

Economic Refugees Fill St. Elizabeth



Robert Corral (center) with his fiancé Christine Herrera and Shane Lampman.

emergency shelter. “Most first-time homeless become so because of some major life disaster, like losing their job, becoming seriously ill or getting divorced. In a good economy, they can find a new job or save enough money to quickly regain their financial independence. But in a bad economy with no jobs, they stay homeless.”

Thomas Samuel is a case in point. He had been working in Santa Fe for the past 13 years as a freelance architectural draftsman, using AutoCAD, and never had trouble finding work with local construction companies. Then this past January, his phone stopped ringing. No longer able to pay rent at his apartment, he moved in with friends. But after a while, he wore out his welcome and, still unable to find work, came to St. Elizabeth. Once there, Shane was able to work with him to formulate a plan of action, refine and re-energize his job search, and help him find work and move in with some other friends.

“It was my first time in a shelter,”

continued on page 4

The news from the economy is all bad.

Sixteen consecutive months of job losses, the longest downturn since the Great Depression, has led to an official 8.5 percent unemployment rate or 13.2 million Americans out of work. Unofficially, nearly 25 million people, 16 percent of the work force, can only find part-time employment, are looking for work or have given up looking.

The economy has been shedding 23,000 jobs a day since January 1, 2009, with the people hardest hit being those without a high-school education as well as those working in construction or manufacturing. Closely linked is the growing number of home foreclosures, 790,158 since January 1 with another

1.6 million estimated by the end of this year.

Even though New Mexico has not been among the states hardest hit, the effects still have been striking. At St. Elizabeth Shelter, the number of people coming to our twice-weekly Resource Center for a free lunch from January through May 2009 more than doubled from the previous year. We also housed 71 percent more people in our Winter Overflow Shelter than from the previous year – 666 compared to 390 – as well as provided them with twice as many nights of shelter.

“There’s been a definite increase in the number of people we’re seeing who are homeless for the first time,” says Shane Lampman, case manager at the

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Building Futures...Changing Lives

~Mission~

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Director's Corner

“Homelessness is a weapon of mass destruction.”

~Dennis Kucinich

While St. Elizabeth Shelter provides emergency, transitional and permanent housing, that is not the main focus of our efforts. We truly want to end homelessness for every individual and family we encounter. Some need just a few days of shelter until they get their next paycheck; others need support over a longer period of time to cope with myriad issues. As the articles in this issue reflect, we are seeing more and more people struck by the economic downturn. While in the past, people were able to find a new job relatively quickly once they lost a job, that has become harder and harder as the job market shrinks.

Imagine what it might be like to look for a job every day and never get a call back. Imagine having small children looking to you to provide for them. Imagine the landlord evicting you, and you have no where else to go. It is no wonder that many who are homeless suffer from acute stress.

Our goal is to address the root causes of homelessness and to put St. Elizabeth out of the job of providing emergency shelter. If and when this happens, there are numerous other services we could provide, like supporting those who need assistance in maintaining their housing. We also could help with homeless prevention, job coaching or money management.

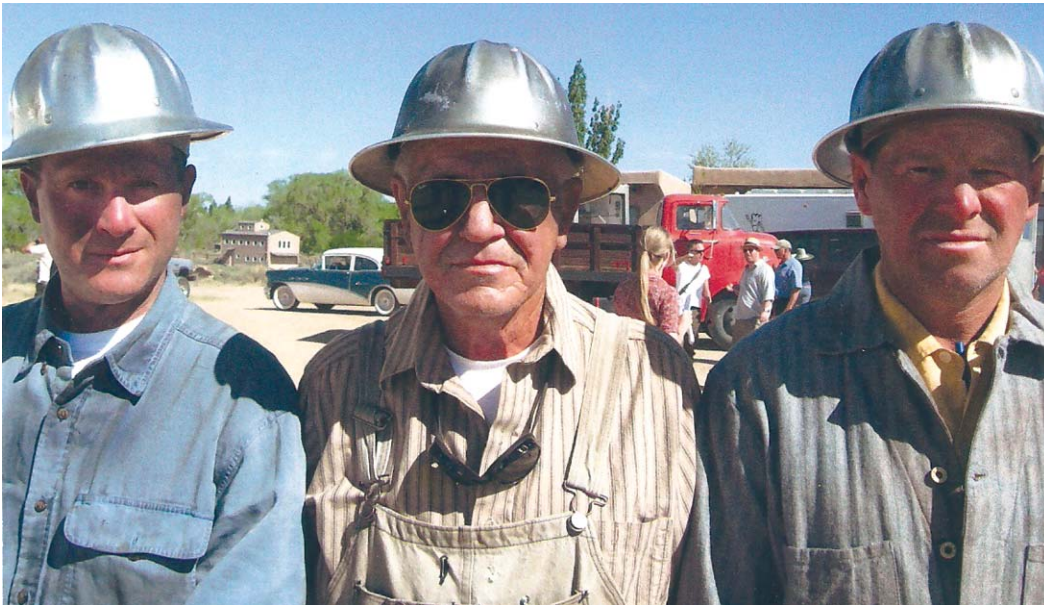
It doesn't matter if we believe that we can or cannot end homelessness. What matters is that we work as if it is achievable and surprise ourselves if we meet our goal!

Deborah Tang,
Executive Director



An emotional Maria Lopez, program manager, receives an engraved Nambé platter to recognize 20 years of service to St. Elizabeth Shelter.

From St. E's to the Silver Screen



Ray Kerr (center) and two fellow extras as oil riggers on "The Killer Inside Me" set.

After 30 years in Santa Fe, it all fell apart for Ray Kerr this past winter. His 28-year long-term relationship broke up, he moved out, and she ended up with all the shared resources – house, properties, savings.

Without a job, he sold his truck for cash and moved into the Motel 6 until the money ran out. Then he slept at the Winter Overflow Shelter for a week until a bed opened up at St. Elizabeth's emergency shelter.

"It's no picnic being homeless," he says, "particularly when you're 60 years old."

Ray was no stranger to work, having held a series of jobs since graduating from college: teacher, railroad worker, general construction, bakery driver, house painter, and even owning his own business, Market Ready, that spruced up houses ready for sale. But the fact that most of these are, in his words, "younger men's work" combined with a poor economy made finding a new job difficult.

Then he got a tip from a fellow shelter guest.

"He told me about an open casting call at The Lodge up on St. Francis Drive for a film being shot here," Ray

said. "So we went up together, filled out applications and had our pictures taken. One thousand people showed up, and they only needed 400 for a rodeo scene they wanted to film. They kept me but sent him back to the shelter."

The film, "Did You Hear About the Morgans," stars Hugh Grant and Sarah Jessica Parker as a New York couple relocated west in the witness relocation

program. Ray became part of the crowd in a rodeo scene. Even as they kept reducing the number of extras to focus on close-up shots, Ray kept being called back for more work.

"They were shooting at night, it was pretty cold and we weren't allowed to wear a jacket," he said. "So I quickly learned to put on long underwear, wool socks and several layers under my clothes to stay warm."

Ray's rugged good looks and acting ability must have impressed the casting director because he was asked to work on a second film, "The Killer Inside Me," starring Casey Affleck,

Kate Hudson and Jessica Alba. This time, he played an oil rigger.

"It's not an easy job," he says, "with take after take after take. We filmed one scene 15 times and it took six hours. But the longer you work, the more you get paid."

Even though he's enjoying the film work, Ray is looking for a full-time job with steady income so he can move out of the shelter into an apartment or public housing program. He's also filed for Social Security due to an old back injury that has flared up.

"This experience has shown me how truly important and needed St. Elizabeth is," he says. "The staff and volunteers are extremely compassionate, professional and non-prejudicial, and all those in the community who donate food, clothing and money are very much appreciated by me and my fellow guests."

"Without St. Elizabeth, I'd be out living in the hills somewhere, and that would make it real tough to clean up each morning and go find work, whether it be on a movie set or just a regular job."



Ray Kerr out of costume at St. Elizabeth Shelter.

Refugees...continued

Thomas said, "and I hope my last."

After years of steady work as a janitor, but living from paycheck to paycheck, Simon Dooley lost his job in Orlando, Florida, due to the economic downturn. With no savings and unable to find new work, the 58-year-old followed up on a job tip from a friend in Santa Fe and moved here. But when he arrived, his anticipated full-time job was no longer available.

"All they could give me was some part-time work," Simon said. "So I had a job but needed a place to stay to save up enough money to rent an apartment."

After a month at St. Elizabeth, Simon got a second part-time shift with the same company and saved up enough money to move out. Now he's working five nights a week cleaning two office complexes in town and doing well on his own.

Another victim of the recession is Robert Corral. He had been working for three years at Solo Cup in Belen, had met his fiancée, Christine Herrera, there, and they began making plans for the future. Then, last year, they both were laid off. Unable to find other work, they tried living on their unemployment benefits but could

not keep their apartment and had to move in first with family and then with friends. When their benefits ran out and still without employment, they became too much of a burden and began living in their truck until it broke down. They sold the truck for \$100 and came to Santa Fe to try and find work.

"It took me three years to get established and just three months to lose it all," Robert recalls.

The couple stayed at St. Elizabeth for 30 days during which Shane helped them obtain food stamps, file for general assistance, get vouchers for eyeglasses from the Lion's Club, and referred them to Healthcare for the Homeless for a general assessment. He also helped rebuild their self-esteem and encouraged Robert to seek whatever day jobs might be available at Labor Ready.

"Shane's been a great help," Robert says. "He gives good advice and direction, doesn't get too overwhelmed with continual questions, has extraordinary patience and is not judgmental."

After placing an ad in the paper asking someone to donate a truck for them to live in, Robert and Christine had their wish realized. A donor donated a 1989 Isuzu Trooper with a camper shell to St. Elizabeth, and the shelter's Good Samaritan Fund paid for the truck's license, registration and insurance. With this temporary home as a base, the couple is better able to continue their search for permanent employment.

"We're good people," Robert says. "We've just had a hard time."

St. Elizabeth's Good Samaritan Fund exists to make small donations, like this, to provide financial assistance to homeless individuals for immediate and vital needs. To support this effort, just write "Good Samaritan Fund" on your check or indicate it when you make a gift by credit card online or over the phone.



Simon Dooley is out of the shelter now and living on his own.

Winter Overflow Celebrates Busiest Year Ever

St. Elizabeth hosted a celebration on May 11th to thank the many community-wide volunteers that helped make this year's Winter Overflow Shelter the most successful ever. Thanks to grants from the Frost Foundation, St. Vincent/Santa Fe County Community Benefit Fund and the City of Santa Fe, as well as generous donations from numerous faith communities and individuals, we were able to rent one space large enough to house men, women and children and to keep the doors open until the last week in April. This also was the busiest Winter Overflow Shelter

with 666 guests receiving 10,122 bed nights and 20,244 meals, the latter all prepared and donated by volunteers from various faith communities. On average, 58 people a night were able to sleep inside in a safe and warm location with a full meal in their

stomach. Our thanks to the Interfaith Community Shelter group, the Interfaith Leadership Alliance and all the individuals who volunteered their time and effort to make this a winter that demonstrated Santa Fe's true community spirit of service to others.



Transitional Housing Programs Growing Green

Many St. Elizabeth residents will soon be enjoying food from their own gardens thanks to a nonprofit called Hunger Grow Away. Created by husband-and-wife team Tomi Jill Folk and Hank Bruce, the nonprofit's sole purpose is to provide a unique gardening system - Abundant Harvest Gardens - to communities and individual families to help end hunger one family at a time. The gardens are specially designed to reduce water usage and to produce higher yields.

St. Elizabeth Shelter purchased the gardens at cost, and we got a serious bang for our buck. Hank and Tomi travelled from Albuquerque early on a Friday with the ready-to-assemble garden boxes in tow. While our three transitional housing units - Casa Cerrillos, Sonrisa and Siringo - were ready for their gardens, they weren't expecting the complimentary seeds and seedlings, soil moisture testers, guidebooks written by Hank and Tomi, and their years of knowledge and experience. Hank and Tomi's inspiration is contagious!

Suzanne Pelayo, case manager at Casa Cerrillos, and resident Kerry Milton already had plans in place to till the soil behind the building. "Hank and Tomi were so nice and helpful, coming out of their way to start the project off. It was a good jumping off point to continue the garden further down the yard," Suzanne said.

Since placing their Abundant Harvest Garden, Casa Cerrillos residents have had a garden party and sowed five rows of seeds, while Kerry has designed a watering schedule so all residents can share the



Hank Bruce (center) helps staff and residents unravel the Abundant Harvest Garden at Sonrisa.

responsibility. Suzanne was expecting only women to take part, but a lot of the guys were enthusiastic about it too.

Perhaps that's one of the key reasons that Hank Bruce, who doubles as a horticultural therapist, is so passionate about the work he does. He shows people how to use gardening activities to nurture the body, mind and spirit



Planting the first squash in an outer cell.

while improving their quality of life.

Suzanne thinks that the residents will appreciate the garden. "Our residents can't afford to buy the kinds of veggies they want. Red and yellow

peppers are expensive, so we planted them! They can get produce that's organic rather than going to the market to get veggies that have been waxed over."

Home gardens are gaining in popularity nationwide due to the

current economic recession, and the Abundant Harvest Garden seems perfectly designed for New Mexico's often fickle soil and rainfall.

Suzanne says, "Everyone's pretty excited about it. It will take some hard work initially but when they see something bloom, there's a sense of self satisfaction that they've created something that is going to mature and provide them with nutrients."

Thank You Donors!

The following individuals, businesses, foundations, organizations, and faith communities have made financial contributions and/or donated gifts-in-kind to St. Elizabeth between November 1, 2008, and April 30, 2009. If we have inadvertently left you out, please contact Anna Carvlin at 982-6611 so we can correct our records. Our thanks also to those who chose to give anonymously and to everyone who brought food, clothing, supplies, etc. for our guests.

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 Stephen E. Thompson & Anne Weaver
 Thornburg Charitable Foundation
 Thornburg Investment Management
 Thornburg Mortgage Advisory Corporation
 William Thornton
 Tico's Health Shop
 Judith Toler
 Tomasita's Santa Fe Station
 Bernard & Carol Toobin
 Tortilla Flats
 Trader Joe's
 Tribes Coffee House
 Ethel & Maurice Trimmer
 Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church
 Vicenta Trujillo
 Judith & Daniel Tully
 William Ulrich
 Undisputed Fitness
 United Church of Santa Fe
 United Way of Santa Fe County
 Universal Jewelers
 Upsite Technologies, Inc.
 Mark K. Valdes
 Kathleen Van Luchene
 Veritas Foundation
 David & Catherine Vieira
 D.R. & Elizabeth Vlaming
 Sally Hayden Von Conta
 John Voorhees
 Walker Engineering
 Christine & Paul Wantuck
 Ken & Brenda Warner

Robert & Carol Warren
 Stephen & Suzanne Watkins
 Susan Weber
 Susan & John Weckesser
 William H. Weeks
 Sean & Debra Weiner
 Dr. & Mrs. Steven Weiner
 Robert Wells
 Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign
 Burton Wendroff & Solvi Kjellman
 Robert & Margaret Werner
 Jacqueline & Geoffrey West
 James West, Jr.
 Western Optical Supply, Inc.
 Westminster Presbyterian Church
 D. Brooks White
 D. Hywel & Frances White
 P. N. White & M. M. Wallace
 Paul White & Brenda June Skye White
 White Rock United Methodist Church
 Michael E. Whiting
 Robert Wickham
 Roger & Barbara Wilbur
 John M. Wilczynski & Jan Chavez-Wilczynski
 Diane & Mark Wilke
 Dorian Wilkes
 Judith Williams & Elliot Stern
 Kathryn C. Wilson
 Gregory & Dina Wingfield
 Dan Winske & Gloria L. Cordova
 Ed & Marilyn Winter-Tamkin
 Elizabeth Wirth
 Woh Tani Sunday School Class
 Paula Hoffman Wolf
 Barak Wolff & Cecilia Popp
 Father James Wolff
 Wood Gormley School
 Woods Architects-Builders

Word of Faith Ministry, Inc.
 Marilyn Worthington
 Kyril F. Wylie
 Daniel & Jane Yohalem
 Mel & Barbara Yost
 John & Jill Young
 Young Boozer Family Foundation
 Youth Shelters & Family Services
 Zaplin-Lampert Gallery
 Zia United Methodist Church
 Patricia Zisman
 Robert Zumwalt

In Honor

Rick & Kathy Abeles
 Almag Aluminum
 Mr. & Mrs. David Ater
 Terri Blackman
 Bridge Metal Industries, Inc.
 Jack & M.E. Burke
 Ann Casady
 Child's Family
 David & Peggy Feldt
 John & Diane Forsdale
 Sophia & Abbey Gallegos
 Gleicher Manufacturing Corp.
 Frankie Gurule
 Trixie Heldman
 Mary Hendrix
 Injectron
 Dan Kujawinski
 Gary Larson
 Donna Lynch
 Clarita Maestas
 Angela Martinez
 Mary S. Martinez
 John D. McClure & Margo Murray
 Aster McQueen
 Marjorie Obermaier
 PlasTech, Inc.
 Precision Brush Company
 Deceased Members, Pueblo of

Pojoaque
 Beverly Clifford Rose
 Tricia Rosenberg
 R.J. Rosenquist
 Susan Rowlands
 St. Anthony
 St. E's Volunteers
 Santa Maria de la Paz
 Savio
 Kay Scarborough
 Bishop Michael Sheehan
 Pete & Cindy Straffon & Family
 Sharon & Todd Vickers
 Brenda Weimera
 Jim Wolff
 Marilyn Worthington

In Memory

Don & Lisa Casiaas
 Ann & Pat Deegan
 Red & Stella Gonzales
 Vincent Halloran
 Jimmy Hodtwalker
 Violet Isaacs
 Jacobivitz, Erlich & Gluck Families
 Matt Kelly
 Sonny Kelly
 Chris Kirby
 Jeff Kirkpatrick
 Clarita Maestes
 Charles E. McKool
 Thomas D. Minett
 Faith & Frank Mullins
 Ed Navrot
 Margaret & Jim Phelan
 Marie, Vin & Barbara Phelan
 Pearl C. Podesta
 Robert Saam
 Sandman
 James Woods
 Joan & Jack Woods

Thanks for Dining During Health & Human Services Week!

HHealth and Human Services Week is an annual event sponsored by Fran Mullin, owner of Vanessa's Restaurant in Santa Fe. During the week, participating non-profits ask their supporters to dine at the restaurant, and 20 percent of the proceeds are divided up between them. To sweeten the pot, Fran seeks matching contributions from many

other businesses as well.

This year, St. Elizabeth Shelter exceeded all expectations by having 122



people dine in our name – the first time in its seven-year history that we've had so much support. On top of that, St. Elizabeth was one of four from the 14 participating organizations that received the highest bonus--\$1,500 worth of gift certificates for Vanessa's.

Our thanks again to all who answered our call!



Building Futures...Changing Lives

804 Alarid St.
Santa Fe, NM
87505

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Santa Fe, NM
Permit No. 213

Wish List

Please call us at 982-6611 or bring the smaller items to St. Elizabeth at 804 Alarid St.

CLOTHING – Boots, socks, backpacks, sunscreen, men’s clothing, baseball caps, sleeping bags, sleeping pads or mats.

PERSONAL HYGEINE – Shaving cream, disposable razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, band aids, sun screen, lip balm, multivitamins, Band-Aids, Emergen-C packets, Alka-Seltzer, Pepto-Bismol.

FOOD – Milk, juice, fresh fruits, bottled water, cheese, tomato sauce, ground beef, chicken, pork, ham, turkey, roasts.

VOLUNTEERS – Handyman for repairs, front-desk receptionists for four- to eight-hour blocks of time on weekends and evenings. Cooks for dinner (every day) or lunch (Mondays & Fridays only). Spanish speakers to interpret for our non-English speaking guests. Computer savvy people for data entry and check-in.

LARGER ITEMS – Yard tools, fencing materials, screen doors, window screening, fans, truck in good running condition. For these items, please call Casa Cerrillos at 471-3456 to discuss their current needs before bringing them to the facility at 3811½ Cerrillos Road.

OTHER – Water bottles or canteens, bath and kitchen towels, reading glasses and phone cards.

Do you want an electronic version of our newsletter as an alternative to a paper newsletter? Please send us a note, use our inserted envelope, call us, or cut out this handy form to send to us and let us know!

Yes! I would like to receive your newsletter via email in order to lower postage costs and save a tree!

Email: _____

Thanks to our Faithful Chefs!

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Michael Abeyta | Mike Miller |
| American Business Women's Association | Sharon Mitchell |
| Amma Center | Mormon Families |
| Association of Government Accountants | Matthew Ortiz |
| Anne Baylor | Lynn Pickard |
| Marc Black | Ron & Frances Porterfield |
| Gilles Cahn | The Providers |
| Mary Ellen Chavez | Dennis Rice |
| Chirp Group | Rotary Club of Santa Fe del Sur |
| Christ Lutheran Church | Dan Rusthoi |
| Tom Cirolio & Family | Bud Ryan & Friends |
| Chip Conway | St. Bede's Episcopal Church |
| Susie Dixon | St. Michael's High School |
| Episcopal Church of the Holy Faith | San Isidro Catholic Young Adults |
| Stacy Erickson & Friends | Santa Fe Prep T.A.P. |
| First Christian Church | Santa Maria de la Paz |
| First Community Bank Employees | Secular Franciscan Order |
| Jacqueline Hazzard & Diane Tintor | Orlando Trujillo Family |
| Rudy Hunziker | United Church of Santa Fe |
| Interfaith Cooking Group | Peter Valdez |
| Los Hermanos Crusados | Marie White |
| Lutheran Church of the Servant | Jim Wolff & Friends |
| | Tom Wright |
| | Zia United Methodist Church |