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of Central New Mexico

January 30, 2012

ENews from United Way of Central New Mexico

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You Are Invited



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Annual Meeting Set

On Thursday morning, March 8, 2012 at the Albuquerque Convention Center, we are having our biggest celebration yet - and you are invited. This **FREE** celebration is our annual recognition of all of our donors and it is where we reveal what was raised for our community.

What is new is that the event is **FREE** and the parking at the Convention Center is **FREE**. Join us from 8 AM to 9:30 AM on March 8th. Let us know you are coming by March 1st so we have enough coffee for everyone. Register at: www.uwcnm.org/celebration. Come one, come all. We are "packing" the Convention Center Ballrooms across from the KIVA Auditorium. Everyone is welcome. Be there for a healthy dose of **GREAT NEWS!**

UWCNM's Annual Meeting is set for Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at our office located at 2340 Alamo Avenue SE, 2nd floor, near Yale and Gibson. The meeting includes election of officers and new board members, an appreciation of exiting board members, a review of the organization's financials, and a forecast of the year ahead. The meeting will run from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM. For more information, call 247-3671. Ask for Julia Perkins.

Volunteer Spotlight: Kim Sawyer

Change in Processing Checks



Kim Sawyer
2012 Campaign
Chair Elect,
UWCNM

Kim Sawyer is our 2012 Campaign Chair Elect and is expected to be voted in at our Annual Meeting on March 13th. We are thrilled and excited to have such a community-spirited and enthusiastic Chair! Kim is the Deputy Laboratories Director and Executive Vice President for Mission Support for Sandia National Laboratories. She is responsible for ensuring that all Mission Support programs are integrated and that those programs support mission delivery.

Relatively new to New Mexico, Kim says, "I've lived in the Southwest before, both in Colorado and in Arizona. I absolutely love the mountains. The people in Albuquerque are friendly and it's easy to get around. I love the lack of humidity and sunshine. I've got a pretty sunny disposition and it just lifts me even more. I love being outside and there are so many things to do in Albuquerque." Kim, as an avid gardener, will definitely be outside during all our beautiful weather. "I just love playing in the dirt, planting things and seeing them grow. I grow my own herbs and I'm a gourmet cook. I find it extremely relaxing and satisfying." Kim is a member of the Society of Women Engineers and Women in Defense.

Please join us in welcoming and supporting Kim in her new leadership role at United Way of Central New Mexico.

Heading Home 1st Anniversary



By Dennis Plummer,
Executive Director

We have long known that:

1. It costs society more for someone to live on the street than it does to house them.
2. When housed, people use emergency services less frequently, thus freeing up resources to help even more people in need.
3. We all want to live in a community where homelessness is rare, short-lived and non-recurring.

Albuquerque Heading Home's primary purpose is to mobilize services and resources toward a common goal: to house and support Albuquerque's most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness.

In February 2011, the City launched this initiative through a vigorous community mobilization to the streets to identify its 75 most vulnerable homeless people. Albuquerque Heading Home sent over 200 volunteers to survey



By Lisa Kruger, CPA,
Chief Financial Officer,
UWCNM

UWCNM is now converting checks into electronic funds transfer payments upon presentation to the bank. When donors provide a check as payment, they are now authorizing us to use information from their check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from their account, or to process the payment as a check transaction.

You will see statements about this change on our website, on invoices, and posted as a notice at our front desk. Questions about this can be directed to UWCNM's Finance Department at 247-3671.

Announcing Tax Help New Mexico



United Way of Central New Mexico partner with Central New Mexico Community College and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to offer free tax assistance to local families and individuals. Many of these families qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a federal tax benefit for working families with low to moderate incomes. This tax credit improves financial stability for many local families who are working hard, but barely making it, by significantly boosting their annual incomes nearly \$6,000 for some families. The tax credit is also good for the local economy because our free Tax Help New Mexico sites help to bring millions of dollars in tax refunds to New Mexico each year. [For more info on Tax Help New Mexico click here.](#)

homeless people "sleeping rough" and in shelters. Teams approached 700 individuals, 475 of whom agreed to a vulnerability assessment based on a national tool that determines highest risk of mortality while homeless.

That week was also one of the coldest in history, underlining the urgency of life and death on the streets. The community mobilization in process was able to respond immediately and generate emergency financial assistance to move people inside.

No one died on the streets that week in Albuquerque. And this community once again demonstrated its willingness to come forward and pitch in.

Over the last 12 months, Albuquerque Heading Home has systematically placed those identified as most at risk into housing, and identified supportive services with appropriate case managers from across the system.

Albuquerque Heading Home provides the new paradigm. So, save the date:

Thursday, Feb. 2, 10 AM at 100 Gold Street

Celebration and Mayor's Press Conference to mark the one-year anniversary of the Albuquerque Heading Home initiative.

We want to thank our amazing community partners who have made this huge initiative possible and we will honor those in our community who have been housed.

Please join us!! And share the invitation with those you know would like to come.

Quality Assurance Process Begins

In February and early March, every year, a small army of volunteers, people just like you, perform a vital function for United Way of Central New Mexico. This volunteer group now numbers over 300 people each year and they, and people like them, have been doing this work since UWCNM was founded in 1934 as the Albuquerque Community Chest. What is it that they do?

In small groups these volunteers are trained and go out to visit the nonprofits in central New Mexico who apply for Community Fund Grants. They are the eyes and ears of 35,000 donors to UWCNM. They are tasked with making sure that the money the agency is requesting for program funding would serve the most vulnerable among us and would do it efficiently & effectively with provable results. It is their recommendations, following their site visits, which determine the programs that get recommended for funding and at what levels, and which programs do not get recommended. This volunteer driven process provides a level of quality assurance which is unique to United Way.

An Inspiring Message from Theresa

"I had such a great experience participating in the ECP [United Way] campaign this year. I've been contributing to the Community Fund for over 30 years and I knew that my donation was helping many in the community but until I volunteered to participate [in the campaign] this year, I had no idea how much of an impact my contribution was making! Bottom line, it was a real eye opener for me and I'm so glad I participated as a volunteer to actually "see and feel" what's going on in our community. Thanks for all your support and enthusiasm to help our community thrive!"

Theresa Apodaca (Sanchez)
Sandia National Laboratories

Center for Nonprofit Excellence



A nonprofit resource center founded in 2005 in partnership with the Albuquerque Community Foundation

February 15 Social Media Workshop for Nonprofits

On February 15th, Comcast, The Garrity Group and CNPE are offering a free workshop on Social Media from 8:30 to 10:30 AM at the United Way office, 2340 Alamo Ave SE, 2nd floor, Albuquerque. This **FREE** workshop for nonprofits is available to the first one hundred people who sign up by emailing jhorn@garrityPR.com or phone at (505) 89-8689. Nationally recognized speaker Jay Baer, author of *The Now Generation*, will be conducting the session sponsored by Comcast.

February 15 Developing a Fundraising Plan

Jan Hosea will assist each organization attending in putting together a multi-faceted development plan, using her e-book, *How to Create a Development Plan Step-by-Step*

CNPE's Volunteer Connection - New Service!

You can be a part of this process next year, if you wish. It will take about 20 hours of your time between January and March. Call us at 247-3671 and ask for Mary Regnier.

Loyal Donor



Loyal Contributor Lynn Ribble began her philanthropic partnership with United Way in 1973. "Although volunteerism and support of community organizations was part of my family background, and I had done volunteer work in both high school and college, I really didn't know much about United Way. Then my boss asked me to contribute in a workplace campaign.

Since then, I have been on many panels over the years as a member, assistant chair and chair. I never fail to be amazed by the many great things that are happening in our community: the generosity, in both time and money, that so many people are contributing and the obstacles that so many of the recipients face and overcome. I have been moved to tears on more than one occasion by the testimonials of those receiving help.

The UNM Medical Group, my employer, has supported my efforts and those of our newly established volunteer committee which is also providing time and funding to organizations that many of us are aware of from our involvement with United Way."

The UWCNM Community Fund Helps More

Cristina B. was in an abusive and violent marriage, with two small children. She spoke limited English, and was isolated and alone. Angel, then 7 years old, was diagnosed with autism. Cristina needed help for Angel. The staff of the Community Fund program at Hogares quickly learned that Angel's problems were intensified by her home environment. After one particularly violent episode, the staff helped Cristina identify neighbors who might be a safety resource for her. The neighbors were contacted, and became part of Cristina's crisis safety plan.

One neighbor, who also had an autistic child, taught Cristina techniques to help soothe Angel, who has limited communications skills. That neighbor is now a friend and community support for Cristina and her children. Staff also enlisted Angel's teacher to teach Cristina skills to deal with Angel's tantrums, which the staff then modeled and practiced with Cristina. Today, Cristina is divorced and she and the children are safe from her abuser. She speaks English more confidently. She has completed a GED and is enrolled at CNM. Angel is doing better, too. Through your

CNPE's website now includes listings of volunteer opportunities in New Mexico. Local nonprofits can easily submit volunteer projects through the website. Prospective volunteers can search for volunteer opportunities and inquire about or sign up for them via an online form. This is a valuable tool that connects nonprofits looking to engage volunteers with people who want to make a difference in their communities. View or post volunteer opportunities at <http://www.centerforprofitexcellence.org>



[Click here for service information database.](#)

The Family Advocacy Center



625 Silver SW, Suite 200
Albuquerque, NM 87102
In Albuquerque: (505) 242-STOP

www.abusestopshere.org

**FOR EMERGENCIES,
PLEASE CALL 911**

After hours, the Albuquerque Family Advocacy Center phone number (505) 242-STOP will be answered by victim advocates who can assist or make referrals to address your crisis situation. For basic or non-emergency contact with service providers please call back Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Does Your Company Live United?

donation to the Community Fund, you helped Cristina have a solid network of community supports and she has learned the skills to manage Angel's autism on her own. Their lives are better because of your contribution to the UWCNM Community Fund. Thank you.

There is nothing more powerful than a caring community working together. United Way of Central New Mexico welcomes any and all companies who want to improve our community through our organization. We have tools designed for companies to make a workplace campaign a fun, team building experience for employees and management. You can help us build year-round relationships and foster strong partnerships to improve lives right here in our community.

Last year we welcomed over 30 new workplace campaigns for United Way, and this year we hope to do even better. Help us get a running start by enlisting your company's support.

[Click here](#) for information and tools to start a new campaign where you work or call us at 247 3671.



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