

# Home at St. E's

# Vol. 34 No. 02 The New Face of Homelessness

it comes to hen photography, platinum/palladium prints are the acknowledged height of the profession. One of the oldest and most archival processes available, it enables a picture to last for hundreds of years without losing quality. By using a mixture of stable metals and high-quality textured cotton paper, the image is infused and contained within the paper rather than just sitting on the surface, and the visual effect can be magical. Many of the world's most famous photographers, such as Henri Cartier-Bresson, Robert Capa and Alfred Stieglitz, used or have had some of their most famous images printed in this process.

Stan Klimek, 72, is one of the most renown modern masters of this technique, having produced well-received, handcrafted, limitededition books of platinum prints highlighting the work of Bresson, Sally Mann and Eikoh Hosoe among others. He's also a very respected commercial and artistic photographer in his own right having worked in Los Angeles for more than 20 years and having numerous exhibitions of his work. And since this summer he's been a resident at St. Elizabeth's Santa Fe Suites.

"In 1999 after 14 years of marriage, I got divorced," he says. "One of my friends, fellow photographer Robert Stivers, was living in Santa Fe and asked me to join him. For years, I had a studio out by NM 599 and NM 14 where I worked and lived, but a year ago the landlord sold the building



and I had to leave. I put all my printing equipment in storage and was living in my car. Then my car got rear-ended, and I discovered I had let my insurance lapse. So there was no way I could get it repaired. I was angry and defiant, but the end came when I woke up one morning with frostbite on my feet. That's when I broke down and came to St. E's."

Once at the Men's Emergency Shelter the staff got to work on his behalf. Since he was driving without insurance. Stan was cited and fined, but Nick Svetnicka, his case manager, managed to get the charges and fines reduced. Then Nick found funds to pay off the outstanding debt on the storage unit and get Stan's valuable and costly equipment moved into a smaller, more affordable space. Finally, he placed him on the waiting list for an apartment, along with rental assistance, at Santa Fe Suites, and when one opened up Stan moved in.

"I had never thought I would be homeless and had always found a

way to make my own life," Stan says, "but artists are terrible with money. So when I finally arrived at St. E's, I was in such a state of inertia that I felt my life was totally unproductive. But I found it to be a wonderful organization with fantastic food and caring people, like Nick, who took a real interest and found me a place to live."

It's not often that St. Elizabeth houses such an accomplished guest at its two emergency shelters or

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#### MISSION

St. Elizabeth is dedicated to assisting homeless individuals and families by providing emergency shelter, food, case management, counseling, supportive housing and referrals to partnering human-services agencies.

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# **Director's Corner**



Edward Archuleta

Through all my years in the field I've seen many collaborative efforts to end homelessness or other serious social issues only to watch most crash and burn. But I'm optimistic about the current S<sub>3</sub> Santa Fe Housing Initiative.

Spearheaded by Anchorum, Thornburg Foundation, Santa Fe Community Foundation, Santa Fe City and County Coalition to End Homeleogness

and the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness, it's bringing together the entire gamut of local and regional homeless-serving organizations to create safe, stable and supportive (S<sub>3</sub>) housing for all. By working together, we bring the knowledge, expertise and determination needed to address the many systemic issues that have and continue to negatively affect Santa Fe's growing housing crisis.

While the various participants, including St. Elizabeth, meet on a regular basis to design a viable long-term plan, short-term plans are already underway. The former Lamplighter motel on Cerrillos Road is being remodeled into a 58-unit, mixed-income housing facility similar to our Santa Fe Suites. In addition, the City of Santa Fe is planning to create a safe outdoor space where homeless individuals can have a safe space to sleep, eat, wash and keep their belongings. It may be constructed with pallet or tiny homes, all with electricity, heat and air conditioning. By creating a stable space that residents can call home, return to every night, receive important mail, etc., they are better able to connect to a variety of available supportive services and begin the road toward recovery and permanent housing.

Edward Circhut

**Executive Director** 

# For Some, Sonrisa a Family Affair

For most of the people St. Elizabeth moves into housing it's the start of a new life for them and their family. But for some, problems can persist into the next generation and assistance can be needed once again.

Nearly 15 years ago Tina Redondo arrived at the Sonrisa family program with her two children. Originally from Long Beach, California, her parents separated when she was young and she moved to Santa Fe with her mother. A self-described "terrible teen," she left high school before completing her degree, gave birth to two daughters, separated from their father, worked in retail, then contracted cervical cancer, underwent surgery and radiation treatment that took a full year for recovery, could not work and became homeless.

"Neal Windham (Sonrisa's program manager) provided us with a glimpse of a new future," Tina says. "The program has a lot of resources to help people like myself get out and succeed with our own work."

Once at Sonrisa, Neal told Tina about Habitat for Humanity's program to provide new homes for families like hers. He helped with the application and paperwork, and Sonrisa paid many of the numerous fees required by Habitat during the long process. In turn, Tina put in far more than the 500 hours of "sweat equity" required – more like 2,000 – participating in everything from laying the concrete to framing and roofing the house before moving in on October 3, 2011.

During this time Tina took nursing courses at Santa Fe Community College, received a home-health degree and became a hospice and home-healthcare nurse, a career she continues to this day. Later she found a special program at Aztec Home Schooling that allowed



Tina Redondo at her home

her to complete her GED at home and finally graduated with her high school degree on April 4th of this year.

"Never give up," she says. "It took me 22 years to graduate from high school, but when you have goals, go for them. No matter how hard it may seem, go after your goals and your dreams." Recently Tina's older daughter arrived at Sonrisa. After leaving home, having children of her own and separating from their father, she, too, became homeless. At Sonrisa, Neal helped her apply for and receive a housing voucher, locate a rental house, pay for the utility deposits and then move in.

"Me and my daughter are both so grateful for Sonrisa," Tina says. "Living in our own homes has really changed our lives. And since my younger daughter still lives with me, my kids' rooms have now become my

grandkids' rooms, and I'll be passing my home on to them once I'm gone.

"My next step is to help other homeless people so they can have a roof over their head and a place to call home like we do" she says. "So I'm helping out by cleaning apartments at Sonrisa. It's my way of saying thanks for helping us to get where we are now."



Ricky Olguin, 64, a Santa Fe Suites resident, proudly displays his button after voting for the first time in his life in the recent city elections. At the invitation of staff, SF Suites Volunteer Mary Hall made a presentation at the facility with sample ballots and information on the issues to inspire the residents to register and vote.

### The New Face of Homelessness

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three supportive housing programs.

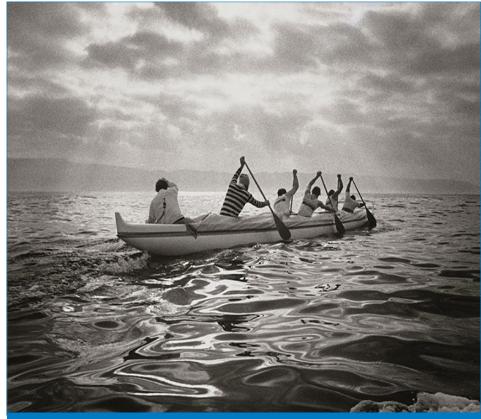
"When the staff told me we had a famous guy staying with us, I didn't believe them," Edward Archuleta, St. E's executive director, says. "But then I looked up Stan on the internet and it was like wow. It just shows you how anyone, anywhere can become homeless today."

Stan grew up in California and after high school hitchhiked to New York where he drove a cab. After a while he returned to California still directionless, and his mother told him to read books. At the local library, he found himself gravitating the fine-arts section and to photography books in particular. Now interested, he enrolled to study at CSU Fullerton and never looked back. Following graduation, he went into commercial photography and won several awards for his work. But he chafed working under art directors who had pre-conceived ideas of what they wanted and moved into fine-arts photography shooting what inspired him, winning more awards and having several exhibitions of his pictures.

"Photography became the last thing I thought about when I went to sleep and the first thing I thought about when I woke up," he says.

Eventually he started looking for a new way to process and present his photos and "discovered" platinum printing. He couldn't get enough of it and transformed his apartment into a platinum printing studio. Tiring of Los Angeles and its increasing costs and hassles, he moved to Santa Fe and opened a studio producing more platinum prints and books.

"Stan is very talented and meticulous with an accurate and creative eye for his photographs that always adds something special to what he does," fellow photographer Robert Stivers says. "This singular ability combined with his technical



Stan Klimek's *Blazing Paddles* photo of the annual Newport Beach, California, to Enseñada, Mexico, race that won a Kodak International Newspaper Award.

knowledge enables him to bring out a very distinctive and often extraordinary quality in other people's photos with his prints."

At Santa Fe Suites, Stan's apartment is filled with CDs of his work, and he spends much of his time photoshopping his pictures on his computer. Since his Social Security income is limited, he receives a subsidy for his rent from the City of Santa Fe's Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF).

"There's been a huge increase of seniors living on fixed incomes that can't afford an apartment in Santa Fe anymore," says Ericka Kidd, Santa Fe Suites program/case manager. "Many are living in their cars, even some who are undergoing chemotherapy. I've never seen this before in my 19 years in the field. It's the new face of homelessness."

To help alleviate this crisis, the

Suites received a \$250,000 AHTF grant to subsidize rents for recently homeless individuals, giving preference to seniors and those in hospice. Even with this funding, there are currently 18 people on the wait list for an apartment, demonstrating the incredible demand for more affordable housing.

Despite all he's encountered, Stan remains optimistic.

"I'm not depressed," he says. "I'm taking it one step at a time. With all my equipment in storage, I can't do my printing anymore. And since a car is really a passport for getting from point A to point B, without one I can't get around. But if I could get a cash infusion, I could pick up a junker and open my studio again.

"I've got a great name and am known in the states and internationally. I will be back in the game again."

# **Legacy Society Launches**



Jim Podesta, Marcel Legendre and Edward Archuleta (left to right) are the principals behind St. Elizabeth's new Legacy Society.

Individuals contribute nearly two-thirds of total giving to non-profit organizations with planned gifts and bequests playing an increasingly important role. While St. Elizabeth has benefited from occasional bequests throughout the years, we now want to focus more on this effort and have launched our Legacy Society to recognize past and current donors who have made planned gifts to us.

Marcel Legendre, treasurer of the Board of Directors, is heading this endeavor. He's a retired banker with more than 25 years of experience as a branch manager for First National 1870 and Century Bank. Edward Archuleta, executive director, and Jim Podesta, director of development, will be assisting him.

"Planned giving needs to be a pillar of our fundraising structure

and the organization's future," Marcel says. "By knowing the number of people who are leaving us a bequest in their will, we are better able to make needed and sustainable long-term plans for those we serve."

Legacy Society members will be recognized and invited to an annual event to celebrate their commitment to helping our community's most at-risk members and to hear first-hand our plans for the future. Already 36 members and families have joined.

"It's always a challenge at St. Elizabeth to raise enough money to cover our annual operational expenses," Edward says, "not to mention any major unanticipated costs. That's where a bequest can be lifesaving. This year, for instance, a hailstorm severely damaged the roof at our Sonrisa program – obviously replacing it was not in our budget – but it's being done with funds that unexpectantly arrived via a bequest."

If you have left St. Elizabeth in your will, please let us know. Many other planned gifts can save you on taxes as well. If you have questions about the Legacy Society or planned giving, please call Edward or Jim at 505-982-6611 or email at legacygiving@steshelter.org.





### **Thank You to Our Dedicated Chefs!**

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Please visit our website, www.steshelter.org, to view the list of our generous donors from July 1, 2023 – Oct 31, 2023.

### **ROUNDUP APP**

Make an impact with little effort. Donate your change to St. E's using the Roundup App. Visit your app store or go to

www.steshelter.org

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# Winter Wish List

### **MEN'S EMERGENCY SHELTER**

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

Clothing: Hats, gloves, boots, socks, men's jackets, sweaters, hooded sweatshirts, long underwear and winter outerwear.

Personal Hygiene: Disposable razors, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, chapstick. Food: Milk, juice, bottled water, cheese, ground beef, ham, turkeys, roasts and sliced lunch meats.

Non-food items: Non-alcoholic cough syrup, Theraflu, multivitamins, Emergen-C<sup>®</sup> packets, cough drops, Vitamin C, lip balm, band-aids,

Alka-Seltzer cold<sup>®</sup>, Pepto-Bismol<sup>®</sup>, hand sanitizer, hand wipes, tissues, Lysol spray, foot powder.

Other: Sleeping bags, sleeping pads or mats, blankets, hand warmers, disposable blankets.

Volunteers: Handyman, front-desk receptionists for 4- to 8-hour blocks of time once a week, volunteer cooks for dinners any night.

#### **CASA FAMILIA**

Please call (983-2042) or bring the smaller items to Casa Familia at 1604 Berry Ave. Clothing: Women's underwear, socks, warm jackets, rain wear, hand warmers, shoes, weather-appropriate boots; girl's/boy's clothing, school uniforms.

Personal Hygiene: Hand sanitizer, shampoo, conditioner, moisturizer, feminine hygiene products, disposable razors (female), toothbrushes, toothpaste, band aids, hair brushes, foot powder, body soap, nail polisher & clippers, nail files, deodorant (women's) Alka-Seltzer cold<sup>®</sup>, Pepto-Bismol<sup>®</sup>, over-the-counter medication (ibuprofen), baby wipes, baby powder, make up.

Food: Non-perishable food, bottled water, juice, coffee & tea, spices, \$25 gift cards for Walmart, McDonald's, Wendy's, Subway, Plaza Café, etc. Other: Blankets, sleeping bags, tents, bed sheets (twin), diapers (all sizes, particularly 2-5), cleaning supplies, dish soap, toilet paper, paper towels, Qtips, cotton balls, laundry detergent, latex-free gloves, kitchen utensils, can openers, plastic plates, silverware, kitchen pots & pans, water bottles, shower shoes, AA/9-volt & AAA batteries, backpacks (adult & children), ear plugs, headphones, bus passes (Santa Fe Trails one-day, round trip or monthly), passes for community activities (eg. Chavez Center or Children's Museum), standard tools for home repair, microwaves, mini-fridges.

Volunteers: Front-desk receptionists from 4- to 8-hour blocks of time once a week, cooks for dinner any night.

**CASA CERRILLOS** 

Please call (471-3456) to discuss their current needs before bringing them to the facility at 3811½ Cerrillos Road.

Household Items: Kitchen appliances, cleaning supplies, pet food. Larger Items: Flatscreen tvs, computers & laptops, fencing materials.

SANTA FE SUITES

Please bring to 3007 S. St. Francis Drive (behind Albertson's) but call first (505-494-4231) for furniture.

Clothing: Winter coats & boots.

Household Items: Cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, pots/pans, crockpots, toaster ovens, silverware, cooking utensils, plates/bowls, full size sheets/blankets, towels, dish soap, dish towels.

Other: AA/AAA batteries, doggie bags, bus passes, hygiene products.

### 8 St. Elizabeth Shelters