



Coalition on a Mission

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Journey To Recovery

In 2010, Anna had it all. She owned a home and two cars and was “living the ‘American Dream’” with her long-time life partner. Tragedy struck when she and her partner of 14 years both lost their jobs and could no longer afford their home. After foreclosing on their home, filing for bankruptcy, and losing her truck to repossession, Anna liquidated everything she owned to stay afloat. But nothing could stop the downward spiral that resulted in a period of homelessness and loss that lasted nearly 4 years.

Life as a woman experiencing homelessness was one of uncertainty, fear, loneliness, and despair. “I was too busy feeling sorry for myself to help myself. I gave up. It doesn’t take long when you are sleeping on the streets,” describes Anna. Then came the drugs and alcohol. “I told myself that I was not going to do [homelessness] sober.” Anna started using anything that came her way to cope with the terror of being on the streets. “I tried to kill myself three times. I was so angry when I woke up, still alive.”

One day, Anna was sleeping outside of the Albuquerque Rescue Mission when she took advantage of free donuts and coffee offered by St. Martin’s. “I talked to a guy named John, who ended up being my case manager.” He suggested she go see Dorothee from Heading Home. Shortly after, Anna qualified for a housing voucher from the Supportive Housing Coalition.

“I could avoid everything and run or face everything and recover.” Anna

“It took me a year to recover,” explains Anna. “I slept on the couch for a long time. I didn’t know how long [being housed] was going to last. I stayed in the house with the shades and door closed. I didn’t leave unless to go get groceries.”

Eventually, with the support of her case manager, SHC-NM, and Heading Home, Anna started to trust her new situation - being permanently housed is now her new reality. “I told myself I could [avoid] everything and run or face everything and recover. Well now I am fully recovered, I am okay, I am safe.” Anna is currently going to school and is starting to “give back” as a member of the Tenant Advisory Committee for SHC-NM.

“I am doing all the right things. I’m not using, I am recovering from the physical issues homelessness caused. But my faith is what really pulls me through. You guys are heaven sent. If it wasn’t for you and free coffee and donuts that morning, I would not be here today. I don’t care if I can’t buy material things. I have a bed to sleep in.”



My Love Story

by Anna

Surrender into the memory of what once was, and could no longer be....

*You sit in the shadow of sorrow,
seeking, searching for the magic
that will make the pain
go away....*

*Behold, you will sit in the
radiant arms of the Son, without
sorrow no longer, searching for
the magic that will make the pain
go away....*

*ready to love,
to smile,
to sing,
to give
to heal again
and you will have stopped
asking why—*

*This winter of your life
will pass
as all seasons do....*

*It will take
as long as it takes....*

*Remember how deserving
you are
of gentleness, kindness, lovingness
and givingness*

*No one ever said it was easy
to let go, let be, let life do
what it is supposed to do.*

*When you live fully, your vulnerability
takes you...
through the shadows of winter
where you feel you may never see the
sun again....*

*For the invisible glory of spirit
will be your greatest power...
with which to heal...*

Community Support

Thank You

2015 Year-End and Giving Tuesday

Thank you to all who donated to the 2015 “Thanks-Giving” year-end campaign and to our Giving Tuesday campaign. We are filled with gratitude for all who included us in this year’s season of giving. We are blessed to do the work of providing a permanent solution to ending homelessness. Thank you for helping us in this very important mission!

U.S. Bank Foundation



Angela Hartill (U.S. Bank), Robin Dozier Otten, Casey Bresnahan (U.S. Bank)

SHC-NM is the proud recipient of a \$2,500 grant from the **U.S. Bank Foundation** in support of its “Housing First! The Key is Housing” service-learning project for 2016.

SHC-NM is currently seeking business partners and schools to participate in the program. “This is truly a collaborative project,” states Robin Dozier Otten, interim executive director of SCH-NM, “we are partnering with teachers, schools, and businesses and other nonprofits to provide a unique learning experience to students, our future decision makers, about the issue of homelessness. This grant from U.S. Bank is a great first step.”

Jack and Mary Gilliam Endowment Fund

We are pleased to announce that SHC-NM has received a \$1,000 grant from the **Santa Fe Community Foundation’s** “Giving Together” program. The full amount of this grant was donated by the **Jack and Mary Gilliam Endowment Fund**. The funds will be used to provide housing for people with behavioral health diagnoses who are experiencing homelessness and to provide the wrap-around supportive services critical to maintaining housing stability.

Supportive Housing Coalition of New Mexico

Households Year to Date



689
Currently in Permanent
Supportive Housing
All SHC-NM Programs

86
Newly Housed

82%
Success Rate
Housed 1 Year or More

Partners and Volunteers Needed!



Homelessness Service-Learning Project

SHC-NM is launching its innovative service-learning project, “**Housing First! The Key is Housing**” in January 2016 for Albuquerque public and private schools. The program is an advocacy and educational program piloted by SHC-NM that provides education to elementary, middle, and high school students about homelessness and the most effective intervention for preventing and reducing homelessness, Housing First.

Housing First is a nationally recognized “best practice” that moves people off the street into stable, affordable housing with supportive services to address mental health, substance abuse, and employment needs. Using SHC-NM educational materials, students will learn about Housing First and have an opportunity to participate in a service project to benefit people experiencing homelessness.

SHC-NM is currently seeking business sponsors, school partners, and volunteers. For more information, contact Jen Bear, AmeriCorps VISTA, at SHC-NM. (505) 255-3643, ext. 1113 or jbear@thehousingcoalition.org.