

It's Our 25th Anniversary!



We are pleased to announce that 2021 marks SHC's 25th year as an organization dedicated to ending homelessness for hundreds of people each day. We were founded in 1996 in response to local service providers' recognition of a community-wide gap in safe and affordable housing for homeless and near-homeless persons with behavioral health disorders. Through the development of affordable and permanent supportive housing apartment units in Albuquerque, Gallup, and Las Vegas, NM and the administration of tenant-based rental assistance housing vouchers in Albuquerque and Gallup, we've been able to end and prevent homelessness for hundreds of people every day. SHC provides service coordination and collaborates with behavioral health service providers to ensure long-term housing stability for our housing participants.

We will be celebrating all year beginning with a kick-off at our 2021 Welcome Home fundraiser in April. You can be part of our history with a commemorative brick in honor of our 25th anniversary. The bricks will be part of a permanent installation at Downtown @700-2nd Apartments. For more information at www.shcnm.org/25brickcampaign/

New DT Mart - A Place for Shopping and Community



"I get so many people saying 'thank you! I am so proud of what we have done here. It is simple, fun, and is providing people a feeling of safety because they don't have to go out during this pandemic. We are really helping people who have limited access to the outside world right now.'" Debbie Lozano, Property Manager at Downtown @700-2nd Apartments.

It started out as a simple idea, then a brainstorm, and then a full-fledged plan. Downtown @700-2nd Apartments is a mixed-income apartment community owned and managed by Supportive Housing Coalition of New Mexico. In its lobby is a café space that has seen several cafés come and go over the years. After the vacancy left by its most recent tenant, Debbie Lozano, property manager, started thinking of ways she could utilize the space that would be cost effective and beneficial to the residents of the community. Then it dawned on her, "We should have a mini-mart!"

Debbie brainstormed some ideas with Jim Morgan, a resident of Downtown and an SHC board member. Together they pieced together the basic elements of the plan. Once they got the go ahead from director Charles Joslin they worked on their business plan and surveyed the other residents to find out what they would like to have available to them. "This is their store," explains Debbie, "we wanted to make sure we had items on hand that would benefit them the most." The items included snacks, personal care items, cleaning supplies, and of course, masks and toilet paper.

A majority of the people who live at Downtown @700-2nd do not own vehicles. The project was actually designed for people to live in the city and utilize public transportation to get to work and school. Once the COVID-19 pandemic hit, it became apparent that this was the perfect time to execute the plan for an on-site store. It would eliminate the risks of people having to utilize public transportation or enter stores to get much needed items.

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You are invited to Welcome Home



Annual Fundraiser & Silent Auction
April 27-29, 2021



Host and Emcee:
Brian Colón



Silent Auction Partner:
CORT Furniture

Sponsor Opportunities:

Room Sponsor: \$2,500 Key Sponsor: \$1,000
Foundation Sponsor: \$500 Brick Sponsor: \$250
Sponsor Details: www.shcnm.org/welcomehome

DT Mart *(continued)*

The DT Mart officially opened on December 1. “These last couple of months have been a big learning curve,” explain Jim and Debbie. They had to figure out what would sell, how to ensure stock of high demand items, and make sure people didn’t wipe them out of available stock. “We had to start limiting people to two items at a time!”

The DT Mart has also been a place of community for residents who may have experienced some isolation due to the pandemic. Jim set up a “coffee club” in the area with a big urn of coffee. People donate what they can and coffee is served throughout the day. “Some people donate a quarter, sometimes we find a \$20 bill in there,” states Jim, “some of our market-rate residents just donate and don’t take coffee because they know that there are people who live here that have fixed incomes and need it more than they do.”

The mini-mart is staffed by volunteer residents from Downtown and SHC courtesy monitors. Items are priced intentionally low to keep things affordable to the residents. “Our intention is not to make a profit. All the money we make goes into purchasing additional stock,” explains Debbie. Now that they are operational, Debbie and Jim are starting to dream about expanding. “We will continue to ask the residents what THEY want,” says Debbie. In the meantime, Jim and Debbie are just happy they could turn their dream into a reality, a small idea that is helping people in a big way.

For more photos visit www.shcnm.org/new-dt-mart-at-downtown-700-2nd/

Donations of items for the DT Mart are welcome and appreciated. If you would like to donate any nonperishable items including snacks, hygiene items, cleaning supplies, or paper goods, please email info@shcnm.org or call 505.255.3643 x1111.



Debbie Lozano, property manager, preps for another day at the DT Mart.