



SARANAM

Transforming the Lives of Homeless Families

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NEWSLETTER

February 2011

“Saranam” Means Refuge

Mission

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

Saranam’s Core Values

*Respect
Transformation
Empowerment
Integrity
Faithfulness
Compassion*

Saranam Staff

Jennifer Mullen
Case Manager

Tamie Gregg
Volunteer &
Community
Outreach
Coordinator

Sharon Shaffer
Development
Director

Tracy Sharp
Executive Director

Saranam Offices

1000 Eubank NE
Suite C
Albuquerque, NM
87112
505-299-6154

Welcome Tamie Gregg

Saranam says farewell to Maria Santelli, and welcomes Tamie Gregg as our new Volunteer & Community Outreach Coordinator. We have enjoyed working with Maria, and thank her for her service and enthusiasm with our volunteers, donors and families. We wish Maria all the best in the next phase of her life.



" Hi, my name is Tamie Gregg, your new Volunteer & Community Outreach Coordinator! I would like to introduce myself and tell you a little about myself. I grew up in Cody, Wyoming just east of Yellowstone Park. After high school I enlisted in the US Navy and spent five years on a West Coast ship and as a Survival Instructor for the East Coast P.O.W. Training School. Once my service tour was complete I obtained a Master's Degree in Counseling from the University of Arkansas. I have worked in the social service field for seven years with troubled and incarcerated youth, toddlers with severe abuse and neglect, homeless families in Albuquerque and even as a youth director within the local Methodist Church. I have experience working with volunteers from various backgrounds, age groups and faith communities. Most recently, my family and I spent a few years in Arizona where I had the opportunity to be the volunteer coordinator for one of three Scottsdale Health Care campuses. I am glad to be back in the Albuquerque area and excited to be a part of Saranam!"

Voices...How have you changed, after your first semester with Saranam?

- I'm impressed with myself. (In reference to passing the GED.)
- I doubled, and in some subjects tripled my scores after one semester with Charlene. (Charlene is the academic instructor.)
- Without Saranam I probably wouldn't have taken that step to get my GED.
- I want life now.
- I love this life....I don't know why it took me so long to get here.
- I don't know where we'd be right now (without Saranam).
- Just being in this program....things seem so much easier now, even though it's hard work.
- Because of Saranam, I got my family back.
- After one semester everything seems to be falling into place.



Case Manager Corner:

The families enjoyed two weeks off from classes over the Christmas break, and have been busily adjusting to their new 2011 schedule.

The first-year adults are all enrolled in campus-based community college classes. Classes started on January 10, so the recent focus has been on figuring out transportation to campus, how to meet course expectations, and establishing a study schedule.

The adults now attend Saranam-based classes four mornings per week. These classes continue to focus on parenting, job skills and life skills training.

The Saranam children all seemed to enjoy their Christmas break. It was wonderful for the kids to have long periods of time with their parents in a safe, warm home. The kids are now back in school and daycare full-time.

Everyone enjoyed a day-off on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The families gathered at Saranam for a few hours of fun. They played games and made animal faces out of food. Each family also worked together to create their own "I Have a Dream Book." It was a morning full of smiles!



Visit us on-line at www.saranamabq.org



Donor Corner



Saranam is grateful for the continued support of the following organizations:

- The Daniel's Fund = \$20,000
- California Pizza Kitchen = \$315



Additionally, Saranam would like to thank all of the individuals and businesses who donated to Saranam during our year-end letter campaign — a total of \$4,200.

House Parties For Saranam



Are you a Saranam supporter who would like to help inform more of the Albuquerque community about Saranam's great work? We are looking for people to host house parties for Saranam. Here's how it works -- you invite co-workers, friends and/or family members (who are not already involved with Saranam) to your home for a little party. The host provides the goodies, and a Saranam representative makes a brief presentation about Saranam. Attendees are offered an opportunity to get involved with Saranam through their time, talent and/or treasure. For more information contact Sharon at 299.6154 x 104.