors and most importantly, the families in our program. Last year was a year of new beginnings and sustainability. 2011 marked the ten year anniversary of Frances Thaxton Ash's estate gift which created Saranam. We commemorated this milestone with enthusiasm and great hope for a successful future. We celebrated as five families exited our program successfully into their own housing, continued with school and/or work and saw their families' lives stabilize. We greeted two new staff members, a new Case Manager and a new Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator, who have both become instrumental in the successes of our families and expanded our mission in the community. We partnered with numerous agencies and organizations for the benefit of the families in our program. We also welcomed many groups and individual volunteers who provided a range of services from furnishing and decorating apartments to providing community events and drives for our families. We rejoiced at the gift of the Samuel Project from Central United Methodist Church which is allowing us to build the capacity of Saranam to serve through 2012 by hiring a Director of Development and by rebranding with a new logo which signifies the journey our families and community are on together at Saranam.

We continue to work hard to further our mission in Albuquerque to empower families to end their homelessness through housing, education and supportive communities. Saranam is a unique program. We are proud of our stability and success. We hope you will continue to support this continual journey.



# SARANAM 2011 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## MISSION

To empower families to end their homelessness and poverty through housing, education and supportive communities.

## CORE VALUES

- Respect
- Transformation
- Empowerment
- Integrity
- Faithfulness
- Compassion

## STAFF

- Tracy Sharp *Executive Director*
- Sean Hopkins *Director of Development*
- Jennifer Mullen *Case Manager*
- Sue Campbell  
*Volunteer & Community Outreach Coordinator*
- Julie Green *Bookkeeper*

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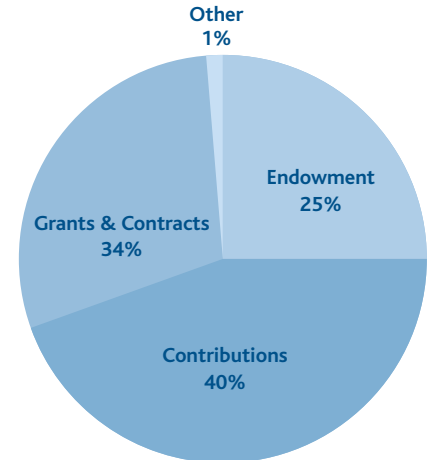
## YOU TOO CAN END HOMELESSNESS IN ALBUQUERQUE

Be sure to check out our website for the most current information, newsletters, ways to become involved at Saranam, or to donate online. Help Saranam change the lives of homeless families. Go to [www.saranamabq.org](http://www.saranamabq.org).

Saranam is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.

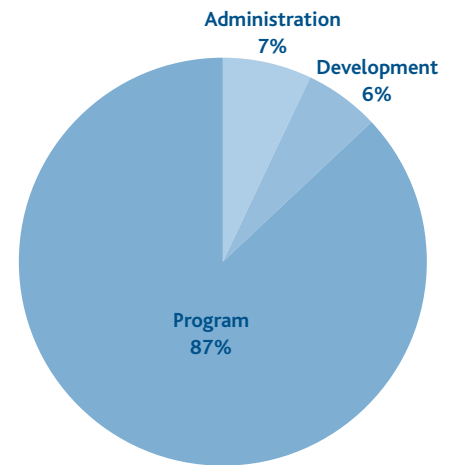
## SARANAM REVENUES

Endowment \$93,994  
 Contributions \$151,091  
 Grants & Contracts \$129,095  
 Other \$5,838  
**TOTAL \$380,018**



## SARANAM EXPENSES

Administration \$24,604  
 Development \$19,056  
 Program \$301,646  
*includes housing, education and other expenses*  
**TOTAL \$345,306**



## CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS

California Pizza Kitchen \$315  
 PNM Resources \$1,000

## GRANTS AND CONTRACTS AWARDED IN 2011

United Way of Central New Mexico \$44,944  
 William & Florence Thaxton Endowment \$30,000  
 Daniels Fund \$20,000  
 Mortgage Finance Authority, Essential Services Only \$17,091  
 Albuquerque Community Foundation, Future Fund \$7,750  
 Clothes Helping Kids \$3,500  
 Citi \$2,500  
 Wells Fargo \$1,500  
 Presbyterian Healthcare Foundation \$1,000  
 Albuquerque District Missions \$600

## HOUSING COSTS \$186,098 | 54% of total expense

Covers all physical provisions including:

Apartment supplies, hygiene supplies	Transportation
Stocked kitchen / pantry	Background checks
Case Management	Drug tests
Rent	Telephones
Stipend	Utilities

## EDUCATION COSTS \$104,982 | 30% of total expense

Covers costs of being in school including:

Contract with Central New Mexico Community College, Workforce Training Center

Child care	Training Fees and supplies
Computers	Scholarships

*Additional program expenses include classroom, office and operating expenses.*

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Six measures of success are evaluated upon a family's exit from Saranam.

In 2011, 8 families exited the program.

### 1 HOUSING

6 adults/5 families moved into their own housing

### 2 EDUCATION

6 adults/5 families improved their education while in Saranam and 4 adults/4 families continued in school upon exit

### 3 EMPLOYMENT

3 adults/3 families were employed upon exit

### 4 LIFE SKILLS MANAGEMENT

5 adults/5 families improved their life skills

### 5 PARENTING

5 adults/5 families improved their parenting skills

### 6 MAJOR BARRIERS ADDRESSED

4 adults/3 families addressed their major barriers while in the program

Since inception in February 2004, Saranam has opened its doors to 51 of Albuquerque's homeless families, including 61 adults and 104 children. Of the families that have left the program, 73% were in housing at the time of exit or have later reported to Saranam that they are housed. We have educated/are educating 61 adult residents with life skills training and adult basic education.

## FACTS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS

- > Homeless families comprise roughly 1/3 of the total homeless population.
- > One in every 45 children experiences homelessness in America each year. That is 1.6 million children each year.
- > In 2010, over 16,000 children were homeless in New Mexico.
- > New Mexico ranks 45th in child homelessness in America.
- > Children experiencing homelessness are sick four times more often than other children.
- > In the past five years (2007-2012), the number of homeless students attending Albuquerque Public Schools has doubled from 3,428 in 2007 to over 7,000 in 2012.
- > Extended homelessness has been shown to lead to early death at an average age of between 42 and 52, due to many untreated chronic health conditions as well as the hardship of living outdoors.
- > The National Low Income Housing Coalition's study "Out of Reach 2010" explains that an average two-bedroom apartment in Albuquerque rents for \$782/month. In order to afford rent, a wage worker must make at least \$15.04/hour. However, minimum wage in Albuquerque is \$7.50/hour, and the average (mean) wage for a worker is \$11.52/hour.



*Saranam addresses this wage disparity by increasing the education and skill level of homeless families, thus increasing their earning potential and empowering them to remain self-sufficient.*



## SARANAM PROGRAM SERVICES

### HOUSING

Each family is provided a furnished apartment, a home that provides stability. All families are located in the same apartment complex, encouraging the formation of community.

### ADULT BASIC EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILLS

In the first phase of the program, adults participate in adult basic education and life skills training courses provided by CNM Workforce Training Center and taught on the Saranam campus. Some topics include GED, computer skills, parenting, financial management, nutrition, health and hygiene, communication, domestic violence education, drug and alcohol education, and vocational skills training.

### VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

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

### CASE MANAGEMENT

Families are provided with intensive support and advocacy from their case manager. Referrals are made for health, mental health and other needed services. Accountability is an important piece of the transition out of homelessness.

### TRANSPORTATION

Monthly bus passes or a gas stipend is provided each family during their stay at Saranam.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

Saranam provides and arranges regular community events to help connect our families to each other and to the larger community.

### CHILD CARE

Saranam covers child care expenses and before/after school care expenses that are not otherwise provided for. Child care plays an important role in the stability of the children and the success of the adults who are in school and in the workforce.

# Housing



SARANAM IS A REFUGE from homelessness. We provide our families with this refuge by housing them in a safe, fully furnished apartment. Studies show that until a family has a stable housing situation, they are unable to move forward in other areas of their lives, such as education and employment. This is true for the children as well as the adults in homeless families.

Saranam's families live in the same apartment complex which allows them to immediately become members of an established community. Our families learn to live together, care for their shared living environment together, work through conflicts together, and most importantly, learn to support each other. This platform of a safe, stable housing community supports Saranam families as they begin to move forward in their education, parenting, and community participation.



## DEMOGRAPHICS for all those served in calendar year 2011

### During 2011 Saranam housed 16 families

4 accepted in 2009  
6 accepted in 2010  
6 accepted in 2011

### No. of Children 29

Average Age 5.9  
AGE RANGE  
Under 1: 3 infants  
1 to 5: 12  
6 -10: 9  
11+: 5  
Female 17  
Male 12

### No. of Adults 20

Average Age: 26.75  
AGE RANGE  
18-25: 4  
26-35: 9  
36+: 7  
Female 16  
Male 4

### Ethnicities of Adults

*as self-identified on application*  
African American 3  
Caucasian 7  
Hispanic 8  
Native American 4

### Education Level Completed Upon Entrance to Saranam

Completed 8th grade 1  
Completed 9th grade 1  
Completed 10th grade 3  
Completed 11th grade 1  
High School Diploma 3  
GED 4  
Some College 6  
Nothing identified 1

### Contributing Factors of Homelessness

*as identified by the families*  
Substance Abuse 4% (1)  
Domestic Violence 18% (4)  
Mental Health 9% (2)  
Relationship/Family Problems 36% (8)  
Poor Economy 64% (14)  
Health 4% (1)  
Unable to pay Utilities 4% (1)  
Asked to leave housing 18% (4)  
Unable to pay rent 14% (3)  
Legal Problems 4% (1)  
Illness 4% (1)  
Released from Jail 4% (1)

### 45 families applied in 2011

The families served in 2011 were referred by 14 different agencies.

*Saranam is just  
what I needed to  
turn my life around.*

—SARANAM RESIDENT



# Education



SARANAM BELIEVES EDUCATION is vital to ensure a successful transition out of the cycle of homelessness and poverty. Research shows that income goes up as educational attainment increases. Annual income nearly doubles for someone with some college over someone who doesn't have a high school diploma/GED. By emphasizing the value of education and providing students opportunities to choose their vocational path, we provide access to improved employment opportunities, stabilization of housing and the means for our parents to succeed.

Saranam provides a full semester of on-site classes to prepare students for success in college courses. Adults are prohibited from working so that they can be full-time students, focusing on furthering their education. Saranam also provides a year of life skills courses that teach how values, choices and behaviors affect not only the individual but also families, employers, and the community. These life skills are crucial for success and provide the skills often lacking in homeless families.



## SARANAM EDUCATION 2011

### Number of Adults Receiving Adult Basic Education 8

Adult Basic Education (ABE) includes a broad assessment of current academic skills, GED preparation classes, and individualized academic instruction for those students possessing a GED or high school diploma. Classes are taught at Saranam by CNM Workforce Training Center instructors four half-days during the fall semester. These classes are required for all Saranam adults during their first semester in our program. Of families accepted to Saranam in 2011, one adult had completed some college and did not take an initial assessment. The remaining seven students initially tested at an average of seventh grade in reading, and 6th grade in math and language. Two who needed a GED passed after four months of classes. All students enrolled in college classes after one semester of Adult Basic Education.

### Number of Adults Receiving Vocational Training 16

After completing the first full semester of on-site classes at Saranam (Life Skills and ABE), students are required to enroll part-time in an off-site vocational training program at a school of the student's choice. All 16 students enrolled at CNM. All Saranam adults are required to continue with their vocational training until their course of study is completed and/or a transition plan for exiting Saranam is in place.

*I didn't know I was smart enough to earn my GED.*

—SARANAM STUDENT



*I want more than a regular job.* –SARANAM STUDENT

## Number of Adults Receiving Life Skills 16

Life skills courses include parenting, nutrition, financial management training, domestic violence awareness, safety, health and sex education, drug and alcohol prevention, home maintenance, values and communication and vocational skills training. They are taught in the Saranam classroom by Central New Mexico Community College Workforce Training Center. Saranam adult participants attend four half days for fall and spring semesters and one morning per week during the summer semester. These courses are required for all Saranam adults during their first year in the program.

Through life skills training, weekly Community Speakers gave educational presentations for the Saranam students on these topics.

**ABQRide** bus transportation

**Anita Lee** *motivational speaker* How to Re-Write Your Life

**Dr. Cindy Arndell** University of New Mexico, poverty and health

**League of Women Voters** voter registration, democratic process

**New Mexico Educators Federal Credit Union** how to establish bank accounts

**Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center** community resources available for families

**Mike Cosgrove** financial management

**Red Cross** first aid

**S.A.F.E. House** domestic violence

**Bernalillo County I-CAN** nutrition and cooking

**Sandra Sanchez** sewing

**Wise Financial Planning & Wealth Management** budgeting

**YWCA** heart health

**New Mexico Tobacco Use, Prevention and Control Program** tobacco education and support resources

**Boys and Girls Club of New Mexico** community resources for children

**Data Doctors** internet safety

**UNM Medical/Pharmacy School** advocating for your personal health



# Community



SARANAM BELIEVES THAT the lack and loss of community is a major factor in creating family homelessness. Building a community among each incoming class connects families to each other and is part of our solution. We teach the value of community to families in our program by creating a peer group to support each other through everyday challenges and celebrations in life. We include community building in every aspect of the Saranam program.

Saranam could not provide our families opportunities for connections to the greater community without the generous support of our local community. Community connects people to each other. It provides a network of support. Our volunteers exemplify the value of community everyday through their generous support of Saranam by giving of their gifts of time, talent, and energy.

Saranam thanks our 2011 donors and volunteers! We could not do all that we do without these generous individuals and groups.



**Total number of unduplicated volunteers 288**

**Total volunteer hours 1821**

Some of the ways volunteers engaged in Saranam this year:

Donation Pick Ups

Decorate Apartments

Apartment Set Up

Furniture Movers

Group Projects

Saranam Board/Committees

Hospitality and Office

Shopping for Supplies



Churches and organizations gave their time, talent and donations to support the Saranam community.

Thank you to the following groups who volunteered in 2011:

Albuquerque Academy High School Football Team

Ansel Interiors

Asbury United Methodist Church

Ashley Furniture

Central United Methodist Church

Alfies Sunday School Class

Choir Ladies

Keep Albuquerque Warm

United Methodist Men

Christ United Methodist Church

Citi

Covenant United Methodist Church

Eisenhower Unit of Girl Scouts

PEO AX Chapter

Rio Grande High School Student Senate

S & H Hauling

Sandia National Laboratories Engineers

St. Chad's Episcopal Church

Tulsa, OK United Methodist Church Youth Group

Unpainted Furniture

*It feels good that  
people that don't  
even know me want  
to help me do better.*

—SARANAM RESIDENT

*If I can be successful at Saranam, I can take care of my family.* –SARANAM RESIDENT

**Asbury United Methodist Church** hosted a pie making party and Christmas in July to provide donations for the apartments

**Covenant United Methodist Church** made Christmas stockings and Easter baskets for all Saranam children and families

**Rio Grande High School Student Senate** hosted a Halloween party and clothing drive

**Christ United Methodist Church** made casseroles for the families, hosted a Christmas tea and an underwear drive

**St. Chad's Episcopal Church** collected stamps from Albertson's for kitchen appliances

**PEO Chapter AX** collected kitchen utensils at a Christmas party

**Ashley Furniture and Bill & Rachel Johnston** provided many mattresses for the apartments and provided Thanksgiving baskets for each Saranam family

**Central United Methodist Church** collected gift cards for Christmas presents and many people adopted baskets of toiletry, paper and cleaning supplies for the apartments

**Tulsa United Methodist Church Youth Group** cleaned the warehouse

**Central United Methodist Church Men and Tulsa UMC Youth** varnished the apartment fences

**Citi** provided gift cards for shoes for Saranam kids

**Unpainted Furniture and Brad House** donated many tables and chairs

**S & H Hauling** donated their services to moving furniture to the apartments

**Albuquerque Academy Football Team** provided muscle for moving furniture to the apartments

**Keep Albuquerque Warm** hand crocheted afghans for each Saranam family

**Sandia National Laboratories Engineer Group** set up bed frames for all the apartments

#### APARTMENT DECORATORS

Eisenhower Service Unit Girl Scouts including Brownies thru Cadets, Ansel Interiors and Covenant United Methodist Church, Employees and families of Citi, Central United Methodist Church Choir Ladies, Central United Methodist Church Alfies Sunday School Class, St. Chad's Episcopal Church



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## 2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Ellen Coon *Chair* Licensed Professional Counselor, Retired

Dan Long *Vice Chair* Summit Electrical Supply

Jane Rowe *Secretary* Rowe Law Firm

Cindy Arndell UNM Hospital

Rene Clark Boys and Girls Club of Albuquerque & Rio Rancho

Lucia Deichmann New Paradigm

Brad Gibbs Property Manager

Steve Handy Sandia National Laboratories

Elton Hodgson Retired

Rebecca Leppala NM Department of Finance & Administration

Bobby J. Sanchez Presbyterian Medical Services

Scott Sharp Central United Methodist Church

Donna M. Stumpf Animal Humane New Mexico

Nancy Wood Presbyterian Healthcare Foundation, Retired

## 2011 RETIRING DIRECTORS

Dick Reinhart Retired

Claudia Ryan Retired

## YOU TOO CAN HELP END HOMELESSNESS IN ALBUQUERQUE

Check out our website for ways to become involved at Saranam or to make a donation.

Go to [www.saranamabq.org](http://www.saranamabq.org).