



SARANAM

Central's Family Transitions Assistance
Transforming the lives of Homeless Families

1000 Eubank NE, Suite C, Albuquerque, NM 87112
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505-299-6154
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“Saranam”
Means
Refuge

Core Values

Respect
Transformation
Empowerment
Integrity
Faithfulness
Compassion

6 Steps to Self Sufficiency

- Step 1: Intake/Orientation
- Step 2: Educational/Personal Development
- Step 3: Vocational Development
- Step 4: Job Placement/Employee Support
- Step 5: Independent Living
- Step 6: Independence

Saranam Staff

Kelly Brooks
Michelle Garth-Jones
Tracy Sharp
Saranam Case Manager
Community Outreach Coordinator
Director Homeless Ministries

Give the Gift of GIFT GIVING



Often in the world of outreach and working with disadvantaged people, especially during the holidays when giving is thankfully at a high for the year, gifts are bought and matched up with the recipient. However, because budgeting and choice are major components of our work with Saranam families, this year I invite you to consider the opportunity you have to give the gift of GIFT GIVING by donating gift cards to our families.

Our parents know best what their sons or daughters want, what their personality is like, and what are their favorite colors. Please help support this dignified (and realistic) way of gift giving as it not only allows our residents to pick out the gifts they will give, but it also teaches them how to spend a set amount of money and stay within their budget at a time when overspending is encouraged.

If you would like to give gifts to the Saranam families this Christmas Season, please donate any increment (please label the amount) of Wal-Mart, Target or other gift cards directly to Saranam to distribute to our residents so they may choose what to give as gifts to their own families.

You may pick an “ornament ” off of the tree in New Day Worship (Central UMC Social Hall) to remind yourself of giving gift cards. Please make your donations by Monday, December 15, as they will be distributed on Tuesday, the 16th in time for the parents to shop before school gets out. You may return gift cards to the Saranam or Central offices.



Thank you in advance for the gift cards.
Thank you for giving the gift of GIFT GIVING.

Thank you for your support of Saranam throughout 2008!



Without you, our partners, Saranam would not be possible. The families we serve are truly grateful for their opportunity to begin their lives anew, and appreciate the wonderful community of Saranam!

We wish you a Christmas Season filled will much joy and peace !

Girl Scouts Assemble Birthday Boxes Again this Year



Troops from the Eisenhower Service Unit generously made and donated several birthday boxes to

Saranam. It is a Girl Scout tradition to do a service project to honor their founder, Juliette Low's, birthday. Many Girl Scout troops thought it would be fitting to make birthday boxes to honor her birthday. Saranam was very privileged to receive many boxes from the Girl Scouts, one made especially for each of the children in the program. I know the families will be both surprised and delighted to see what great things they will have for their children's birthdays! Thank you Girl Scouts!

A Special Thank You!

We would like to thank Whole Foods Store on Academy for donating recycled, reusable bags for our families to use at Saranam. When going green, every little bit helps.

We would like to thank Page One Bookstore located at Montgomery and Juan Tabo for generously donating gift certificates for every child at Saranam. What a wonderful way to reinforce the joy of reading with your very own book!

Fun on Fieldtrips!

On November 4th our families went on a field trip to the Explora! Museum. This field trip was especially rewarding as each of our families received a one year membership through Explora's generous Helping Hands membership program. The families had a great time incorporating Explora's slogan, "ideas you can touch" into their visit. The bubbles exhibit appeared to be a favorite of all ages. We finished our visit with a pizza picnic party. We invite you to thank Explora the next time you visit them for supporting Saranam.



The Saranam families were recipients of a special treat on November 11th. We were given a special tour of Whole Foods Market on Carlisle and Indian School. The parents and school age children tasted their way through the store while learning about nutrition and budgeting. Who knew nutritious food could taste so great? At the end of our tour and discussion we were served delicious pizza for lunch and had a great time.

Thank you Whole Foods!



Philanthropizza.

Mark Your Calendars! Please join us at California Pizza Kitchen for a flavorsome fundraising event.

On Tuesday, January 20, 2009 Saranam will have a fundraiser event with California Pizza Kitchen in ABQ Uptown. Go and have lunch or dinner or both and California Pizza Kitchen will give Saranam 20% of the sales from that date. More info next month!

Saranam Sunday

Thank you to everyone who helped make Saranam Sunday at Central UMC a success!

Once a year, Central UMC allows Saranam to lead worship and share the good work the Saranam program is doing in the community with the congregation. A team of staff and volunteers develop the order of worship and lead the three services on this morning.

This year the Central Chordsmen, Chancel and Children's Choirs, and the No Boundaries band also enhanced the services with special music. Kelly Brooks shared the Children's Sermon talking about what a family is and how families (individual, and community families) care for each other.

In the message, we heard from Tracy Sharp about the importance of community and support systems as we work together with families to end their homelessness and poverty. She shared the history and structure of Saranam, from the 2001 gift of the Frances Thaxton Ash Endowment to the development of the current program. She told that in Saranam, not only individuals, but the community becomes transformed by working together.



Most importantly some of the families in the program spoke about their transformations and opportunities available to them through Saranam. Christie shared her experience of being in her second year and the change of perspective that comes with building trust and respect with program staff and peers. The time she has spent in school and in the program over the past year has benefited herself and her son.

Elaine shared her excitement and wonder at the changes she has made in herself over the last two years while in Saranam. She is amazed that she is trusted to do the job she is doing and is proud to have become a stable mother whose sons are very involved in sports and scouting. Elaine is also excited to be preparing to sign a lease of her own and to be remaining in the apartment community as she sets out on her own.



Saranam Sundays offer Saranam the opportunity to share how this program changes the world one life and family at a time with other individuals in the community. Certainly we work to change the lives of the homeless families we work with, but ultimately in doing so each individual is transformed and most importantly we become a transformed community. Collaboration creates prosperity. Walk with me on this journey. Together.

(If you have a congregation or group who may be interested in hearing more about Saranam, please contact Tracy at 299-6154 x 102)

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: *After attending services for Saranam Sunday, one of our families would like to come to the*
: *New Day Service at Central UMC. If you would be interested in providing transportation to*
: *this mom and son on Sunday mornings please contact Kelly at 299-6154 ext. 101.*
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Voices of Saranam

What are you looking forward to in the holidays?



...To be able to be happy and having a chance to relax and have fun with family.

...I am excited about keeping traditions and starting new ones. Without Saranam, this would not have been possible.

...I am looking forward to being with my family and friends.

...I am looking forward to being in my own apartment for the first time in a long time this holiday season.

...To spend time alone with my daughter - Our first holiday alone.

...I am looking forward to being with my kids on Christmas in our own home and making new, beautiful memories with our family.

Check Saranam Out Online!

Do you have a question about Saranam? Do you want to know more of the details about how the program works? Would you like to know more about volunteering? Maybe you want to see what last year's application looks like or check out previous newsletters? Would you like to contribute easily online? You can find all of this and more on our web-site. Check us out at www.saranamabq.org

If you would like to receive the Saranam Newsletter via e-mail, please send your request to info@saranamabq.org

Christmas Decorations Needed for Families' Homes

Tis' the season for baking, gifts, decorations, and merriment!

Our families would like to get into the holiday spirit and are in need of some Christmas decorations.



If you would like to donate some Christmas cheer please drop off trees and/or decorations at our office on Eubank.

Donations of Winter Coats Needed



As we enter into the winter season, our families are discovering the need for coats and warm clothing for themselves and their children.

If you have any winter coats or clothes items for adult women or for children ages 8 months to 14 years, both male and female, please contact the Saranam

Do You Want to Volunteer? Do You Want to Donate?

If you are interested in volunteering or donating items to Saranam, please contact Michelle Garth-Jones, Outreach Coordinator at 299-6154 ext. 100 or saranam.michelle@gmail.com. Michelle is in the offices Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.