



Home at St. E's

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Summer 2017

Citizen Salvador

It was a long road, but last November 18th Salvador Orona, a longtime Casa Cerrillos resident, became an American citizen.

The oldest child in a family of eight from Delicias, Chihuahua, Salvador left home at 15 seeking work. He arrived in the United States in 1963, shortly after the Kennedy assassination, picking apples in Washington, harvesting hops for a brewery and doing other agricultural work, all the time sending some of his wages back to his family in Mexico.

He returned often to Mexico, but always came back to the United States where jobs were more plentiful. For many years he worked as a cowboy for the W Cattle Company in Texas, where he obtained his residency papers in 1988 during an amnesty program under President Reagan.

Salvador was very close to the family that ran the ranch, and when the owner died in 1993, he decided it was time to leave. A friend told him about Santa Fe and how good its climate was – not too cold in the winter and not too hot in the summer – so he moved here.

“There was always work – gardening, restaurants, cleaning jobs – and it was easy to meet people and make new friends,” he recalls. “Some of us would go in together and rent an apartment.”

Things were fine until 2009 when he began to have serious problems

with his leg and foot. Unable to work or pay rent, he lost his apartment and began living in an old car for a few months until he came to St. Elizabeth Shelter.

“I was Salvador’s case manager when he arrived,” Shane Lampman says. “He was in a lot of pain, could hardly walk and his foot was atrophying. I contacted the Social Security Administration and after looking into his work and payment records they awarded him \$170 a month in early retirement income. It wasn’t much, but it was enough to get him an apartment at Casa Cerrillos, St. Elizabeth’s supportive housing program for adults with disabilities.”

Next on the agenda was medical care. Doctors at La Familia diagnosed a circulatory problem and referred Salvador to a specialist, but no one at the specialist’s office could speak Spanish well enough or Salvador enough English to communicate sufficiently. So Shane stepped in, accompanying Salvador

to the specialist and translating his symptoms and medical history.

An ultrasound on his leg identified a blockage restricting blood circulation, and a successful surgery solved the problem. All this time Shane continued to work on Salvador’s case with Social Security, and in 2011 he was awarded SSI (Social Security Supplemental Income) as well to raise his monthly total to \$750.

“St. Elizabeth has helped me a lot,” Salvador says. “It’s connected me with doctors and healthcare and provided me an apartment to live in. Casa Cerrillos is a great location with many stores nearby. I’ve been

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Salvador Orona displaying his citizenship papers.

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Casa Familia Match Obtained

Thanks to our many generous donors, the Casa Familia \$50,000 match was met and, after some delays, the building’s remodeling project is underway again.



MISSION

St. Elizabeth is dedicated to assisting homeless individuals and families by providing emergency shelter, food, case management, counseling, supportive housing and referrals to partnering human services agencies.

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Director's Corner



The good news is that we have five separate housing facilities for our homeless guests targeted to provide assistance depending on wherever they are in their lives. The bad news is that we have five separate housing facilities, all of which need ongoing maintenance and repair.

Case in point our Men's Emergency Shelter on Alarid Street. This spring we started having plumbing problems with clogged pipes. The plumbers were able to unclog them, but sure enough the problem would return in a few weeks. Then in early May, water started backing up into our dining room and the plumbers couldn't fix it. So they jackhammered the floor near the leak to examine the pipe. It seemed all right but water was moving from somewhere along it. So they continued jackhammering and examining with the same results until they got out to the sidewalk and the main sewer line. It seems the previous clogs and leaks had so compromised the old pipe that it was beginning to disintegrate. The end result – we needed to replace the pipe and then pour new concrete for the dining room floor and the sidewalk. The initial cost – \$10,000 just for the work and the new pipe.

But that left us with an uneven floor in the dining room with broken and missing tiles that needed to be replaced. Unfortunately, the tiles were so old that they can't be matched. Also, we had a lot of other tiles in the first floor reception area, tv room, men's dorm, medical-respite dorm – that are broken, cracked or missing and pose a safety hazard. So we decided to bite the bullet and retiling the entire area at once, since it would be cheaper to do so than replacing tiles piecemeal. The final result – a \$30,000 project that was unintended and unbudgeted but needs to be done.

We're committing some of our reserve emergency funding toward this and applied for some new specific grants, but it's not going to be enough to pay for this large unexpected cost. So we're hoping that you, our generous readers, can help us out with an additional donation to complete this needed project and keep our shelter working as best as possible on behalf of our homeless guests. As always, thank you for your support.

Deborah Tang,
Executive Director

Volunteers: Lifeblood of the Shelter

Operating two emergency shelters – Men’s and Casa Familia – 24/7 is a major effort. Even with all our hardworking staff and interns, sheltering and caring for about 60 people a day is a quite a monumental task. And that’s why our dedicated volunteers are so important.

“We couldn’t do this work without our volunteers,” says Maria Lopez, program manager at the Men’s Emergency Shelter. “They are so willing to do what needs to be done to keep this place going – staffing the front desk, preparing the evening meals, making repairs, helping with maintenance and cleaning, pitching in on mailings and fundraising events, the list goes on and on.

“You couldn’t meet any nicer people than our volunteers. They’re a special group in our community. They really want to make a difference and have such a commitment and generosity to people experiencing homelessness.”

Among the current front-desk volunteers, Diane Forsdale has the longest continuous service at 20-plus years.

“I just enjoy all the different people I meet – the guests, staff, interns, people still living on the



Diane Forsdale sorting the mail.

streets,” she says. “The work is so interesting. I answer the phones, process in-kind donations, help those who come to the door by distributing items they need, like toothbrushes, shampoo, band-aids, aspirin or refer them to other agencies for specific assistance. I work on Wednesday afternoons during the weekly staff meeting, so I’m on my own to handle the office and I really

like the responsibility.”

Paul Dominguez, who moved to Santa Fe from San Antonio four years ago, has spent 30 years volunteering with homeless programs.

“You can’t believe how some of these individuals make it out there with all they’re going through,” he says. “Some of our guests are so resilient given all the challenges they have had in their lives. Volunteering here makes you so grateful to have a place to go home to, a place to stay warm in.”

Paula Carboni also has been volunteering at St. Elizabeth’s front desk for the past four years.

“I volunteer because it makes me feel good and is very fulfilling,” she says. “You get to know some of the people living on the streets and after hearing some of their stories, you get a totally new view on their lives and circumstances.

“I recently retired after working 20 years and wanted to give back to society”

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Paul Dominguez reflects on his volunteer work.



Volunteers continued from page 3

she says. “St. E’s is like a little family where everybody knows everybody, and I love it here.”

Once or twice a month since 2008, Dan Rusthoi, a retired LANL scientist, has headed a group to cook an evening meal for the guests. It’s a full-hands-on-deck experience watching the cast chop vegetables, prepare salads, roast potatoes, cut and sauté meats, then present a restaurant-worthy feast to the hungry and appreciative guests.

“It makes the world a better place,” Dan says while working alongside Ray Hartel, a former retail grocer, and Mike Miller, a former St. Elizabeth client, last month. Ray cites “compassion” for his commitment, and Mike is “giving back what I received at St. E’s.”

Despite the many years of service of these individuals, others have been volunteering even longer.

“Sharon Mitchell has been here since the beginning,” says Maria Lopez. “In fact, she and her late husband donated the first vehicle the shelter had. Susie Dixon is another long-time volunteer as are cooking groups from St. Bede’s, Holy Faith, Christ Lutheran, White Rock Latter Day Saints, Secular Franciscan Order, St. Elias the Prophet and the Cathedral Basilica.

“These are the best of the people in Santa Fe,” Maria continues. “To me, they’re angels sent to relieve some of the pain and grief that people go through in life. They’re the jewels of mankind.”



Mike Miller, Dan Rusthoi, & Ray Hartel (left to right) preparing an evening meal.

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities for you or your group please contact us by calling (505) 982-6611 or e-mail: volunteer@steshelter.org



Paula Carboni at the front desk.

Superheroes Unite!

Superheroes united at the Railyard for our first annual Superhero event. Our thanks to all who came out to support St. Elizabeth and our mission to end homelessness. More than 100 people joined the walk, including many of our own homeless superheroes who struggle against adversity every day, raising more than \$6,000. This generosity will help us support the more than 2,000 men, women and children that St. Elizabeth assists every year. Next year we anticipate transforming the walk into a 5K run through the newly completed trail system around the Railyard.

Special thanks to all our sponsors who helped us raise the level of awareness in our community. We could not have done it without you. These include Andale Food Truck that provided all the delicious burritos after the walk, Adelante SFPS, Youth Shelters & Family Services, La Familia, The Food Depot, Boxcar Santa Fe, Big Adventure Comics, Chainbreaker, United Way, Santa Fe Reporter and Hutton Broadcasting.



Top: Superhero supporters carry banner followed by Executive Director Deborah Tang,
Bottom Left: Supporters of the event led by Partizani Brass Band. Bottom Right: Gerardo Rodriguez, who donated all the breakfast burritos for the event, owner and operator of Andale Food Truck



Thank You Donors!

Please visit our website

www.steshelter.org

to view the list of our generous donors from

November 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017.

Thank You to Our Dedicated Chefs!

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here for eight years now, have made some good friends and am very happy."

Salvador is also proud of what he has accomplished.

"I've never had an encounter with the police," he says. "My record is clean and that helped me obtain my U.S. citizenship. After all these years, becoming an American citizen was very important to me."

Coincidentally, Shane, now program manager at Casa Cerrillos and reunited with Salvador, confirms this.

"Obtaining his American citizenship after all these years was a big event for Salvador," Shane says, "and his fellow Casa Cerrillos residents held a party to celebrate his success. The fact that he remembers the great milestones of his life by who was president of the United States at that time – when he first arrived, when he got his residency – shows how much living and working here has meant to him."

Salvador seconds this assessment.

"America has always helped me, and I love the country," he says. "But there will always be a special place in my heart for Mexico. Now with my citizenship,

I will be able to visit my family and old friends there soon, but will be coming back here to live."





Chef Jean-Pierre Vincent
Old House at Eldorado Hotel



Chef Carmen Rodriguez
MiSanta/Boxcar



Chef Fernando Ruiz
The Artesian Restaurant at Ojo Caliente

Hungry Mouth Festival

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017 | 5:30PM - 9:00PM

THE ELDORADO HOTEL

TICKETS \$125 EACH EARLY BIRD | \$150 AFTER 9/1/17



- Enjoy and vote on the most delicious food prepared tableside by our three top chefs
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www.steshelter.org 982-6611 EXT 104



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Summer Wish List

MEN'S EMERGENCY SHELTER

Please call (505) 982-6611 or bring the smaller items to St. Elizabeth at 804 Alarid Street.

Clothing - Baseball caps, rain ponchos, men's jackets, socks, underwear.

Personal hygiene - Shaving cream, disposable razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, band aids, sunscreen, combs, alka-seltzer cold®, pepto-bismol®.

Food - Ground beef, chicken, pork, ham, turkey, roasts, milk, juice, eggs, fresh fruit, bottled water, cheese, coffee.

Other - Bath & kitchen towels, bus passes, vacuum cleaner, used carpentry or landscaping tools (tool belts, hammers, levels, tape measures, rakes, etc.) to assist in finding employment.

Volunteers - Front-desk receptionists for four- to eight-hour blocks of time, cooks for dinners any night.

CASA FAMILIA

Please call (505) 983-2042 or bring the smaller items to Casa Familia at 1604 Berry Ave.

Clothing - Women's underwear, socks, jackets, shoes, girl's/boy's clothing, rain gear, umbrellas.

Personal Hygiene - Shampoo, conditioner, feminine hygiene products, disposable razors (female), toothpaste, band aids, hair brushes, foot powder, body soap, nail clippers, nail files, deodorant (women's) alka-seltzer®, pepto-bismol®, cough drops, Emergen-C® packets.

Food - Non-perishable food, water, juice, spices.

Other - Passes for community activities (e.g. Chavez Center or Children's Museum) or bus passes, movie passes, diapers (all sizes, particularly 2-6), twin size sheets, towels, patio furniture, cleaning supplies, latex-free gloves, kitchen utensils, pots & pans, dish soap, toilet paper, paper towels, shower shoes, AA/9-volt batteries, laundry detergent, painting supplies.

Volunteers - Cooks for dinner.

CASA CERRILLOS

Please call (505) 471-3456 for a complete list.

Household Items - Pots & pans, bedding, furniture, cleaning supplies, light bulbs.