



Coalition on a Mission

a monthly newsletter of the Supportive Housing Coalition of New Mexico

May 2016

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Spotlight on Service Area Students Welcome People Home

In January of this year, The Supportive Housing Coalition of New Mexico embarked on an innovative service-learning program about homelessness called "Housing First! The Key is Housing" with Albuquerque public and private school students. The program is sponsored by US Bank.

Jen Bear, our AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer, presented to 5 different schools including Valley High School, Albuquerque Academy, Sandia Prep, Jefferson Middle School, and Volcano Vista. The students learned about Housing First, the evidence-based approach pioneered by SHC-NM in 2005 to help end chronic homelessness. Housing First is an intervention that moves people off the street into stable, affordable housing with supportive services to address mental health, substance abuse, health, and employment needs. It recognizes that "housing is the key" to ending homelessness.

After the presentations, students reflected on the effects of homelessness and brainstormed ways to help our clients. The students realized that a person being housed after many months, sometimes years, of homelessness may not have all the basics they need to live in their new home. While some students decided to raise money, others put together "Welcome Home" baskets for SHC-NM clients who are being newly housed. The students collected essential items that clients may not have when first moving into their apartments or houses such as laundry baskets, towels, shampoo and conditioner, toothbrush and toothpaste, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, and silverware and plates. They assembled the items in laundry baskets so that SHC-NM housing specialists can then give newly housed tenants a basket at their lease signing.

This program educated students about homelessness and provided them an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the clients of SHC-NM. We appreciate the hard work the students did and we look forward to working with them again in the fall.

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Jen and Tillie welcomed newly housed tenant, Katheryn, home with her basket from Valley High School



Albuquerque Academy students organize their baskets



Valley Academy director Larry Lavatt, Jen, and Trina Lopez, SHC-NM Housing Specialist, praise the students' efforts.

Spotlight on Service

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Schools at all levels can get involved through community service, senior projects, or classroom units. SHC is seeking volunteers for the fall. And of course, more sponsors are always needed. For more information on how you can become a sponsor, school partner, or volunteer with the program, please contact Jen Bear at jbear@thehousingcoalition.org or call 505.255.3643 ext. 1113.

Kudos!



Congratulations to **John Ames, Director of Community Housing**, who was honored as Nonprofit Leader of the Year at the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness Housing for All Conference last month.

John has been an unflinching and passionate voice for people experiencing homelessness and the Housing First approach to ending homelessness at SHC-NM since 2005. As the Director of Community Housing, John manages all the housing voucher programs at SHC-NM, growing the program from 20 vouchers in 2005 to 325 vouchers in 2016, and also oversees the service coordinators at SHC-NM owned properties. Not only does he apply for, comply with, and report on all the funding for these programs, John directs a fiercely loyal and dedicated housing team that deal in a highly professional way with hundreds of clients, over 150 landlords, dozens of case managers, and multiple funding and service partners.

He is often the voice of SHC-NM at numerous community outreach appearances where he advocates not only for SHC-NM but for the Housing First initiative in Albuquerque and in the State of New Mexico. John never seeks the spotlight as he empowers others to do the work of ending homelessness through permanent, supportive housing.



Trina Lopez, Housing Specialist, received Direct Service Employee Honorable Mention at the conference. Trina has been with SHC-NM for 8 years, providing outstanding service to her clients, negotiating with landlords, and coordinating with case managers to ensure a positive and timely transition for the newly housed. Trina is both enthusiastic and passionate about Housing First as she advocates for the people we serve.

Registration is Now Open!

A promotional poster for the 4th Annual Strike Out Homelessness Bowl-A-Thon & Raffle. The background is blue with white text. It features three bowling pins in the center. The text reads: "4th Annual Strike Out Homelessness Bowl-A-Thon & Raffle", "09.24.16 Holiday Bowl Albuquerque", "Supportive Housing Coalition of New Mexico". At the bottom, there are logos for "99.5 Magic FM" and "103.3 ed-fm", and a dark blue box with white text that says "ALBUQUERQUE BUSINESS FIRST".

Supportive Housing Coalition is proud to present its annual fundraising event, Strike Out Homelessness Bowl-A-Thon & Raffle sponsored by Albuquerque Business First and 99.5 Magic FM/103.3 EdFM. Please support our only major fundraiser event of the year!

How you can help

Sponsor - the best way to support SHC is through a major sponsorship. Sponsors get a bowling team plus lots of press and the knowledge you are contributing to an organization doing amazing work every day (and don't forget the free t-shirt!).

Corporate Team - the perfect way for a small business to get in on the fun and get your name up in lights (well, almost - and you get the t-shirt too!).

Friends & Family Team - if you're looking for a fun, family event that will make you feel good about doing good, this one's for you! Bowling is great for all ages and ability levels and did we mention the free t-shirt?

Individual Bowler - don't have a team but still want to bowl? No problem - we'll find a team for you!

Raffle Donation —we are always looking for cool prizes to help us raise additional funds on the day of the event.

Campaign Donation - our Strike Out Homelessness Campaign runs from July 1 to September 30. Your donation helps us keep the lights on!

More information

www.thehousingcoalition.org/calendar-of-events/bowl/

Email: info@thehousingcoalition.org

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