

Overcoming Her Past

Darlene “Maddy” Eastman is working hard to overcome her many childhood traumas.

Her parents met at a pow wow at the Intermountain Indian School in Utah. Her mother had lupus, was disabled, often sick and wasn't supposed to have children but did so anyway. In and out of hospitals, she was absent much of the time and when at home self-medicated with alcohol and drugs. Her father was also an alcoholic, and when the two were drinking they became abusive and violent. Always looking for a new and “better” job, he moved the family around a lot between Utah and New Mexico until the parents separated and divorced.

Her stepfather used meth-amphetamines and was even more physically and mentally abusive, threatening her father and shooting holes in the ceiling with his shotgun. When the abuse became so bad, her mother left him and returned to her father. But he became increasingly depressed and committed suicide with Maddy, at 13, being the one who found him. She blamed herself and went into a downward spiral, using alcohol and drugs to numb her inner pain. Then at 16 when her mother was arrested and sent to jail, she and her brother started fighting continuously and she ran away from home.

Arrested and put in state custody, she found out she was pregnant and gave birth to a son who went to live with her aunt in Gallup. Then at 18 her mother died, she relapsed on opiates, was arrested again and



Ethan Price and Maddy Eastman in front of their new Sonrisa apartment.

put into a drug-diversion program. After graduating, she moved to New Mexico to be near her son and aunt, remaining clean for five years. But after her aunt refused to give back custody of her son, she felt hopeless, relapsed into drugs and left with a friend for California.

Her two years there were pretty miserable. Her drug use continued, she became pregnant again, the

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 505-982-6611 (office) | 505-982-5347 (fax)
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Director's Corner



Edward Archuleta

Whenever I look back at our recent years, I'm amazed by the progress we've made serving our clients and community.

Let's just go back five years. We didn't have a full-time SOAR representative to fast-track applications for Social Security benefits for qualifying clients. Instead we had to outsource them to other agencies resulting in months

of waiting times before seeing anyone and starting the long often multiyear arduous process. Now some clients are approved in just months and begin receiving lifetime income that allows them to rent an apartment and lead a normal existence.

Today we have two full-time therapists on staff who usually can see a client in crisis almost immediately to defuse the situation. Before it could take weeks or months before a client could see someone, and by that time the crisis often had spun out of control.

We now have a team of follow-up case managers who work with clients who have found housing to help keep them housed. Many of these folks have been living on the streets for years and don't remember or know such simple responsibilities as paying their rent on time or not hosting loud out-of-control parties. For others, it can be as simple as making sure they attend all their medical appointments, counseling sessions or just continue taking their prescribed medications.

We also have a deputy director who oversees all five residential programs and directly supervises staff. In addition, these five separate properties are administered by a property/facility manager who handles all maintenance, leasing and capital improvements.

Finally we opened the Santa Fe Suites, tripling the number of supportive-housing units we operate for recently homeless individuals that includes an on-site Healthcare for the Homeless clinic, AA and NA meetings, life-skills classes on financial and educational literacy, as well as voter registration and participation.

My thanks to all of you in our community whose generous donations have helped make this happen.

Executive Director

Checking In for Success

Honesty is the best policy, according to former Men's Emergency Shelter resident Jerry Clinton.

Born in Gary, Indiana, he left home at an early age living the "hobo lifestyle," moving around the country living and working at various jobs in various places until it was time to move on. That lasted until he found out that he was a father and moved to Missouri to marry the woman. They lived in Kansas City for 13 years where he worked at FedEx, in a scrapyard, cheesecake factory and other places while having four more children before the marriage fell apart.

"I liked to get high with meth and coke to cover up and mask my feelings," Jerry says, "but it messed me up and made me angry in my relationships and my life. Because of my drug habit I lost my family, my kids and everybody."

After his wife tried to poison him, he left for California settling in San Francisco for two years but he couldn't escape his old habits or lifestyle.

"Every ghetto is the same," he says, "with everyone doing the same old things in the same atmosphere."

Jerry left San Francisco in July 2023 for New Mexico, heading first to Albuquerque where he encountered similar problems before coming to Santa Fe in December. After a brief stay at the Interfaith Community Shelter, he decided to sleep outside while continuing his drug use.

"I was trying to get it together but it just wasn't working," he says. So he entered Santa Fe Recovery Center's 90-day in-house program and when discharged came to St. Elizabeth in April 2024. At first there were no beds available, and he slept in his storage space for four days until one opened up.

"Jerry arrived without anything,"

says Carrie Wilbur, his case manager. "During his five months here we worked together to create a resume, find a job and focus on his recovery. He had a rental eviction on his record making it difficult to find housing, and I worked with the Missouri courts to pay off his debt and get it expunged so he could get an apartment."

Jerry confirms this.

"Carrie made sure that I did what I was supposed to do," he says. "When I got a job, she made sure I stayed on the right path and was saving money for a place to live. I was looking for support, and she has given me that

in abundance."

Even though he now has a job and an apartment, Jerry comes back to the Men's Emergency Shelter every week to check in with staff regarding his progress. And if he misses a meeting, Carrie calls to find out how he's doing.

"This ongoing support is really helpful," he says. "I know I need the help to keep on course and just have to keep putting my best foot forward now that I have people I can call when I'm having a hard time. At this point, I don't want to go back. Everything I've gained is so much better than what I lost."

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Jerry Clinton and Carrie Wilbur, his case manager, after a recent shelter visit.

Overcoming Her Past

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father died, and she decided to leave and get clean again for sake of her unborn child. She entered the University of New Mexico's *Mariposa* residential program in Albuquerque that provides housing, case management, drug rehab and medical services to addicted mothers and their children. While there she gave birth to her daughter Romie, enrolled at Central New Mexico Community College, began working at New York Life and met Ethan Price, her current partner.

"I stayed clean for three years but began focusing too much on work and not balancing my other roles as mom, student and woman in recovery," she says. "Ethan started using drugs again, we separated and then I relapsed as well."

Ethan seconds this.

"I was doing well until COVID hit and my in-person meetings stopped," he says. "I starting using, then she did, we lost our jobs, lost our apartment, her car was stolen, we got attacked and beaten up, I was stabbed, and we decided we had to get help."

Maddy was accepted into Santa

Fe Recovery Center's in-patient program and stayed there for 90 days with Romie while Ethan first went to the Interfaith Community Shelter and then St. Elizabeth's Men's Emergency Shelter. He was working hard on sobriety, getting a job in construction and started attending AA meetings again.

"After Maddy was discharged, we ended up in a family unit at Consuelo's Place," he says. "We were moving in a good direction though it was a hard place to be with all three of us in such a small place."

When an apartment opened up at Sonrisa this April, they moved in.

"I didn't think it would be possible to get in here," Maddy says. "We have such a better quality of life. We have a lot of space and couldn't ask for anything better than this. Ethan's out working every day and attending his AA meetings, and I'm focusing on school finishing my associates' degree in business and volunteering as a peer-recovery advocate working with moms with children at Santa Fe Recovery Center. Romie is enjoying kindergarten at Cesar Chavez Elementary next door, takes ballet

lessons at NDI and loves to dance."

When they arrived at Sonrisa, Neal Windham, the program/case manager, gave them a move-in package that provided pots, pans, dishes, silverware, household items, along with books, school supplies and a car seat for Romie.

"They're doing everything right," he says. "Both are in recovery and working hard. They had a lot of trouble before when bouncing around without a stable place to live, but now that they're here I think things will work out alright."

Maddy's been sober now for a year-and-a-half and starts every morning with prayer and meditation.

"It's a struggle juggling everything with all we have going on," she says. "and it would be a lot harder to stay in recovery if Ethan and I weren't a team. I also don't know if we could do it all without the level of assistance we're getting from St. Elizabeth and Sonrisa to keep us on course. But now we're saving money and hope to buy a house in Santa Fe when we leave the program and give back to the community that has afforded us so much."



Residents at Santa Fe Suites celebrate Halloween

Checking In for Success

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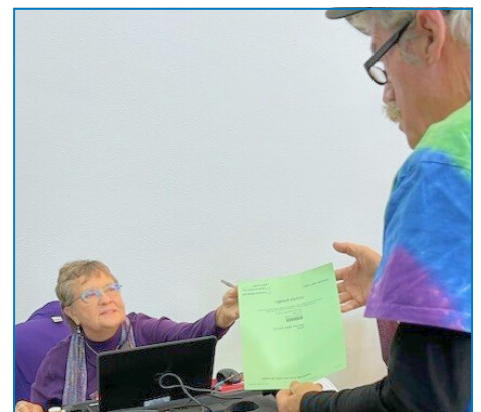
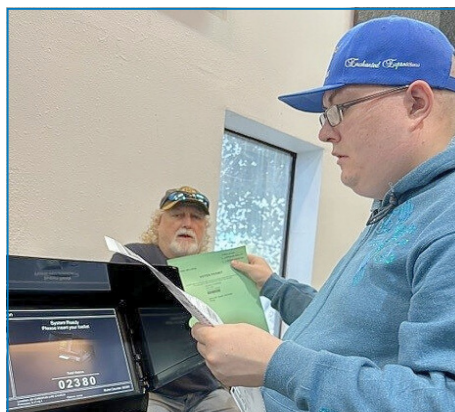
But he knows that for him it will be a continual struggle.

"I come back to St. E's on a regular basis because they make sure I'm doing what I'm supposed to do," he says. "They're helping me to succeed, and if I didn't have this support there's no telling where or what I'd be, probably in another state having to start all over again.

"But I'm taking the hard route because that's what I need to do. My big thing is honesty because that's how you get things done. If you're not, eventually people will catch on to you. And I've found that hard work really does pay off. I've been in this city for less than a year but have a new job and apartment and now just want to keep them. I'm trying to live my life to the fullest and am getting opportunities I've never had before, like hiking in the mountains or river rafting and I plan on going skiing this winter. It's all an adventure for me."



Ericka Kidd, Santa Fe Suites program/case manager, (front left) with residents arriving for early voting.



Santa Fe Suites residents cast their ballots, some for the first time, following a voter-education seminar.

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12TH ANNUAL HUNGRY MOUTH FESTIVAL

It was a great evening with old friends and new ones!
Thank you to all of our sponsors, donors and auction suppliers!
Thank you to the amazing chefs that participated and truly tantalized the taste buds!
Thank you to the Scottish Rite Temple for the amazing venue!
Thank you to the volunteers that helped to pull everything together!
Thank you to our auctioneer, Scott Rice, and all photo credit goes to Daniel Quat Photography.
Thank you to my committee for a job well done and for making this the best event so far. They include
Kate Carswell, Tim Schmoyer, Joanna Ipiotis, Sandra Catanach and Donna Burns.
Happy Holidays and may you all be blessed this holiday season and in the new year.

Cheers,
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Thank you Santa Fe and beyond for coming out to support the event.



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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, shoes, socks, men's jackets, sweaters, hooded sweatshirts, long underwear, and winter outerwear.

Personal Hygiene: Disposable razors, shampoo, deodorant, chapstick.

Food: Milk, juice, fresh fruits, bottled water, cheese, ground beef, ham, roasts, and sliced lunch meats.

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

Non-food items: Non-alcoholic cough syrup, Thera-flu, multivitamins, Emergen-C® packets, cough drops, Vitamin C, lip balm, band-aids, Alka-Seltzer cold®, Pepto-Bismol®, hand sanitizer, hand wipes, tissues, Lysol spray, foot powder.

Volunteers: Handyman/woman for repairs, front-desk receptionists for 4- to 8-hour blocks of time once a week, 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®, pepto-bismol®, 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, socks & boots.

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

Other: AA/AAA batteries, BUS PASSES, hygiene and feminine hygiene products.

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