

# HELP-NEW MEXICO, INC.

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WWW.HELPNM.COM

HOLIDAY  
NEWSLETTER  
VOL 3 - 2011

## A History of Responding to Community Need

Started in 1965 by church leaders, farm workers and service professionals concerned about the deterioration of rural and urban communities throughout the state, **The Home Education Livelihood Program** (HELP) began as a private, non-profit corporation to assist New Mexico communities with project and services to improve the quality of life. Serving as innovator and catalyst, HELP's purpose was to address those gaps in development and service left by public and profit-sector programs.

HELP created a philosophy of working with families and communities in their **HOME** environment, through a broad process of **EDUCATION**, in order to create a better economic **LIVELIHOOD**. The **PROGRAM** plans, organizes and operates what would be viewed as conventional agencies as "high-risk" projects. HELP viewed them as opportunities for innovation and change. HELP's innovator/catalyst approach was to identify needs, organize local residents, together design a program to meet those needs, train local staff and advisory boards, and gradually get the project to a self-sustaining basis. HELP stressed the importance of community organization, leadership development and skill transfer as a process toward building permanent capacity at the local level.

Today, better known as

HELP-New Mexico, Inc. or **HELP-NM**, has provided services to over 816,000 individuals and families including migrant families, self-employed farmers and ranchers, low-income families, abused and neglected children, senior citizens, people with disabilities, and disadvantaged youth.

These services have included adult education, job training, early childhood development and education, youth development and care, self-help housing construction, rural health clinics, land development, job placement, literacy training, affordable housing, nutritious meals, and family counseling.

In its 45 years of service **HELP-NM** has not wavered from its initial purpose and our work continues to be based on and benefits from the following core values or operating principles:

- **Developing a Strong "Family"**: We respect, value, and protect the dignity of our clients, Board, staff, and community - and we consider all of them to be part of the **HELP-NM** family. We do more than provide services; we advocate for families. We believe in what we do and our work should bring and reflects happiness.

- **Building Self-sufficiency**: **HELP-NM** believes in going beyond providing services to supporting individual and family empowerment. We help clients and their families gain the skills and resources to be self-sufficient.

- **Quality and Accountability**: We don't just do things - we do them well. We value quality over quantity in all our work and in sound internal management. **HELP-NM** is committed to continuously progressing and doing our best work. As an organization, we are accountable to our clients and community, our funders, and ourselves.

- **Outreach and Communication**: We are committed to reaching out to our communities and communicating often and effectively, both within and outside the organization. We want a statewide presence, and a strong, supportive network.

- **Sustainability**: **HELP-NM** has a long-term commitment to serving New Mexico families. Our history and experience provide important credibility and a foundation for our work, but we look forward, not back.

- **Leadership and Teamwork**: We believe that we are most effective if we work together and share leadership. **HELP-NM's** success in serving its community requires the active involvement and continued development of our statewide Board of Directors, CSBG Advisory Board, Head Start Policy Council, and staff. Everyone has an essential role that can grow through our commitment to leadership opportunities.

- **Diversity**: We believe in diversity in all aspects of **HELP-NM**, from staff and Board composition to funding to the types of services provided and clients served.



### HELP-NM LEADERSHIP

John Martinez  
Executive Director

John Matchison  
Chief Financial Officer

Jerry Otero  
Director of FSD

Rita Garcia-McManus  
Director of WDD

Gloria Lopez  
Director of CDD

Miriam Brettner, PHR  
HR Coordinator

Brandon Masters  
HR Coordinator -  
Las Cruces

John Chavez  
Chairman  
Board of Directors

[www.helpnm.com](http://www.helpnm.com)

## A NOTE FROM JOHN MARTINEZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*"If you want  
one year of  
prosperity,  
plant corn.*

*If you want ten  
years of pros-  
perity, plant  
trees.*

*If you want one  
hundred years  
of prosperity,  
educate peo-  
ple."*  
Chinese proverb



### CALENDER

#### OCTOBER

October 10th  
Columbus Day  
October 21-22  
Board Of Directors  
Meeting  
October 25-27  
CACFP Meeting

#### NOVEMBER

November 11th  
Veterans Day  
November 24, 25  
Thanksgiving

#### DECEMBER

December 22  
Staff Luncheon  
December 26 through  
January 3rd  
Christmas Holiday

### HELP-NM works to get Farm and Ranch workers benefits.

From the Albq. Journal 12./16 2011

#### **Judge Says Farm Hands Entitled To Workers' Comp**

Farm and ranch workers, previously excluded from workers' compensation benefits, are entitled to collect them, a state district judge has ruled. The case challenged the constitutionality of the statute that kept roughly 10,000 workers from receiving benefits if they are injured on the job. The decision by Second Judicial District Judge Valerie Huling said the statute was unconstitutional affects a group classified by the U.S. Agriculture Department as "the poorest of the working poor" — individuals the opinion describes as poorly educated and poorly paid, historically abused by employers, predomi-

nantly noncitizens and legally barred from organizing. "When an agricultural laborer is injured while working and not covered by workers' compensation," the opinion says, "it is likely that he or she will need to participate in taxpayer-funded public benefit programs. The agricultural industry is the only industry allowed to shift the burden of caring for its injured workers from the industry itself to the taxpayers..." Huling's ruling came in a civil lawsuit filed in 2009 by three individual workers injured on the job — Joe Griego, Eloy Vigil and Ramon Molina — and advocacy groups Sin Fronteras Organizing Project and **HELP-New Mexico Inc.** against the New Mexico Workers Compensation Administration and its director, Ned Fuller. Judge Huling said the most significant question was

whether excluding a category of individuals was arbitrary, and thus unconstitutional. Gail Evans, legal director for the Center on Law and Poverty, said the ruling is "a step toward ending discrimination in our farms, ranches and dairies. Now we can enjoy our green chili with a clearer conscience."



## FAMILY SERVICES

### 25 years of HELP-NM's CACFP

The CACFP Sponsor meeting held in Taos, New Mexico in October 2011, marked 25 years of **HELP-NM** involvement with the Child Adult Care Food Program. This program which reimburses a home day care provider for feeding children in their care has been one of **HELP-NM's** cornerstone programs.

Phyllis Tabet, Program Manager has been associated with this program since she was a little girl. She has seen providers come and go and children who were once being fed at a home provider grow and become providers themselves. We have providers that have been on the program for 25 years, feeding and caring for not only their own kids, but their children's kids. One of those kids who grew up, happens to be one of our own, Albuquerque Outreach Rep, Lisa Marie Carrillo, whose mother has been in

the program for over 20 years. Lisa Marie was one of those kids who grew up in a home day care environment and is now responsible for monitoring them.

The theme at the Sponsor meeting was "Return to the 80's". Sponsor agencies staff dressed up in the fashion of the times and danced to 80's music at the reception. Several of the other agencies participants have been with their agencies since those times since the 80's.

Discussion revolved around all the changes and how different it is from *those* days. **HELP-NM** was the first CACFP Sponsor in New Mexico and at one time our CACFP staff monitored 1400 homes and we had 10 offices. Back then it was easier for a home care provider to be certified. Background checks on all family members over the age of 18 and other restrictive regulations and of course the current

economy has reduced the number of homes.

This past month through the help of one of our volunteers, Theandra Marthell, and Board Member, Nelson Sandoval, we were able to sign up 21 homes in Alamo, New Mexico. Alamo is a small section of the Navajo Nation located northwest of Magdalena. Theandra paved the way for us to be able to approach the Alamo Chapter leadership with our interest in bringing the CACFP to that area. Board Member Sandoval acted as our sponsor and translator at the Chapter meeting.

#### **Other News:**

We welcome Rick Padilla Burton to work on our Supportive Housing Initiative and VISTA Member Nina Freer to FSD.

[Jerryotero@helpnm.com](mailto:Jerryotero@helpnm.com)

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

### HELPING YOUTH IN RIO ARRIBA

by Rita Garcia-McManus

**HELP-NM** Workforce Development Division (WDD) received a \$720,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to implement a YouthBuild Program in the Rio Arriba County area. The YouthBuild Program (**HELP-NM** RAYB) is a youth and community development program that simultaneously addresses core issues facing low-income communities: housing, education, employment, crime prevention, and leadership development. In our YouthBuild Program, young individuals ages 18-24 prepare for success by working toward their GEDs or high school diplomas, learning job skills and serving their communities by building affordable housing, and transforming their own lives and roles in society.

**HELP-NM** RAYB Program will assist and prepare 40 students over a two year

period for college or the workplace while they create housing for the city's working families.

The first step for participants in this program is to attend a Mental Toughness Orientation (MTO). This two-week orientation workshop is designed to identify which students would take the program seriously and demonstrate their commitment to it. Out of 29 participants that started this Orientation Training, 23 were selected to participate and enroll in the **HELP-NM** RAYB Program. The 23 participants learned about communication, working as a team, being on time, and getting along with others through activities designed to prepare them for the dedication and motivation needed to complete this training program.

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, students and WDD staff members proudly gathered to celebrate the completion of the Mental Toughness Orientation and the student received their Certificate of Completion. The students were so proud taking pictures with

their MTO completion certificates, it was incredible to see their proud faces and hearing them say that this is the first certificate they have ever received.

We welcome our first group of **HELP-NM** RAYB students and are looking forward to working together and helping them discover and make progress toward their full potential.

*rita@helpnm.com*



## CHILD DEVELOPMENT

### "A Piggy Bank in Every Home Project"

The **HELP-New Mexico, Inc.** Child Development Center in Alamogordo established community partnerships with the local Credit Union and other banks to provide each child at the center a piggy bank, appropriate financial literacy activities and to open a savings account beginning with one dollar. The activity took place on December 1, 2011 where parents, staff, children and local banks came together to

celebrate and learn more about savings and financial literacy! In return the children made beautiful Christmas Wreaths with their handprints. There was a lot of fun and learning.

*glopez@helpnm.com*



#### Accomplishments:

- Program Information report 2010-2011 to the Office of Head Start was completed and submitted on August 31, 2011.

- Policy Council approved all revision to their By Laws on May 20, and submitted to **HELP-NM** Board of Directors for their approval.

- Policy Council held elections for new officers on October 14th.

- Self-Assessment Plan for 2011-12 was approved by Policy Council.

- Head Start Supplemental Grant Proposal for \$70,000 for the renovation of the Tularosa Child Development Center was approved by the Policy Council.

- Extension of the Early Head Start Home-Based Program in Tularosa to January 31, 2012 was approved by Policy Council.

- Enrollment /Attendance: 714

Head Start = 337

NM Pre-K = 228

Child Care = 70

EHS = 79



## EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS

### OCTOBER through DECEMBER

HELP-NM would like to wish Happy Birthday to the following:

#### October Birthdays:

Jerry Otero	Delia Serna	Gloria Marquez
Debi Lopez	Mercedes Gutierrez	Gloria J. Ontiveros
Anabeli Ornelas	Florencia Serrano	Rosa Ruiz
Maria Rubio	Ethel Latham	Elizabeth Rodriguez

#### November Birthdays:

Maria R. Gallegos	Lourdes Martinez	Rachel Padilla
Carmen Ramirez	Dana Espino	Venessa Hill
		Israel C. Jimenez Jr.

#### November Birthdays Cont:

Israel S. Jimenez	Guadalupe Rivera	Estela Munoz	Serena Counts
Nelson Eskridge	Miriam Brettner	Irinea Valdez	Gloria Martinez
Jodene Valdez	Grisell Lozoya	Ellie Gallegos	Marcela Lozoya
Ben Sanchez	Brenda Barela		

#### December Birthdays:

John Matchison	Luis Padilla	Eleen Vialpando	Betty Moncayo
Matt Duran	Pamela Romero	Evangeline Touchine	Brenda Martinez
Melinda Chavez	Darci Gray	Crystal Peña	Ramona Medina
Kim Mattson	Patricia Rodriguez	Betty Moncayo	

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

### **Elaine Felix** **"Always Smiling"**

To call Elaine simply an Executive Assistant is a huge understatement. To us at the Main Office, Elaine is the "go to person", if you need something, or want to know something she is the one to see. She began her career here at **HELP-NM** in 1984, working for Gene Ortega, as a Receptionist, she went on to be an Employment

Assistant and finally Executive Assistant to our Executive Director John Martinez. Elaine came to HELP when she was just out of high school. "She has always attentive and on time, helpful and never complains about work, gets along with everyone", shares Gene Ortega, President of Rural Housing, and her ex-boss. She has been married to Bobby for over 29 years and is the mother of Vanessa, an 11<sup>th</sup> grade student at Volcano Vista.

She says she loves her job. She never complains and is always smiling. She has been a dedicated **HELP-NM** employee for **27 years**.

Her role as Executive Assistant makes her responsible for a lot of different tasks. She is the agency Travel Agent, makes sure everything is taken care of for Board Meetings, and handles all the mundane paperwork of a large community non profit. She is a joy to work with and a "really nice person".

## EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

### OCTOBER through DECEMBER

The following employees have service anniversaries between October and December :  
We would like to congratulate them for their dedication to HELP-NM.

#### 1 to 5 Years

April Edwards	Jerry Otero	Kathleen Pugh
Anna Saldana	Edith Settles	Bertha Herrera
LisaMarie Carrillo	Noelia McNew	
Nelson Eskridge		

#### 6 to 9 Years

Luz Chavez	Brandon Masters
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#### 10 to 20 Years

Patricia McClarin	Evelyn Gomez
Maria R. Gallegos	Lisa Sepulveda
Remedios Schamack	Evangeline Touchine
Betty Moncayo	Brenda Martinez
Jessica Carreras	Diane Terrazas

#### 20 + Years

Rosa Ruiz	Pasty Arenas
Luis Padilla	Gloria Marquez

To assist HELP-NM in carrying out our mission you may provide a monetary contribution by mail to

5101 Copper NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108 Attn: Acct. Dept