



# SARANAM

*Transforming the Lives of Homeless Families*

1000 Eubank NE, Suite C,  
Volume 6, Number 1

Albuquerque, NM 87112  
www.saranamabq.org

505-299-6154  
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“Saranam”  
Means  
Refuge

### Mission

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

### 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

## Congratulations Elaine & Roxanne! Success!

Congratulations to Elaine Gutierrez and Roxanne Blow for completing and moving out of Saranam successfully! Both have moved into their own apartments, have their income stabilized and are still attending school. We are proud and look forward to seeing their continued success as they make it on their own!



Elaine entered Saranam in the class of 2006 and is continuing in school for an Associates Degree in Social Work. She decided to sign her own lease and remain at the Fox Ridge Apartments and will continue to live within the Saranam community.

“I have been so blessed since I came to Saranam. My life has turned into someone that my children and others look up to now. I have found the person, the parent and the woman I knew I could be! Saranam was a great experience not only for myself but for my children. The love and support of all was unbelievable. Thank you for believing in me and giving me the chance at a positive future!”



Roxanne came to Saranam in 2007. Roxanne has taken on the responsibility of starting a new life with her son. She plans to continue her education in order to open her own business on day.

“One year ago I came into Saranam not knowing what my future was going to hold for my unborn child and myself. Saranam taught me how to make it on my own with my son Patrick by my side. I have completed my first year at CNM. I have found a cute little 2 bedroom apartment for us that is affordable. I have built the confidence to make it in the real world with my son thanks to the help of Saranam. I couldn’t have gotten this far without them.”

### Saranam’s Mission Statement is Updated

Every non-profit organization’s mission statement summarizes its fundamental purpose, philosophy, and the good that the organization hopes to bring to their community. It describes the needs an organization was created to fill and answers the basic question of why it exists in a concise and operational statement. The mission statement describes success and provides the primary, on-going direction for the organization.

Saranam’s Board of Directors recently updated our mission statement:

**Vision**— *Transform the lives of homeless families.*

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

*Cont. on pg 4*

## Gift Cards Give Opportunity to Give



Thank you to everyone who gave gift cards to our families this year! We had donations from many individuals at Central UMC and from St. Chad's Episcopal Church.

Your compassion and giving nature afforded our families to be able to give to their families. As the cards were distributed to families, they were very surprised and grateful at the generosity of the donors. The ladies have been conscientious of their budgets and careful to stay within their means as they bought gifts to give to their families.

*Thank you again to all those who helped give this wonderful gift of giving to our families!*

### A Special Thank You!

St. Martin's Hospitality Center for sponsoring our families for Christmas

Barrett House for sponsoring our families for Christmas

Christmas decorations helped our families prepare and enjoy the Christmas Season!

Winter clothing for our adults and their children.

Thanksgiving Baskets were donated by individuals and St. Chad's Episcopal Church for each of our families. They enjoyed baking and cooking for their families!

Covenant UMC for donating brand new dishes to all of our families and some for the next class!

## Christmas Party

Our Christmas Party was a huge success! We had fun snacks for everyone and great family crafts. The families decorated cookies, made picture frames and created ornaments to keep and to share. We shared in the many joys of the seasons while having fun with all those present.



### Christmas Stockings for All

There are many ways volunteers from Covenant United Methodist Church support Saranam families! We want to thank Covenant UMC for donating Christmas stockings filled with wonderful treats for all the children in the program.



These stockings were delivered and given out during the Christmas Party by volunteers and the families were most appreciative! It is such a blessing to thank Covenant UMC for continuing to be involved in the lives of families at Saranam!



*After attending services for Saranam Sunday, one of our families said she and her son would like to come to the New Day Service at Central UMC. Thank you to Rachel Theobald and Jill Henderson for helping to provide a ride for this family to church!*

## Students Jump Ahead in Academic Classes

Kelly Klein, GED Instructor

I am incredibly proud of the new Saranam students this semester. They were pushed very hard to acquire the academic skills needed to pass the GED and prepare them for entering college. As a result of their willingness to drive themselves and their dedication to changing their lives, we have some wonderful results. At the beginning of the semester, they each took the Accuplacer Test (CNM placement test), which dictates which levels of classes they would begin if attending CNM. At the end of the semester we took the test again in order to determine their growth and placement for the spring semester at CNM. Three of the students went up three levels each (that is the equivalent of three semesters or one year)! Two students increased two levels in Math and one level in Language Arts, while another student passed two levels in Language Arts and one level in Math. One student stayed at the same level, and the final student placed in college entry classes.

### Students Pass the GED!

In addition to these accomplishments, I am delighted to announce that two out of three students passed the GED test completely the first time round and the third student passed two of the five subjects, just two days after leaving the hospital.

*It has been a privilege to work with these women and I am honored to see the results of their work. Congratulations!!!*

# Philanthropizza

Please join us at California Pizza Kitchen for a flavorsome fundraising event. All you need to do is bring in this flyer on our scheduled date and present it to your server when ordering.

**20% of your check will benefit our organization.**

So come out and enjoy something delicious from the CPK menu.

Your taste buds will thank you, and so will we.



**Saranam**

**California Pizza Kitchen  
Albuquerque Uptown  
2241 Q St NE, suite 7G  
505.883.3005**

**Tuesday, January 20, 2009**

Thanks for the support.  
We can't wait to see you.

Donation amount excludes proceeds from tax, gratuity and retail purchases. Valid for dine-in and take-out only.

Manager, please attach this flyer to the guest check.

Event proceeds void if flyers are distributed in or near the restaurant.

## Volunteers Needed In the Classroom



In 2009 we are looking for volunteers to teach classes on the following topics:

- sewing
- self defense
- organization
- home maintenance/cleaning

Classes will be held on Tuesday mornings 8:30-10:30. Please contact Michelle at 299-6154 X100 or e-mail her at [saranam.michelle@gmail.com](mailto:saranam.michelle@gmail.com)

### **Mission Statement Cont...**

The Council on Homeless Ministries, now the Board of Directors for Saranam, developed the original mission statement prior to a program existing. Some of that wording has been carried over in the current revision while some of it will become part of the description of the history of Saranam. It is important to the group that we not lose the text in the original mission statement which reads: *...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.* This text will be used in descriptions of the history of Saranam so that it remains prominent in the agency's materials.

Revising a mission statement takes much effort and time. Thank you to the Board of Directors for careful consideration of what Saranam's purpose is. As we continue to grow and move forward in Saranam, may we stay focused on our mission to empower families to end their homelessness.

*If you would like to receive the Saranam Newsletter via e-mail, please send your request to [info@saranamabq.org](mailto:info@saranamabq.org)*

## Saranam Thanks Board Members



Donna Berry, original Council on Homeless Ministries (CHM) member, Corbin Hildebrandt and Phil Stanton have served on Saranam's Board of Directors (CHM) and are going off in January 2009. Donna was part of the original group tasked with figuring out what to do with Mrs. Ash's Endowment from 2001. Corbin served on the CHM for two years and will continue to be active on the property committee as he will now serve on Central's Trustees. Phil Stanton served for one year and was asked by Central to be Chair of the Finance Committee. He is and will continue to be very involved with setting up and maintaining the computers and IT at Saranam. We are very grateful for the outstanding leadership these three have given to CHM and for their insight and support.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Saranam program!

## Welcome Two New Board Members

We welcome two new CHM members: **Stephanie Harris** and **Gerry Lannom**. We look forward to getting to know and working with you!

## Voices of Saranam



What are your New Year's Resolutions?

- ....to lose a little more weight and to stay in school no matter what!*
- ....to go to school and stay in. Also not to let anyone bring me down.*
- ....to stay clean and sober and continue with school!*
- ....to stay strong and determined with everything that comes my way.*
- ....to walk everyday (at least three times a week) and to draw more.*
- ....to maintain going to school.*