I’m writing to thank you all….

When the staff at SHC-NM receives a letter of gratitude, it makes everything we do worthwhile. After losing everything and experiencing homelessness, Mickey not only got an apartment through the work of SHC-NM Housing Specialist, Tillie Poper, and our partner agencies, he received a “Welcome Home” basket from the students in SHC-NM’s service-learning project.

When Mickey’s parents both became very ill, he decided to stay and care for them full time. The experience, while extremely important for his parents, took all of Mickey’s available resources. Five years later, his parents had both passed away and Mickey lost his home because “nothing was coming in” during that time. He had no choice but to live on the street.

“Every day is survival mode when you are on the street - just trying to find a place to sleep. I realized that trying to hang onto all that stuff was stressful. I realize now what is most important,” shares Mickey, “relationships, and shelter, food, and clothing.”

Mickey worked very hard to get the help he needed but “everything takes so long when you are on the street.” It took 6 months from his initial screening but finally Mickey got the news he wanted to hear - he had a housing voucher. Once he received his voucher from Supportive Housing Coalition, Mickey found where he wanted to live and was housed shortly afterwards. At his lease signing, all the organizations that he had worked with were there to help.

Mickey is so excited and grateful to be in his new home. His enthusiasm spills over as he describes the furniture donated through Heading Home and the plans he has to rebuild his life. “The worse thing right now is being alone with my parents gone and kids moved away. I am going to go back to my old church,” he explains.

Mickey was especially touched by the welcome basket from the students. “How can I thank them?” was his first question. His gratitude, in turn, touched us all.

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**Housing First! The Key is Housing** is a community outreach program of Supportive Housing Coalition of New Mexico. Through the program, students learn about homelessness, the Housing First intervention, and ways to “give back” to the community.

Schools at all levels can get involved through community service, senior projects, or classroom units. SHC is seeking business sponsors, partner schools, and volunteers for the fall of 2016.

For more information on how you can become a sponsor, school partner, or a volunteer with the program, please contact Jen Bear at jbear@thehousingcoalition.org or call 505.255.3643 ext. 1113.
Volunteer Spotlight

We are grateful to PNM employees who came out to work on May 19th for the Annual Day of Service! Pictured left to right, front row: Dina Ortiz, Maureen Gannon, Yesika Valles, SHC-NM tenant Kelly M., Robin Delapp, E.J. Anderson; back row: Sharon Brown, John Hole, Stephen Saletta, Matt Owens

More photos at bit.ly/SHCPhotos

PNM Annual Day of Service
05.19.16

Registration is Now Open!

4th Annual Strike Out Homelessness Bowl-A-Thon & Raffle

Supportive Housing Coalition of New Mexico

SUNDAY FUND DAY DONATED to:
20% of the days food sales

Supportive Housing Coalition of New Mexico

JUNE 26TH
Lobo beast 101
2122 Central Ave SE | Across from UNM | LoboBeast101.com

Please support our only major fundraiser event of the year!

More information
www.thehousingcoalition.org/calendar-of-events/bowl/
Email: info@thehousingcoalition.org
Call: 505.255.3643 ext. 1111