



# Home at St. E's

Vol. 29 No. 02

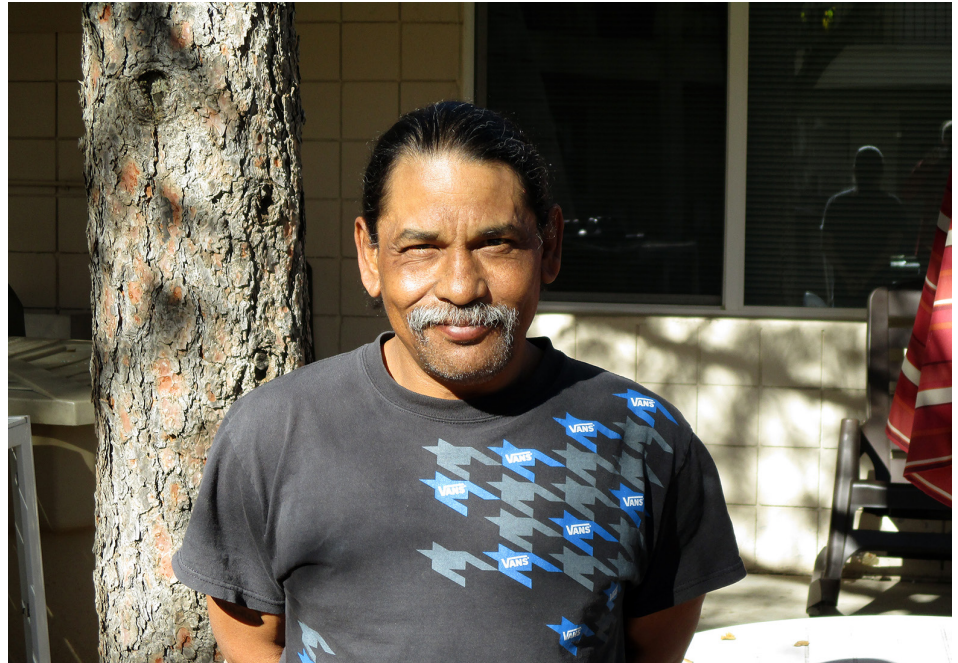
Winter 2018

## Life Interrupted

**"St. E's has been a godsend,"** says Pete Garza. "It really saved my life after I lost my health, my job and my housing."

For more than two years, the 47-year-old former forklift operator and paint store employee has been living at Casa Cerrillos, St. Elizabeth's supportive housing program for adults with disabilities. Things started going downhill in 2014 when kidney failure left him too weak to work, and he lost his job. He began dialysis but after staying home for nearly a year in a depressed state, his girlfriend got tired of his medical situation and kicked him out. Homeless, he alternated between sleeping on the streets and at the Interfaith Community Shelter in between his three-times-a-week dialysis treatments.

"It's not really that bad being homeless," he says, "unless you're really sick. Then it's scary to be living on the street carrying five



Pete Garza in the Casa Cerrillos courtyard.

different medications that you need to stay alive. I was in a constant fear of being robbed and not being able to replace them in time. And after you've spent four hours a day in dialysis, there's no place for you to go to relax and recuperate."

Wanting a warm bed and some security one day, he went to the Thunderbird Inn on Cerrillos Road but there were no vacancies. The desk clerk suggested he go to St. Elizabeth's Men's Emergency Shelter. He put his name on the waiting list and when a bed became available later that afternoon he checked in.

"I was real nervous my first night sleeping with 28 other guys because at first it seemed awfully noisy and rowdy," he recalls. "But it was so good to take a hot shower, have a hot meal and then sleep in a warm

bed that I got real comfortable real fast. And it just kept getting better and better.

"The staff is really awesome, very knowledgeable and so helpful. They have such genuine concern for you, and I never felt as if I were being

*continued on page 4*

### Casa Familia Matching Grant

**A generous donor has pledged to match up to \$50,000 all contributions made to Casa Familia, our emergency shelter for women and families with children, by year's end. This will effectively double your year-end gift and ensure vital operating support for this program that shelters more than 300 women and children each year.**

### Inside

- 2 Director's Corner
- 3 Estate Plans
- 5 A Year of Upgrades
- 6 Chef's List
- 7 Hungry Mouth Festival
- 8 Winter Wish List



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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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[www.steshelter.org](http://www.steshelter.org)

## Director's Corner



Maybe it's because I'm new on the job, but I'm optimistic that we can make a real dent in homelessness in our community. That's because I sense a new spirit of cooperation and willingness among many of the parties and organizations critical to the process.

The City of Santa Fe obviously plays a major role, and Alan Webber, our new mayor, has taken a personal interest in the cause. In just the past month, he's visited St. Elizabeth and attended our Hungry Mouth Festival, while inviting Rosanne Haggerty to town and hosting her at a round table discussion with local providers on ending homelessness in Santa Fe. Rosanne, president of Community Solutions in New York City and a MacArthur Foundation Fellow, is credited with ending chronic homelessness in Times Square through a combination of innovative strategies, research-based practices and supportive housing.

Santa Fe County also is taking a leadership position, actively promoting and financially supporting the direct services of St. Elizabeth and other homeless-providing organizations in helping high-usage, very at-risk homeless individuals successfully navigate and take advantage of available community resources. The organizations funded meet monthly to jointly discuss and track the problems encountered and progress made by selected clients in addressing the issues leading to their becoming homeless and locating housing.

Similarly, the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness has established a Coordinated Entry Assessment list of the most at-risk chronically homeless individuals in our community and hosts monthly meetings of local providers to determine which organization or combination of organizations might best provide them with needed services.

The Interfaith Community Shelter, or Pete's Place, has recently reopened its doors for winter in its mission to offer everyone in need a warm place to stay at night out of the elements. When St. Elizabeth's Men's Emergency Shelter or Casa Familia are full, as is often, we send people there. And when guests at Interfaith express interest in entering a drug-free program and working to end their homelessness, staff there refer them to us.

*continued on page 4*



# Leaving a Legacy



**Jerry & Helen Moser visit an ancient garden in Shanghai.**

Working for Chevrolet Motor Division of General Motors in the automotive industry, Jerry Moser found himself assigned to many different cities – Detroit, Memphis, Salt Lake City, Santa Fe and others – throughout his career. But for him and his wife, Helen, their time in Santa Fe was special. Now retired and living in Las Cruces, when it was time to formulate their estate plan, they thought of St. Elizabeth Shelter.

When they moved to Santa Fe in 1989 they became congregants at First Presbyterian Church and through there became involved with St. Elizabeth Shelter and Food for Santa Fe. At St E's they were part of Presbyterian's volunteer team preparing monthly nighttime meals at the emergency shelter, and then Helen became a program director at Food for Santa Fe. This involvement continued when becoming congregants of The United Church of Christ.

"Over the years, we ended up spending quite a lot of time at St. E's and got to know and respect the work it was doing," Jerry says. "We really enjoyed our work there, making dinner and then sitting down to eat, talk with and getting to know some of the guests."

"So when we were preparing our estate plan, we asked ourselves where do we want our money to go? Narrowing it down further, we asked what has been important in our lives, and the answer was family, music, travel and organizations that help other people."

Acting on this principle, Jerry and Helen have designated a percentage of their estate to support the work of St. Elizabeth Shelter.

"Our two children are beneficiaries of our IRAs, 401Ks and other assets," Jerry says. "And we decided that rather than distributing our residual estate – real estate and personal property – to extended family, we would provide it to the

organizations important to us and others."

Taking care of others has always been a priority for the Mosers, and they currently volunteer at the El Caldito soup kitchen, a part of the Community for Hope in Las Cruces that serves lunch on a daily basis to approximately 150 - 200 people. There they are team leaders for a group from their church preparing and serving the meals.

"We've just always thought that people need a second chance," Helen says, "and try to support anybody in need despite their circumstances. That's why in every place we've lived, we've always done this kind of volunteer work. And we've brought up our son and daughter to have the same feelings and commitment."

Their son, a former principal at three New Mexico schools, now is communications director for Santa Fe District Public Schools. Their daughter works for JP Morgan Chase in San Antonio while completing her degree in early childhood education and plans to take early retirement and become a teacher.

"So our children understand where we are going with these estate plans," Helen says.

Besides their son and his wife, a math teacher at Santa Fe High, Jerry and Helen still have many friends in Santa Fe and visit often. They volunteer at the International Folk Art Market and Chamber Music Festival each summer.

"But we like the climate better in Las Cruces," Helen says. "We're avid gardeners and live on one acre near La Mesilla where we grow, give away

*continued on page 6*

judged. I used my time there to come to accept my illness, recuperate from the dialysis treatments and do some thinking. My goal was to move into housing, and by staying there I was able to save up my monthly SSDI payments."

It took several months for an apartment to open up at Casa Cerrillos, but when one did Pete moved in and has been living there ever since.

"At first I didn't want to live in an apartment complex," he says, "but it's turned out to be great. It's in a great location with most everything within walking distance – Albertson's, restaurants, movie theatres – and there's a bus stop right outside. I really enjoy the safety and security and the complex is getting better and better with all the improvements being made. I like the food staff brings in every Tuesday for the residents and the holiday parties, events and cookouts in the courtyard that bring us all together. The hardest part for me is deciding who to sit with."

Shane Lampman, program manager at Casa Cerrillos, agrees with this assessment.

"For Pete and our other residents with severe physical disabilities, having a safe place to live is critical to survival," he says. "Life on the streets is deadly for someone who has to make medical appointments, receive dialysis three times a week and manage a series of life-saving medications. Casa Cerrillos provides them with shelter from the elements, a permanent address for critical medical and benefits correspondence, a secure place to keep needed medical equipment and medications safe, and support from our staff when they need assistance."

Originally from south Texas, Pete grew up in a poor family with seven other brothers and sisters. Life was

a struggle growing up and living on food stamps, but his mother kept them all together. As an adult, he had an 18-year relationship with his partner and fathered two children, eventually moving his family to New Mexico nine years ago. Then they broke up, with her moving back to Texas with the children while he stayed here and kept his job at the paint store. But after several years his, unknown-to-him, high blood pressure overworked his kidneys, putting him in renal failure and causing him to lose his job and eventually his home.

"It was real tough at first coming to grips with my illness," he says, "and then it became terrible when I was homeless. Even though life is not easy, now I'm always happy and upbeat. When people ask me why, I say I tried depression for a year but it didn't work for me. Instead, I chose to accept and excel."

"Dialysis has made me appreciate life so much more. Now when I go up to the forest, I really hear the stream, listen to the animals moving around in the woods and totally enjoy it. The same goes for interacting with my "brothers" in dialysis. We might take a drive around town together or go shopping and just enjoy each other's company."

Reflecting further, Pete has some advice for others experiencing homelessness.

"Even though you're homeless,

you're really just like everyone else," he says. "I was fortunate in that I didn't have drug or alcohol problems and I was able to get into St. Elizabeth. The staff there is ready to help you, but you need to help yourself as well. You have to put in the effort. People will open the door and give you a helping hand, but things in life just aren't given to you – you have to work for them and do your part in order to succeed."

## Thank You Donors!

Please visit our website

[www.steshelter.org](http://www.steshelter.org)

to view the list of our

generous donors from

**August 1, 2018 - October 31, 2018**

## Director's Corner

...from page 2

Finally, the One Door Campus, an organization of local providers, including St. Elizabeth, working together to develop a concept of concentrating currently scattered local homeless services into one campus-like facility, continues its progress on fine tuning its plan and locating a convenient site.

To me the future looks bright, and I'm honored for St. Elizabeth to be playing a leading role in offering solutions.



Edward Archuleta  
Executive Director



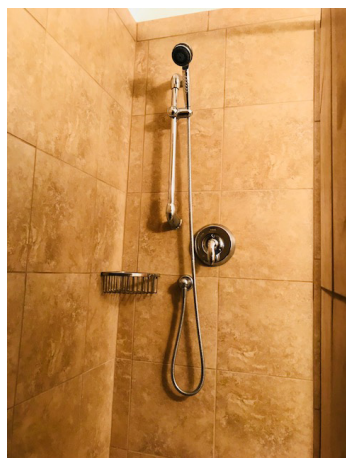
# Improvements Everywhere

Running five separate programs in five different locations is a challenge. Each one has its own staff, its own guests and its own problems. But one thing they all share is the need to constantly maintain, renovate and upgrade their aging facilities on a limited budget. That's why we're very happy to report that, thanks to some very generous donors, each of our programs was able to achieve some significant improvements this year.



Casa Cerrillos has thoroughly remodeled the majority of its 28 apartments as well as its Community Room and purchased a used truck to transport residents to appointments, make weekly food pickups from the Food Depot and help residents move in and out, thanks to a generous donation from the Mike & Dee Maloof Family Fund.

Casa Familia re-modeled an upstairs bathroom space into two bathrooms, one with a shower and the other a bathtub for use by mothers with small children, doubling its capacity. Funding was provided by the Abram and Ray Kaplan Foundation and Clothes Helping Kids. In addition, they have purchased a new commercial stove and installed new kitchen flooring thanks to the Maloof Fund.



Our Siringo Senior Housing Program has remodeled all eight bathrooms, removing the bathtubs and replacing them with walk-in showers, installing grab bars, new toilets, etc. to make them more senior friendly to aid aging in place. Funding was provided by the City of Santa Fe's Affordable Housing Trust Fund.





# Thank You to Our Dedicated Chefs!

Khadija Ahmend  
 Amma Center  
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 Elizabeth & Michel Baker  
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 Marilyn Batts  
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 John Blagg  
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 Sean Callin  
 Toni Carlisle  
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 Christ Lutheran Church  
 The Cowgirl  
 Phillip "Dallas" Damron  
 Susie Dixon  
 Jackie Dulle  
 Episcopal Church of the Holy Faith  
 First Christian Church  
 Buck Gage

Tina Harte  
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 Brian Hughes  
 Interfaith Cooking Group  
 Alex Lindsay  
 Los Alamos Group  
 Los Hermanos Crusados  
 Lutheran Church of the Servant  
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 New Life Group  
 Rachel O'Donoghue  
 Olive Garden  
 Monica Ontiveros-Branchard  
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Church –  
 David Upaya  
 Over the Arroyo Hiking Group  
 The Pantry  
 Papa Murphy's St. Francis Drive  
 Karen Peterson  
 Judith Polich  
 Ron & Frances Porterfield  
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 St. Bede's Episcopal Church  
 Lisa Schutz Family  
 Secular Franciscan Order  
 Carole Snow  
 Mary Stramel  
 Taz Tamupovi  
 John Tapewek  
 Tomasita's  
 Unitarian Church of Los Alamos  
 United Church of Santa Fe  
 Jessie Valladeres  
 Greg Velarde  
 Friends of Father Jim Wolff/Kim  
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 Zia United Methodist Church

*If you are interested in preparing meals for our guests, join our fabulous kitchen teams! Contact Maria Lopez (505) 982-6611 or Lawrence Sena (505) 983-2042*

## Leaving a Legacy ...from page 3

and can our own fruits and vegetables."

When not volunteering or gardening, they travel extensively. They've been to every state except New Hampshire and Maine and travel to Hawaii every autumn. In the past several years they've also visited most European countries including Sicily, Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal and Northern Spain, Vietnam and Cambodia, Australia, Tasmania, Turkey, New Zealand and China. This spring, they're planning a trip to Morocco.

"We feel that we've been blessed and need to share our good fortune with others," Helen says.

## Improvements Everywhere ...from page 5



Casa Cerrillos' "new" ride.



The Men's Emergency Shelter has a new Toyota van thanks to several generous donors. It's named in honor of Marjorie Obermaier, a longtime board member and benefactor.

The Sonrisa Family Supportive Living Program has renovated the kitchens in all its eight apartments by installing new countertops and backsplashes thanks also to the Maloof Fund.





THANK YOU  
FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT  
SANTA FE!



## OUR WINNING CHEFS

### JUDGE'S CHOICE

### PEOPLE'S CHOICE



APPETIZER

MICHAEL BAKER

TONY BLANKENSHIP

VEGETARIAN

TONY BLANKENSHIP

KIKO RODRIGUEZ

MEAT

KIKO RODRIGUEZ

KIKO RODRIGUEZ

DESSERT

MICHAEL BAKER

MICHAEL BAKER



SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN



DRURY HOTELS



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NENNINGER



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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, scarves, boots, shoes, socks, men's jackets, sweaters, hooded sweatshirts, long underwear, winter outerware.

**Personal hygiene** - Shaving cream, disposable razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, combs.

**Other** - Sleeping bags, sleeping pads or mats, blankets.

**Food** - Milk, juice, fresh fruits, bottled water, cheese, ground beef, chicken, pork, ham, turkey, roasts.

**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, shoes, weather-appropriate boots; girl's/boy's clothing, school uniforms.

**Personal hygiene** - Shampoo, conditioner, feminine hygiene products, disposable razors (female), toothbrushes, toothpaste, band aids, hair brushes, foot powder, body soap, nail clippers, nail files, deodorant (women's) alka-seltzer cold®, pepto-bismol®, over-the-counter medication (ibuprofen), baby wipes, baby powder.

**Food** - Non-perishable food, water, juice, spices.

**Other** - Blankets, bed sheets (twin), diapers (all sizes, particularly 2-5), cleaning supplies, dish soap, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent, latex-free gloves, kitchen utensils, kitchen pots & pans, water bottles, shower shoes, AA/9-volt batteries, backpacks (adult & children), 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.

**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 381½ Cerrillos Road.

**Household Items** - Kitchen appliances, cleaning supplies, pet food.

**Larger Items** - Flatscreen tvs, computers & laptops, fencing materials.

## 8 St. Elizabeth Shelters