

Local news in brief Jan. 7, 2010

The New Mexican

Posted: Wednesday, January 06, 2010

Push on to buy women's shelter

St. Elizabeth Shelter is hoping to have a year-round emergency shelter specifically for homeless women and families.

In November, the shelter opened Casa Familia in a rented building off Cerrillos Road. It originally intended to operate the facility during the winter months, but because of high demand, the staff is hoping to keep it open all year long. To do that, St. Elizabeth will have to buy the building, which is available for \$315,000. The shelter already has cash and commitments of \$221,000, according to a news release. That includes \$100,000 pledges from the Frost Foundation, which provided the startup funds for Casa Familia, and Garrett Thornburg, founder and chairman of Thornburg Investment Management. Now the nonprofit is seeking help from the rest of the community.

Casa Familia has 10 separate private rooms for families, two dormitory spaces for single women, two common areas, a large kitchen, showers and baths that allow it to accommodate more than 30 people each night.

For more information, go to www.steshelter.org or call Deborah Tang at 982-6611.